

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

## Making Population a Strength

Fr Dr M. D. Thomas

It's 'world population day' on the 11th day of July. It was established by the United Nations in its Governing Council of Development Programme, in 1989. The source of inspiration for making this day was 11 July in 1987, when the population of the world reached five billion. The 'five billion day' was then suggested as 'world population day' by Dr K. C. Zachariah, who was Senior Demographer at World Bank.

'Population' is the total of individuals occupying a certain geographical area and making up a whole. In other words, it is the complete number of people or inhabitants in a country or a region. A population is a distinct group of individuals, sharing a common characteristic. Further, it is the pool of individuals of the same species, who are capable of interbreeding.

World Population Day is geared towards raising the awareness of the people on population-related issues, like family planning, gender equality, maternal health, poverty, human rights, environment and development. The day calls on leaders, policy-makers, organizers at the grassroots, institutions and others to facilitate reproductive health and rights becoming a reality for one and all.

The United Nations Population Division in special is committed to promoting the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. It collaborates closely with governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, religious leaders and others, in order to make the above commitment to population realistic.

Currently, the world population is nearing 8 billion. Major scientists consider that the Earth has a maximum carrying capacity of 9 to 10 billion people. As per the present trend of growth, the population of the

world is likely to cross 10 billion before the close of the 21st century. Population growth is greater in developing countries than in developed countries, due to lack of education for girls and women, along with lack of information and access to birth control. This is a matter of great concern, as well.

Population is the most significant reason for global warming, directly or indirectly, as a result of the emission of carbon dioxide, by the richer all the more. Global warming is the most detrimental to the populace, too. That would amount to say that balance has to be maintained between population and global warming and that studied measures have to be evolved, in view of addressing the matter, in a serious manner.

'Family planning' is fundamental to the good health and wellbeing of the family, which is the smallest unit of the population or society. Good health and wellbeing have two respects, quantity and quality. As regards 'quantity or number', there is a saying in Hindi, 'Razaayee jitnee lambee hei, pair utne hee phailaane chaahiye'. That would mean, 'stretch out the feet only as long as the blanket'. Family has to be a comfortable number of people.

As far as 'quality' is concerned, there has to be spirit of non-discrimination, freedom, privacy, dignity, justice, equality, love, fraternity, rights and duties, freedom, informed decision-making, larger outlook, availability of basic needs, reliability, responsibility, accountability, participation, democratic set up, happiness, fellowship, and the like. These 'core values of life' make population strength or a blessing, and absence of these values, a liability, too.

China is the 'most populated' country in the world, India and United States of America being the second and the third in the row. Vatican City is the 'smallest'

(Contd.. on p. 3)

## Political Appeasement?

I am tempted to start with the observation by a political analyst commenting on the Modi's reshuffle who said "There was a fault with the engine and you change the bogies". This perhaps sums up the general feeling that though much has been done, not enough has been done. Modi opted for quantity rather than quality. On the healthcare front less said the better. While everybody stood by the government on account of the suddenness and ferocity of the first Covid outbreak, they were shocked when the second wave gripped the nation and the failure of the government to see it coming; elections being the focus. The Health Minister was shown the door for his all round failure on the pandemic, health infrastructure, oxygen and above the shortage of vaccine in the face of grave national calamity.

What about the others? Even before the pandemic, the economy was in shambles and things became worse with 24% negative growth following the abrupt lockdown. The Finance Minister dished out a lot of funds but the people were not seen to benefit. Thousands of migrant workers went through harrowing times with no cash. The top court had to press for fast-tracking the one nation one ration scheme. With the third and fourth waves not being ruled out, there is likelihood of migrant workers moving in both directions. With the economy not picking up, the performance of the Finance Ministry has been below par. On the defence front the country is engaged in a long drawn face-off with the pertinacious attitude of the Chinese and we have not been able to see the back of the intruders not forgetting the avoidable martyrdom of the brave soldiers. Whose failure is it? Should the Raksha Mantri not be accountable? Is this not under performance? The HR Minister was eased out [ostensibly on health grounds] while the Law and IT minister was shown the door with Environment Minister for company along with a few small time Ministers whose ouster hardly really matters.

If the PM had to shift or ease out the Finance and the Defence Ministers it would have been a tacit admittance of the government failure on all fronts. That would have sent a wrong signal to the issueless opposition and that would have helped them come together to take on the government in the Parlia-

## VIEWS on NEWS



by Marshall Sequeira

ment. The opposition is going to make as much of a noise as possible but the shrewd trinity of the PM, HM and the BJP Chief have tried to shift the focus on the size and diversity of the reshuffle. What was expected to be a lackluster exercise to accommodate some disgruntled and poached politicians to the saffron brigade, actually turned out to be a mega exercise to keep the allies in good humour. With half his second term over without much to showcase, the PM had to resort to some drastic measures to improve the image of the government which has fallen in public perception over the handling of the second surge. The clueless government looked totally at sea not knowing how to handle the situation which had gripped the nation.

One message is very clear. The Prime Minister does not want any minister to hog the limelight. That possibly cost Ravi Shankar Prasad his job. By trying to be too vociferous to tame the social media giants, he went a little overboard with a tone that could possibly offend a friendly country. What this new team can deliver, only time will tell. It would have been nice if Narendra Modi had to call a press conference [even virtually] which he has deftly evaded for seven long years to explain his roadmap for the next two years. Media persons would have asked searching questions on elections, rath yatras, shortages etc. PM would have struggled to take those piercing questions. Even Manmohan Singh confidently addressed the press during his days but Modi shies away. When Joe Biden the American President delayed meeting the media by seven weeks there was hue and cry but here we have a PM who does not bother to take questions for seven long years. That is called arrogance.

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## Hum Do total Four

During the infamous emergency, Sanjay Gandhi the most powerful politician after Indira Gandhi, virtually terrorized the poor of this country by his aggressive stance on population control. Since those were emergency days, there was quiet resentment. Yogi the maverick Chief Minister of the most populous State in the country is perhaps 'inspired' by Sanjay Gandhi with his highly

questionable proposal to indirectly bring population control through invisible coercive measures. Yogi's target is undoubtedly the minority community, Bhagwat's DNA theory is an election stunt. BJP, Yogis included, has been relentlessly trying to widen the divide between the two communities for political gains and they succeeded from 2014. Now Yogi has 2022 in mind. He has gone overboard by depriving those with more than two children of government jobs, denying promotions and restricting rations to those with four etc. This is the most inhuman thing to do at a time when people are facing trying times.

The BJP has been targeting this particular community with some clever moves like Love Jihad, CAA, Beef ban etc which on the face of it appear to be social measures in national interest. What about those already having more than two kids before the announcement? Will their rations also be stopped? Will the exiting staff with more than two kids be sacked? The CM is hell bent on polarizing before the elections which can be disastrous. Take the case of Kanwar Yatra. Despite Uttarakhand banning it, Yogi had given a nod to go ahead to send a message to the majority community that he is all for them and is, in his own way, alienating the minority community. Sensing apex court's action he now says the Kanwar groups have headed to his appeal. Why not say he is cancelling the yatra keeping the SC's reservations in mind. Winning UP elections is very important for the BJP and therefore more such pro-majority proposals will be forthcoming in the next few months. His mishandling of the second wave and the floating dead bodies in the Holy Ganga, notwithstanding the PM's pat on his back, will haunt Yogi when people step out to vote. By the way with population control policy, Sanjay Gandhi [Congress] was rejected by the electorate in 1977. Yogiji please note!

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(Contd.. from p. 1)

country in the world. Singapore, China, Hong Kong and South Korea are known to be the 'smartest' countries of the world. The 'nicest' countries with people friendly, welcoming and helping towards travelers are Bosnia & Herzegovina, Portugal, Senegal, Austria, Macedonia, Morocco, New Zealand and Iceland. The 'happiest' three countries of the world are Finland, Denmark and Switzerland. These indicators validly highlight what really a populace has to be.

The rising population causes several issues, like gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights, along with environmental strain and human stress. Policies and practices of unsustainable growth of the population and development cause climate change, deforestation, declining groundwater, etc. The 'greed of the creamy layer' terribly tells upon the need of the larger public and that obviously upsets the balance of the population.

The United Nations Population Fund invites the attention of the world

to the 'needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls' and to undertake 'sustained efforts to safeguard their health and human rights', especially during the pandemic times. The increasing cases of violence on women, gender discrimination, genital mutilation of the female, forced marriage, rising household tensions, economic pressures and movement restrictions are matters of grave concern.



Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas

India holds the second biggest share of the population of the world. Is it strength or liability? Is the population in India just a cosmetic number for researchers to keep recording and for politicians to play with? In special, what about those human beings who are below poverty line

and are deprived of food, shelter, clothing, health, education and human dignity, well, millions and millions in number? Do they also figure out anywhere when world population day is observed? These are certain razor sharp questions to be answered today and ahead, decisively so.

World Population Day 2021 is here for the stakeholders and citizens in India and across the nations to com-

mit themselves anew to do all that is possible to 'empower people, control population, plan the family, safeguard the rights of weaker sections, especially women and girls. May this day add to the 'good sense' of the humans to collectively progress towards good health and wellbeing and to celebrate life, in line with the design of the owner and author of life!

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*The author is Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, and has been committed to interfaith relations, national integration and social harmony, for the past over 40 years. He contributes to the above cause through lectures, articles, video messages, conferences, social interactions, views at TV channels, and the like.*

*He could be viewed, listened to and contacted at the following portals – websites 'www.mdthomas.in' (p), 'https://mdthomas.academia.edu', 'https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com' and 'www.ihpsindia.org' (o); social media 'https://www.youtube.com/InstituteofHarmonyandPeaceStudies', 'https://twitter.com/mdthomas53', 'https://www.facebook.com/mdthomas53'; email 'mdthomas53@gmail.com' and telephone 9810535378.*

# PRIESTLY SUICIDE – Bringing God’s Work to Completion?\*

“Have you seen this tamasha, Father?” asked Babush, the Sacristan who often doubled up as ‘Table-boy’. “What tamasha, Babush?” “That holy suicide! A 31-year old priest, Pradeep Soreng, was found hanging dead in his bathroom yesterday” [Saint Vincent Minor Seminary, Gopalpur-on-the-Sea, some 175 km southwest of Bhubaneswar, state capital of Odisha – *Matters India*, 5 July 2021].

“Sad!” said Father Joseph Gnanaprakash, the Parish Priest [PP]. “Indeed!” retorted Babush. “Every now and then we come across some priest or nun committing suicide! At this rate suicide will become like common *sardi-khasi* in the Church!” “Well, what to do?” “I’ll tell you what to do, Father!” blurted Babush agitatedly as he served Father his breakfast. “What....?” “You know, when we were growing up, we never heard of priests and nuns committing suicide. On the contrary, we would look up to them with reverence. The sudden suicide trend has a trail of a 100 reasons—tension, workload, loneliness and what not! Even love affairs, mind you! What are we coming to?” Babush, now in his late 70s, had virtually earned his right to chat in this manner with his PP, having been there since the inception of the parish some five decades ago, witnessing much change.

The PP, whose Assistant, young Father Joel Cruz had left for his annual vacation the previous night and the other young Assistant, Father Tobias Jones was expected back from his vacation around noon that day, was alone at Breakfast. “Babush,” he said, “I understand your anguish. Do feel free to express yourself very frankly.” “Father, you’re a senior priest and understand people well. Besides, your name means ‘light of knowledge.’” “Hmmm... didn’t think of that!” “The time has come for priests like you to

share the light of knowledge so as to stop this madness that has crept into priestly and religious life. I strongly suggest that you talk to the Bishop about getting something like say – what you call ‘counselling’, included in the curriculum of the seminary.” “Go on.”

“Those under formation must be enabled to understand that they are entering the priestly/religious life for two specific purposes: *for the sake of their own salvation and for the salvation of souls*. They must be trained thoroughly to handle situations in the priestly or religious life as mature adults. After all, when we lay people have problems we turn to our priests and religious for support. If priests and nuns indulge in murder, be it their own or others’, how can we approach them for advice? Besides, what about that statement of Saint Paul which the Bishop utters



by Ladislaus  
Louis D’Souza

to the *ordinandi* before the laying on of hands: *May God who has begun a good work in you bring it to completion* [cf Phil 1:6]? Is suicide part of the *completion* process, Father?” “I’m afraid not, Babush.”

“Any youth under formation, unable to handle what they foresee and who thus feel like quitting would be best allowed—even encouraged—to leave at that stage rather than after making their final commitment. Do they realize what scandal they create by quitting as full-fledged priests or religious?”

“Also, look at the kind of life our younger priests and religious live – what style! Latest branded garments and accessories! Roaring friendships with the opposite sex! I know of a priest who came from a family in which priestly vocations ran deep. Within six months of his first posting following an extravagant Ordination celebration on parish precincts, a fling with a young parishioner had him married before the oil of Chrism on his palms

had even dried! The padre’s mother, a respectable lady, suffered a nervous breakdown!” “That’s bad!”

“Why go far, Father – in this very parish, years ago, a newly-ordained priest did something similar! When I expressed surprise at the sudden development whilst chatting with him on his last day here, can you guess what he said, that shameless fellow?” “No – what..?” “He said, ‘Arrey! Why are you so surprised! As a seminarian, I used to moonlight as a keyboardist in various hotels! Moreover, I always wanted to marry this girl who I was dating before I joined the Seminary, but I also wanted to try out the priesthood.’ And the icing on the cake: he was appointed to “try out the priesthood” in the very church where his girlfriend was a parishioner! Can you beat that?! As if that wasn’t enough, within five months of his exit from the priesthood and four months into his marriage, he came here for a funeral hand-in-hand with a wife who was 8-months pregnant!”

“Father,” he continued after a moment’s silence, still very agitated, “You’d better keep an eye on your two assistants—you’d need to observe them closely and talk to them, particularly that Father Cruz before he becomes a ‘cross’ to you and the Parish. Inspire them to sort things out so that they are clear about what they want in life as priests and eliminate from their lives what is not of the priesthood.” “Tall order, Babush! But, you have a point! Yes, I must henceforth take my own responsibilities towards our young priests more seriously before it is too late. Thank you for opening my eyes to the urgency. And yes, please don’t forget to pray for me and for my two young Assistants!” “Count on me, Father!”

*\*All names other than that of the suicidee have been changed for reasons of privacy.*



## National Cousins' Day

Every year, National Cousins' Day is celebrated on July 24.

For people who do not know what the term cousin means, this word is referred to as someone who is a part of your wider extended family.

National Cousins' Day is a day to thank our cousins for all that they do for us.

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Dombivili, Mumbai

## New restrictions on old Latin mass

Priests celebrating the old Latin mass will now require the permission of the local bishop to celebrate in the old way after the recent crackdown by Pope Francis, who has placed new restrictions on where and when the old Latin mass can be celebrated. This is seen as a blow to the traditionalists in the church who insist on celebrating the old Latin mass and rejecting the New Order mass (Novus Ordo) as a corruption and distortion of church traditions. The move by Pope Francis to reverse the earlier concessions given by his predecessors Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI to celebrate the Latin mass, was found necessary to stop the division in the church and the creation of a parallel liturgy by the traditionalists. It may be recalled that the Old Latin mass was promulgated by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 at the Council of Trent and celebrated for almost 400 years in the Roman rite of the Catholic church. It was re-

placed by the New Order mass following changes in the liturgy, by Vatican II in 1969. Traditionalists in the church have since refused to accept the liturgical changes and continue even to this day celebrating the old Tridentine Latin mass as a right and privilege accorded to all priests under the 'Quo Primum' of Pope St Pius V in 1570.

— A. F. Nazareth,  
Alto Porvorim, Goa

## Wearing two masks will be more suffocating

As the second wave of Coronavirus pandemic rips through the country, healthcare experts are encouraging citizens to wear two face masks --- one above the other, a practice popularly called "double masking".

Wearing one mask as it is, is suffocating, even if worn for 30 minutes. Wearing two masks, one above the other will be more suffocating.

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Dombivili, Mumbai

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# Corona Care Proves Crucial

**C**learly friends, life is bottled up. The genie has condensed to a thick layer of smoke and entered the bottle. The lid is screwed tightly and life is in a bind. Children no longer throng the lane. Temple bells ring no more. Vehicles are off the road. The survival instinct has reduced life, prompting us to wait to live another day. Missing the munch munch and the daily dose of newspapers in your coffee table.

How are you coping with the trauma? The relationship between nature and civilization remains as complicated as ever. While civilisation often draws from nature, Mother Nature is often hurt by the inroads of civilisation. That debate is better left for another day because of the urgency of the hour. Everyone is left to fend for oneself in compliance with social distance norms and with means available.

I have reverted to watching some old Hindi movies on YouTube. Already done with Dharmendra's Baharen Phirbhi Aayengi, Baharon ki Manzil and Anupama which I had missed in my youth. Dharmendra epitomised the quintessential of manhood in the cellular world. We were debating passionately taking sides either with Dharmendra or Rajesh Khanna during College days. Likewise, it was Shivaji or MGR down south those days.

My sense of intellect drifts me from the

make believe world towards literature. I dust off my collection to reach a Sobha De, Khuswant Singh, Arundhati Roy or Paulo Coelho. Books anyway have so many pages and it may be unwise to tax your mind with serious stuff. I change track to catch a visual on mythology which I have missed. Vishnu Purana, Shiva Purana open up new vistas beyond the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. In this way, I toggle between Film, Books and Mythology. You suggest something more. I will take it if my passion suits me.

So friends, this lockout has generated fresh options for us. I would have missed them but for the bottled genie. Life is undefinable and coping is the only option we have. Who doesn't want to travel to a hill station in summer? Who doesn't want International flights to be operational soon?



C.K. Subramaniam

Learning and realization are most important. Look at the world and all the sufferings; being under house arrest is the least we can sacrifice. I have been confined to home since March 14. The lesson

that I learnt during the 11 days confinement is that life is really simple but we insist on making it complicated. Nothing is to be feared, it is only to be understood. The time has come to understand more, so that we may fear less. Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Resisting them will only create sorrow. Let reality be reality. Allow things to flow naturally forward in whatever way they like. The chief danger in life is that we may take too many precautions.

We are all waiting for the D-Day with baited breath when the nation will announce- Khul Ja sim sim. Genie will be out of the bottle and Corona will take its place. Once bottled, it will be thrown in the deep sea never to be found again.

Life's a fight; a good fight of faith. Stay safe. stay healthy!!!

## The Pope Francis of India!

Bishop Philipose Mar Chrysostom died in May 2021 at the age of 104. He was the longest serving Metropolitan Bishop of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, an ancient Church founded by the Apostle Thomas! He was consecrated Bishop in 1953 and took the name 'Chrysostom' -Golden Tongued! In his 68 years as Bishop he participated prominently at the Second Vatican Council!

In 1957, Kerala made history when the Communists came to power! The 'Emergency' from 1975 to 1977 provided the first opportunity for this progressive Church and the Communist parties to work together to restore civil liberties! Chrysostom was deeply impressed by the Communist commitment towards social justice, which found his own source in his Christian faith! As he correctly stated: "Is the world for the Church, or the Church for the world? Jesus went to the multitudes - the community!"

In the 1990s, Chrysostom worked closely with the local administration to ensure all children went to school, families were housed, and had enough food. So when the progressive Christians and the Communists worked in tandem to mitigate poverty, environmental degradation, and caste and gender discrimination, the results were spectacular!

In 2018, Chrysostom was awarded the Padma Bhushan! In tribute to him, Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala noted, "Chrysostom believed Christians should primarily consider the pain and pathos of the people! He sought to combine the spiritual resources with the material needs of the people. In his passing, he left behind, both a model and an inspiration - This is the way of Christ and the way of Communists!" (cf. Matthew 25:31-40).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,  
VA. USA. Vienna

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Three Our Father, three Hail Mary and three Glory be.  
St Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen.

(Publication must be promised.)

(This Novena has never been known to fail. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days.)

— L. V., Malad

## Thanksgiving



Thanks to Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Vailankani, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor and St. Anthony

—Robert Vaz, Navi Mumbai

## Thanksgiving

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever. Amen!!

Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is



—Leena Soares, Andheri

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# The Poverty that Blights the Modi Government TODAY

by Don Aguiar.

India today seems to proclaim that everything in the country is in danger – whether it is religion, culture, communal harmony or public peace and tranquillity and has become the new Republic of Fear.

There was a time when the previous non NDA governments thought of their citizens. That was a time of innocence when the genius of the East – Patanjali, Buddha, Mahavira, Lao Tzu, Zarathustra... and so many more – had spent thousands of years devoted to discovering what “life” is, what “truth” is, what “consciousness” is.

Let’s take a moment to wonder at just what thriving extremes the present NDA government has reached.

The Modi government’s tactic is to look ever forward, towards some future idyll. It makes an exciting promise, and instead of letting voters dwell on its shattered remains in the next election campaign, it just makes an exciting new promise. And, of course, it has marshalled the power of technology, social media, and the all-governing algorithm to speak in different voices to different constituents, making public noises about freedom and democracy while injecting a steady subcutaneous river of WhatsApp poison into the body politic.

The achhe din and sabka saath, sabka vikas campaigns should have cost Modi his second term, but they didn’t. He and his ventriloquist figures in government and in media have used customised narratives to effectively hack the collective conscience to focus not on reality, but on dizzying amounts of spin and pretty myths of pride and Hindu empowerment.

**Today the government who is, loyally assisted by our mostly servile, sold out, shameless and sycophantic “Godi” media, say – (if you cannot solve the massive problems of poverty, unemployment, hunger, price rise, healthcare, farmers distress, etc.) - give the Indian people diversionary stunts and gimmicks like ‘Vikas’, Yoga Day, Ram Mandir, Swatchata Abhiyan, CAA, Article 370 revocation, etc.**

And whenever a democratic secular movement seems to be starting, the (Hb) violence resurges. **Today it is direr because the government has used the Hindutva brigade to create panic, and to stop people from mobilizing.**

The government relies on the Hindutva brigade (Hb) to control states and protect their party. But total mismanagement, communal intolerance, and lack of accountability further pushed the government in a difficult corner. The government uses the Hindutva brigade to remain in power and to establish a climate of fear in the country. They succeed.

**Today, many people look around and see a yawning gap between what the government claimed to have done for them, and what they are experiencing. Many people also look around at the many problems Covid-19 has brought on them - bereaved families, terrorised minorities, lost Indian territory, zombie institutions, steadily diminishing democratic values, rising prices, mass joblessness—the whole steaming pile of poo that is the economy—and they hear, exciting new promises of well, India shining.**

Reality should certainly deny Modi a third term, but it might not. There are

many people who don’t care for him, but many of those have been hacked into thinking, “If not him, then, who?” Today, despite a good smack on the snout from Bengal, the BJP squats over all of India like a giant spider.

**The question is: When you have so much power, why all the needless vindictive cruelty? Why shut up the young, the pregnant, the old and sick? Why throw journalists in jail under the UAPA for trying to report? Why plant evidence on activists? Why imprison political prisoners for years without filing charges? Why paint students as terrorists? And on top of this orgy of no freedom, why refuse the needs of basic humanity of giving a sick old man a sipper cup and a straw in his jail cell, so that he can drink water despite his Parkinson’s? Or why demolish Little Flower Church at Ladoo Sarai, Delhi overnight without proper legal notice?**

It is a cruel ruse and diversionary trick to tell a hungry or unemployed man/woman to do yoga or meditate but being heartless the Modi government has vigorously promoted yoga and meditation as the solution to his governance and insist that yoga and meditation has nothing to do with religion. Meditation is simply a scientific method, exactly the same as science – their areas are just different. Science begins with doubt; meditation also begins with doubt. The method of science is observation of objects, the objective world; and the method of meditation is to observe the inside world. Science experiments with objects; meditation is the experience of your interiority, your subjectivity. In fact science has two wings: one, moving into the outside universe; the other, moving into the inside consciousness.

(Contd.. on p. 9)



And where does this meditation take us?

To know oneself is to know all: no belief, no dogma, no creed, no church/temple and no religion but follow the dictates of the present government. By a simple process of inner observation you come to realize yourself. And the moment you know who you are, immediately you know the essential core of the whole existence, of life itself – because you are now part of it – a right wing Modi bhakt.

And then: It is only a question of understanding the value of meditation. Then it is easily possible for millions of people to becoming undivided within themselves. And they will be the first group of humanity to become harmonious. And their harmoniousness, their beauty, their compassion, their love – all their qualities – are bound to resolve around our nation and the world.

Which would be the establishment of a Hindu Rashtra as its most consistent character trait and its supporters is to suppress humaneness, plurality, inclusiveness, open-mindedness, respect, and rationality, and justify barbaric attitudes and acts, in the name of strength. But in an impressively long list of such attitudes and acts, denying Stan Swamy a straw is the one that best showcases the smallness of the BJP's heart.

**Smallness of heart is inherently unattractive, and projects weakness. Maybe the BJP's malignant behaviour is a vicious spiral: driven by fear of being unattractive to certain constituents, it overcompensates with force, thereby becoming more and more unattractive and therefore more and more forceful, until it fears that its hold on power depends on fear-inducing force. Authoritarians are very insecure people.**

But a cup? A straw? Demolish a

Church overnight? Exactly how insecure do you have to be, to be this hateful and heartless? One might even feel a grain of pity for the ugliness of their inner lives.

The nation is experiencing this incredible poverty because the Modi government has decided that it has nothing to learn from its past misgovernance or western secularism, democracy, science and technology, but instead is reverting back and getting stuck with the bullock cart to fuel its economic development and establishing a Hindu Rashtra!

**That is exactly the poverty, an inner poverty, which blights the Modi government, right wing -dominated India of today.**

To pull itself out of poverty, India has to reach out to the West to catch up on all the democratic and secular values, science and technology that it has now ignored, because to them it was only illusory - while what is being searched for presently is a mirror image of the absurdity of traditional Eastern mysticism: it just an illusion, maya – the non-real objective world.

# Matrimonial Proposals

## Proposals are invited for

**Mangalorean RC Bachelor, 31 years belonging to a highly educated and very affluent family with interests in healthcare, agriculture and many other sectors, Tall, Fair, Handsome, Holding Doctorate, managing the family business in Karnataka State. (REF:MM104)**

**40 years Mangalorean bachelor doctor (Ph.D) Ht. 6' Wt. 75 kg Fair., Had-some. no bad habits. High affluent society well connected. Belongs to highly placed business family in Mumbai (REF:MM103)**

**27 years Mangalorean spinster C.A., Ht. 5'.5" Wt. 50 kg Fair., Beautiful. well cultured. Affluent society. Belongs to established business family in Maharashtra (REF:MM105)**

**28 year Mumbai based Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Profession : a Banker (REF:MM109)**

**Vasai based affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, 33, years Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. (REF:106)**

**Mumbai based now in Dubai Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, 33 years, Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn.**

**BMS, profession: a Senior Merchandiser (REF:107)**

**Mumbai based Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, 29 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A., Holding a managerial post. (REF:108)**

**Mangalorean RC Spinster, 34 years belonging to a highly educated middleclass family based in Mumbai Ht.5'.4" Wt. 78 Kg. Fair Qualified B.E., (EXTC) M.S. Consultant by profession (REF:FM109)**

**Mangalorean RC Spinster, 31 years Ht. 5".7" Wt. 69 Kgs, Fair. Mumbai based M.Sc., Clinical Research. Profession : Business Process Lead in MNC (REF:MM104)**

*Those interested in this proposal :*

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- Non registered Grooms or Brides are requested to upload your profile at our website [www.royalchristianfamily.com](http://www.royalchristianfamily.com) and contact us on our email: [royalchristianfamily@gmail.com](mailto:royalchristianfamily@gmail.com) mentioning the respective ref. no. along with your registered ID.



## Bethany Congregation Mangalore Celebrates Centenary 1921-2021.

**- Ivan Saldanha-Shet.**

**J**uly, 16 2021 was a significant day for the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. Bethany, founded on July 16, 1921, at Bendur Mangalore, by the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas, the Founder Parish Priest of St Sebastian Church, Bendur, Mangalore with just four lady pioneers. At present, the Congregation is blessed with 1,388 members in 190 communities has extended its branches to 63 dioceses in 9 countries and 26 States in India proclaiming God's compassionate love.

The celebration 'Thanksgiving Eucharist' at the Bethany Mother House Chapel Bendur, Mangalore, Karnataka, was led by Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha, Bishop of the Diocese of Mangalore with several prominent priests amidst strict Covid norms. The Papal Blessing, and a Message from Pope Francis was made public.

Bishop Dr P P Saldanha, gave a stirring message on how the Founder RFC Mascarenhas was drawn to the plan of God. He invited the Bethany nuns to re-dedicate their lives to the Lord as Bethany completes its 100 years. The Eucharistic Celebration was followed by the relay of the documentary "On Wings of Love", on the life of the Founder and the Congregation. A short meaningful programme followed in Msgr Raymond's Memorial Hall.

His Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Mumbai Archdiocese and the President of the Conference of the Bishops of India (CBCI) in a video message relayed spoke highly about the contribution of the Founder and the Pioneers, who he said "Got together catered to the needs of the Church, to the needs of the community and the needs of Society. The Spirit moved others to join the group. You have showed the compassionate face of Jesus to many through your Institutes, I have had the honour of visiting several of them." He also prayed that the sanctity of the Founder be recognised and God willing he soon be raised to the honours of the Altar.

Delivering the Centenary Message Sr Rose Celine, the Superior General, reminiscing she gratefully recalled the wonders God has done in the life of the Founder, the Pioneers, the Members of the Congregation through the support of spiritual mentors, benefactors, collaborators and the civil society for a century. Looking forward towards the second century she said, "The doors of our institutions, social and health centres are kept open for the homeless. The Spirit of God anointed us to move to the peripheries we will strive to grow, flower and perennially bear abundant fruit...We will keep our vision clear; with a compassionate heart empower the poor by combating the oppression."

In the social sector, 142 Sisters with

the help of 350 collaborators in the 56 centres serve with great commitment for the all-round development of 1,50,000 women, 1,13,000 children, 1,56,000 youth as well as the uplift of the rural communities irrespective of religion and caste. The pandemic of Covid 19 evoked a compassionate response from the Sisters helping thousands of migrants in their distress across India. The Bethany Educational Society (BES) was a dream project for the millions of young lives with a vast network of primary, and higher educational institutions. 185 Educational Institutions including two Degree Colleges, 35 junior colleges, 45 Children's Homes for the poor, with 3500 staff members in the formal education and hundreds of non-formal education centres in the urban and village slums have given hope of a dignified life.

In the health sector, trained in Allopathy, Homeopathy, Ayurveda, physiotherapy, to deal with the mentally and physically handicapped; Bethany Sisters render their service in 4 hospitals and 45 rural village health centres to the most deserving people to whom multi-special medical care is beyond reach. Their service in the Homes of the Senior Citizens brings solace to those whose loved ones are away and need a sensitive heart and a helping hand.

The Centenary Souvenir of live memories was unwrapped by Sr Assumpta, the Chief Editor of the Centenary and was released by the Bishop. Bethany steps into the second Centenary with a new hope to continue the vision and mission of the founder with greater vigour and zeal, empowering the girl children, women and rural poor and building harmonious healthy communities. Sr Rose Celine BS, the Superior General praying for the honours of the Altar for the Founder Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas, declared the Centenary year of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany saw its grand finale in continuing hope.



## The Feast Of The Transfiguration Of Our Lord Reflection On The Gospel- 6Th August 2021

assurance that the first fruit of God's new creation will be Christ's Risen humanity, the pledge of the final transfiguration of all created reality"-(LS 237). Isn't this amazing?

### **How does God assure us about "this pledge of the First Transfiguration of all created reality" today?**

When we live total selflessness, listening intently, using Otto Scharmer's *Theory U*, Generative Listening skills or Martin Buber's, *Listening as Embracing the Other*-where the two become one; we become one with God and all His creatures.

Moses symbolized the Law and the Covenant, while Elijah symbolized the Prophets. Moses and Elijah reassure Jesus that He has to fulfill the law and the prophecy. Jesus needed this reassurance because He was a man like us in all aspects except sin.

When we obey God's Law and Covenant and listen to the Prophets He sends us, we experience glimpses of God's majesty often seen, revealed and realized at such transfigurative moments in our everyday ordinary life e.g. the halo after a good authentic retreat or Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation), an *Aha Moment* on seeing something of exquisite beauty in nature or elsewhere, the gentle touch of a compassionate loving hand in a moment of great pain and sorrow or healing, the ecstasy of love etc.

At such moments our countenance reveals the glow and radiance of the encounter with the Divine. If the magnitude of splendour of an encounter with the Divine is so great, how much more must the splendour or magnificence of God Be?

*Dr (Sr) Mudita Menona Sodder RSCJ  
Sophia College Campus, Mumbai*

*Author : Dr (Sr) Mudita Menona Sodder RSCJ has been the Co-ordinator of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) for her Province in India for the past ten years, and now promotes Eco-Spirituality as her full-time ministry.*

### **What does Transfiguration mean?**

Transfiguration is a unique personal experience when we are touched / graced by the Divine Presence and are deeply changed. It is a transforming and liberative moment for the one who undergoes it. Intimacy with God, justice for God's people and love for humanity can prepare the ground for such gratuitous divine encounters. Jesus had many such experiences, but the one we celebrate today-6th August is the one Jesus had on Mount Tabor in the presence of His disciples Peter, James and John.



**Dr (Sr) Mudita  
Menona Sodder  
RSCJ**

### **What happened when Jesus was transfigured?**

Jesus' holiness is symbolized by light-His face shone like the Sun and *His clothes became dazzlingly white* (Mk.9:3) i.e. Jesus looked radiant and was glowing and a diverse, ineffable light emitted from Him. Moses and Elijah were

talking with Him and when Peter overcome with awe reacted suggesting that they make three tents, a cloud overshadowed them and a voice declared, **This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him** (Mk.9:8). This shows that God was 'well pleased with Him'.

### **What happened after the transfiguration?**

Moses and Elijah disappeared, the voice stopped and only the human ordinary Jesus was visible. But he charged them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Resurrection.

### **Why is Jesus' Resurrection so very important?**

Sunday is the day of the Resurrection and the first day of the week when God created everything i.e. biodiversity in the Universe. What's more, God made human beings in His own image and likeness! In this context, the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor is extraordinarily special because it is an

A man working in an IT Company became sick...  
 He consulted many Multi Specialty Hospitals... Still he couldn't get cured...  
 He was sad...

Then his wife advised him "Why don't you consult a Veterinary doctor?"

He was shocked...  
 He screamed at her... "Are you mad...?"

She spoke softly... "Nothing happened to me.... It is you having a problem... You wake up early in the morning like a Cock, take half bath like a Crow, eat something like a Monkey, then run to office like a Race Horse, you work like a Donkey, there you scream at your juniors like a Wild Bear, evening you reach home and bark at us like a Dog, then you eat like a Crocodile, you go to bed and sleep like a Buffalo... .."

That's the reason why I asked you to meet a Veterinary doctor..."

The man just sat there shocked looking at his wife..

Wife asked him, "Now why are looking at me like an Owl...?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Husband and wife went shopping to get new sarees for the wife.

After seeing numerous sarees, she shortlisted around 100 and further brought it down to 25.

Out of these she asked her husband to choose 5 sarees among them.

Then she finally picked up one saree. It took 5 hours to finalise one saree.

The husband settled the bill and commented : "Adam was very lucky because he and Eve used to wear only leaves. He need not have wasted too much of time.

Ultimate comment of wife:- Who knows how many trees Adam had to climb and finally choose the leaves



as per the wish of Eve. You are lucky u have to just sit in AC shop ...

Moral : Never argue with a woman while shopping.

\*\*\*\*\*

Andy told me he knew a man with a wooden leg named Smith. So I asked him, "What was the name of his other leg?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Did you hear what the English, the Irish and the Scots did when they heard the world was coming to an end? The English all went out and got drunk. The Irish all went to church. And the Scots had a closing down sale.

\*\*\*\*\*

At an antiques auction in Leeds, England a wealthy American announced that he had lost his wallet containing £5,000, and he would give a reward of £50 to the person who found it. From the back of the hall a Yorkshire voice shouted, "I'll give £100!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Covid-19 Vaccination in India  
 A Bengali, a Punjabi, a Gujarati and a Hardcore Leftist Keralite were reluctant to take the Covid-19 vaccine. The Doctor called them in one by one.

He told the Bengali, "You must take your vaccine."

The Bengali said, "No!".

The Doctor said, "Every cultured and civilised man takes the vaccine."

The Bengali took his vaccine.

Then the Punjabi came in. The Doctor said, "Here is your vaccine."

Punjabi said, "No!" The Doctor said, "Your neighbours have all taken the vaccine."

So the Punjabi took the vaccine.

Then the Gujarati came in. The Doctor said, "Take your vaccine."

Gujarati said, "No!" And the Doctor said, "It's an order from Prime Minister Modi."

The Gujarati took his vaccine.

Finally the Keralite came in. The Doctor said, "take your vaccine."

Keralite said, "No."

The Doctor said, "Every cultured and civilised man takes the vaccine."

The Keralite said, "Go away, I will never take the vaccine."

The Doctor then said, "All your neighbours have taken it."

The Keralite replied, "I don't care."

The Doctor, now desperate, said, "It's an order from Prime Minister Modi."

The Keralite replied, "I don't care."

Finally the Doctor asked, "Which state are you from?" The Keralite said, "I am from Kerala."

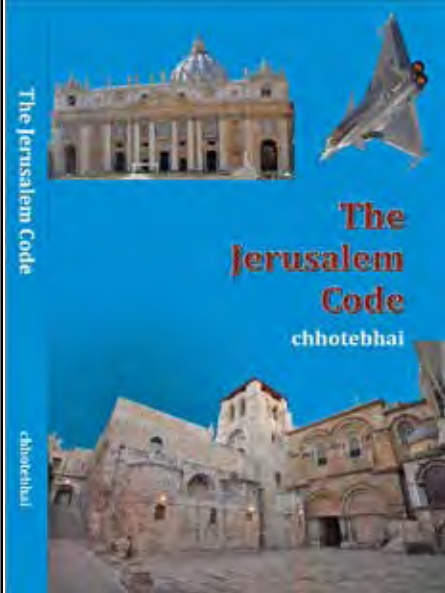
The Doctor said, "Oh sorry, you are not entitled to have the vaccine."

The Keralite said, "What!?! Who are you to tell me that I cannot have the vaccine? How dare you deny me my fundamental rights! Give me the vaccine or I will protest outside your clinic!"

The doctor gladly gave him the vaccine and the Mallu proudly took it and said to his comrades, "I fought and got the vaccination!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Jerusalem Code by Chhotebhai



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# Pinata Party Cake with hammer



### Ingredients:

200 gms of melted white chocolate

### Making the Pinata Chocolate Cake Shell:

Pour about 150 gms of the melted chocolate into a silicone mould reserving

the rest for a second coating or chocolate decorations.

The chocolate should have the right consistency.

Swirl the mould in all directions in a way that the chocolate coats the mould entirely. Then slide the mould to drip away the excess chocolate over a bowl.

Clean the edges and let it sit in the refrigerator for 15 minutes until it sets completely.

Take it out and do a second coating in places where you feel that the chocolate is thinly coated and might break while demoulding taking care of the edges specifically.

Again allow this to set in the refrigerator for 10 minutes until set completely.

### Demoulding:

It is not difficult to demould but it is important to use gentle hands.

Slightly release the chocolate from the edges in all directions.

Then place it on a flat surface and pull the silicone mould towards you gently releasing the chocolate.

Decorate it as you like.

### How to serve the cake:

Place a wooden serving board (like a pizza board). You can use a cake board if you are making it for clients.

Add the fillings of your choice inside the shell. Home-made chocolates or Cadbury gems would be the best.

Place the decorated chocolate shell on top with a hammer on the side.

Do not forget to tie a ribbon to the hammer to make it look special.



Sweta D'Cruz

# The Other Apostle who came to India

***He had far-reaching influence on the people of the Konkan and Canara coasts.***

**Philomena Lawrence and Gilbert Lawrence**

**Co-authors: Insights into Colonial Goa**

Published by Amazon and Kindle  
(paperback and e-book)

**T**he early history of the Christian Church in the eastern hemisphere is not as well researched, documented, and reported as that of the Christian Church of the West. There are numerous publications on the works, writings, and travels of the apostles and other disciples in Israel, and in the "Roman World" around the Mediterranean Sea. At best, India was identified as a nebulous place which lay "in the vicinity of the Indus River." The poorly informed vaguely referred to India as being located "East of Ethiopia" or "on the other side of Africa."

After Pentecost in 30 CE, the Apostles assembled to achieve one important purpose: Determine how to spread the teachings of Jesus, and the messages of the Messiah, especially to the Jews. Some were selected for Jerusalem, others for Galilee, others for Syria, Jordan and southern Turkey. The issue of sending disciples to regions outside the Roman Empire presented a dilemma. There are three apostles credited with bringing the bible to the East – Thomas, Bartholomew, and Jude.

It is not widely known, even among Indians, that a second apostle -- Nathanael bar (son of) Tolmai or Talmi --- came to India. There are two historical sources that report that in the 2nd century, St. Pantaeus of Alexandria, Egypt, visited India with a specific purpose: to meet Coptic Christians in the town of Kalyan / Calliana, located north of Mumbai on the west coast of India. In Kalyan, the Egyptian found a copy of St. Mathew's Gospel, which had been hand-written in Hebrew by the evangelist himself. The priceless and irreplaceable text had been left behind by St. Bartholomew. St. Pantaeus retrieved this precious book and brought it back with him to Egypt. Kalyan was home to a Jewish, and later to Coptic and Nestorian Christian colony.

In 55 CE, (25 years after the resurrection of Jesus and three years after Thomas arrived in Kerala), Bartholomew reached Kalyan on India's west coast during the Satavahana rule of Aristakarman (37–62); and Pulumayi, his brother, was Viceroy of the region. Other sources state that Bartholomew landed in Kallianpur in Tulu Nadu (Udipi district). Until the year 62 CE, he preached to the Jewish trading communities that had settled along the Canara and Konkan coasts in Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. Besides the Jewish community, the apostle converted people who belonged to various castes like Brahmins in Goa and Kshatriyas in Sopara, the capital of Aparanta. According to historian Julian Fernandes, Christian communities were established in coastal Karnataka, Goa, and Maharashtra (Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Mumbai, Kalyan, and Thane). Some Indian sources place the center of St. Bartholomew's evangelizing efforts in Kalyan, located near Thana and north of Bombay / Mumbai.

Bartholomew also established churches in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mesopotamia

(Iraq), Parthia (Iran), Lycaonia (Turkey), and Armenia. The Armenians claim that Christianity was brought to them by Apostles Bartholomew and Jude, who are the patron saints of the Armenian Church. According to that church's followers, Bartholomew was martyred in Albanopolis, Armenia.

## **Christian Church of the East**

Until the 16th century, the Indian church was part of the Eastern Orthodox Church based in Asia, as opposed to the Western Roman Church, which was headed by the Bishop in Rome, and the African Coptic Church, which was headed by the Bishop of Alexandria. Initially, the seat of the Eastern Church was located in Antioch; later, it moved to Edessa, and finally to Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire. With the rise of the Parthians (247 BCE-224 CE) and Sassanid (224-651) in Iran, the political/military capital of the Middle East moved to Ctesiphon. A schism (theological disagreement) began in the 5th century between Nestorius (c 381-451) the Bishop of Constantinople (428-432) and Cyril, the Bishop of Alexandria. At issue was the "Christology Controversy" which dealt with the nature of Christ, as well as the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God and man. The Sassanid, as military rivals of the Romans/ Byzantium, promoted the Eastern Orthodox Nestorians rather than the Latin Rite Roman Catholics, and the church's Catholikos seat shifted to Ctesiphon.

In the 5th century, the Church of the East became entirely Nestorian with the split of the Church in Constantinople from the Rome, Alexandria (Coptic), and Greek Church. The religions of the Sasanian Empire were Zoroastrian / Parsee, and Nestorian. The Nestorian church had 40 bishoprics under the Catholikos at the Sassanid capital at Ctesiphon. These bishoprics

(Contd.. on p. 15)

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were distributed far and wide including parts in India, Ceylon, Herat and Kabul in Afghanistan, and Patna in Bihar. The Bishopric seat of the Eastern Church, shifted to the jurisdiction of the Persepolis' bishops in Persia / Iran; and in 8th century with changing Islamic rulers in the region, the seat moved to Bagdad; with communities scattered across Syria, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Armenia, Kurdistan, Afghanistan, and South India. Since the 9th century Islamization spread across the Mideast; consolidated their rule, and the minorities in the Arab world were decimated. The Nestorians along with other minorities suffered and bishops could not support and nurture the outlying communities.

In the 13th century there were efforts at reintegration of the Roman See and Nestorians. The Christians in the Mideast who became reunited with Rome are called Chaldeans Christians / East Syriac Christians / The Church of the East. It does not appear this reconciliation reached India as there was no Latin Rite in India at that time. Today, the Syro-Malabar Christian groups in India after a period of being under the See at Bagdad are now in full communion with Rome's pope and directed by local bishops. The various religious communities of the East Syriac Christians have preserved their cultural identity and religion by strict endogamy. Unfortunately, today there are less than five Bishoprics of the Eastern Christian Church in Asia, with most relocated with their congregation; who migrated to the West including America and Australia.

In the 20th -21st century, the turmoil in various countries in the Mideast forced the Chaldean groups to migrate in sizable numbers to Europe, America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, along with their respective bishops and Bishopric seat. In the new land, the new immigrants rub shoulders with and even marry those from other Catholic groups, including immigrants from India. In March,

2021, Pope Francis made an official visit to Iraq and visited several of these Chaldean churches in Ur, Mosul, and Baghdad, and their parishioners.

**The Church in India before the arrival of the Portuguese**

In 345, Nestorian Christians from Syria, led by Thomas Cana, were fleeing persecution and found refuge in India. They formed the Knanaya (Southists / Tekkumbhagar), while the native Christian communities, converted by the apostle Thomas, are called the Nazranis (Northists / Vaddakkumbhagar). The west coast of India, since time immemorial continued to be a place where a mélange of races converged and were welcomed by the original inhabitants. After the arrival of the Iberians to Goa, in the 16th-17th century, there was a partial reconciliation between the Latin Rite Catholic Church and the Orthodox Christian Churches in Kerala. Currently, the latter group comprises eight sections, including Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara, which are associated with Rome.

Large Nestorian communities were reported to exist throughout the Konkan and Canara coasts right up to the 14th century, nurtured by the Bishops and priests from Bagdad. However during this period, the Nestorian community in the Mideast was being decimated by the Mongols (12th-13th centuries) especially by Genghis Khan (1158-1227) and later Tamerlane (1336-1405). Beyond the 4th century, there is no other record of organized mass migration of Nestorians from the Mideast to any coastal town of India. Yet, it is very likely that Mideast Nestorians continued to arrive to India's west coast as traders and to escape persecution and death as their homeland was undergoing turmoil and tyranny. This may explain the presence of the Mideast genetic markers in people of the west coast of India. With the decline of Nestorians in Mideast, one saw a decline of Indian communities that they nurtured, by providing bishops and priests.

**Conclusion**

Nestorians spread from Gujarat to

Kerala to Northern Ceylon; and included former Jews, Jains, Buddhists, and Hindus - belonging to all caste strata, including members of the GSB, Kannadiga Brahmins, and a branch of the Kadamba royal family (Jain). Communities reflected their caste structure and occupation, including those involved in maritime trade. In Goa, there appears to exist a large Nestorian community in Aldona in Bardez; and Velim and Colvale in Salcete at the time of colonization.

Information on this interesting subject is still evolving, with many aspects seeing the light of day. Thanks to St. Bartholomew, Mumbai and Goa and towns along India's west coast had a significant Christian population prior to the arrival of the Portuguese; and the Hindus in those areas were familiar with Christian thinking, philosophy and religion. Julian Fernandes has suggested that the Nazareth(s) among the various Christians are descendants of the Nestorian-Nazarene community. In my own case, as a son of Aldona, Goa, I have to recognize the fact that instead of being a Hindu convert, my ancestors may have converted from Nestorian to Latin Catholic. It is probable that many Aldona residents who migrated to Mangalore in the 16th-17th centuries were because of their Nestorian rather than Hindu practices. This historical background explains why some people might have migrated for religious reasons rather than the far more common causes of migration – socio-economic hardships, including the death of the bread-winner, famines and epidemics.

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

**7226. CANADA :** Canadian Citizen Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Environmental Science and in Energy Management postgraduate degrees from the University of Toronto. Working for a reputed company as Energy Management Analyst in Toronto. Contact email : francisper@gmail.com

**7185. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1984) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com. working for Bank. Contact email : shaun.neo00.outlook.com

**7172. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1992) Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 90 kgs, Fair, Edn. Graduate, Diploma in Social Communications in Sophia and then done a Fellowship with Piramal House of Leadership. Working with an NGO - sports foundation. Contact email : florencemendonca@rediffmail.com

**7168. USA :** US Citizen Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 73 kgs, Fair, Edn. M.Sc., working for a Global Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email : lspinto84@gmail.com

**7165. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1979) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair, Edn. B.Com., Post Graduation in Supply chain & Ship Management, working as an E-commerce online support. Contact email : examiner4@yahoo.com

**7164. MANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1984) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair, Edn. ITI Course, working as a Technician. Contact email : rajesh.dsz15@gmail.com

**7159. MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Ethical, Healthy,

Simple, Sober, Wheatish, B.E. Software Engineer, works @ Mumbai, 9224335003, mariosofttech@gmail.com seeks matrimonial alliance from Mumbai based Catholic Spinster. Please exchange relevant information.

**7157. PUNE :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1990) Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA (Marketing) & M.Com., working as a Senior Executive, Sales and Development. Contact email : amlahenry11@gmail.com

**7155. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1980) Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std., having own business asm well settled. Contact email : mendoncajason@gmail.com

**7152. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989) Ht. 6', Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., having business. Contact email : emi\_dalmeida@yahoo.com

**7151. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1990) Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Marketing, Working as a Asst. Marketing Executive. Contact email : emanuelfindz90@gmail.com

**7150. POONA :** East Indian RC Divorcee, (Born in November 1960) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 69 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate Engineer from CWIT University of Pune, working as an Engineer. Contact email : joeskf@gmail.com

**7146. MUMBAI :** East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 79 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Mech), + PG course in Finance, working as a Asst. Manager in MNC. Contact email : lenin.pdsouza@gmail.com

**7144 POONA :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1985) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management Graduate, work-

ing as an Executive. Contact email : merrolmenezes@gmail.com

**7136. HYDERABAD :** Anglo Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, having own business. Contact email : phillipctocher@gmail.com

**7135. U.S.A. :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in June 1990) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Electronics & Telecommunication (EXTC), working as a Senior Software Engineer. Contact email : ryandcunha01@gmail.com

**7133. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Handsome Bachelor, (Born in February 1977) Ht. 5'9", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., PG, MBA, working as a Sr. Manager in US IT Company. Contact email : trinidadefranco@gmail.com

**7132. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in January 1987) Ht. 5'8", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., PG in Advy./ Graphics & Animation, working as a Graphic Designer. Contact email : dcostastephen03@gmail.com

**7130. DUBAI :** Mangalorean RC Divorcee, (Born in July 1972) Ht. 5'11", Wt. 80 kgs, air Complexion, handsome, simple down to earth, Edn. B.E. (Mech.), Working as an Engineer. Contact email : francisd Souza472@gmail.com OR 00971501532702

**7129. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Back Office. Contact email : roshan7687@gmail.com

**7119. KUWAIT :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 6', Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com. + 2 yrs Hotel Management Diploma. working in Kuwait. Contact email : fernandes.clayton@rocketmail.com

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**7210. AURANGABAD :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1994), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, beautiful, Coming from business family, Edn. Chartered Accountant, C.A. by Profession. Contact email : putturaurangabad@gmail.com

**7229. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1994), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Good looking, Smart, Edn. MBA PGDM, working as a HR Marketing and Customer Service in **UAE**. Contact email : goanmatri7@gmail.com

**6831. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Senior Associate in Insurance Company. Contact email : denisdsouza854@gmail.com

**7214. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CA CFA Ms Finance M.Com., working as a Senior Manager. Contact email : rfernandes020@gmail.com

**7199. BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Master's in Mass Communications (NTU, Singapore) working as a Senior Manager of Corporate Communications in **SINGAPORE**. Contact email : mafern.2121@gmail.com

**7182. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A., working as Asst. Manager in TATA Company. Contact email : matrimonialp27@gmail.com

**7095. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com + Import Export Certificate Course, working

as a Billing Assistant in Well known Hospital. Contact email :

perpetualdias7@gmail.com

**7160. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, working as a Senior Merchandiser in a Global Retail Company in Dubai. Contact email : prislobo10@gmail.com

**7128. MUMBAI :** Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in 12-04-1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : drvd2019@gmail.com

**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 an MNC in USA. Contact email : wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91 98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

**6642 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1979), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Service professional. Contact email : sav\_mon@yahoo.com Tel.No. 8291001606

**7065. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., & Dip. in Clinical Research, working as Business Process Lead in TCS. Contact email : mendonca\_luke@yahoo.co.in

**6033 ABU-DHABI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1979), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. Eng., Literature, working as a Copy Editor. **Contact email : barretto.lorraine@gmail.com OR 9730454857**

**7219. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Born Again Spinster, (Born in October

1993), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 61 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resources, working as a HR in MNC. Seeks only Born Again Bachelor. Contact email : gladfer\_9@yahoo.com

**7209. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 100 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., & PG HR, working as a Trainer. Contact email : sweetroan17@gmail.com

**7201. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1992), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Electronics & Com. working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : ggd\_oman@yahoo.com

**7208. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE, IT, working as Product Marketing for an e-commerce beauty Company. Contact email : temp123fab@gmail.com

**7198. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1994), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, smart and good looking, Edn. MBA, PGDM, working as a Financial Analyst, Amazon. Contact email : nicmacjac@gmail.com

**7149 GUJRAT :** Anglo Indian Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM., working. Contact email : barnes.rufina@yahoo.com

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# Tiny Titbits: Fun Frolics!

**\*11 Ways to handle Life! My Room (not my mate) gave me answers saying:** //Roof-Aim High! //Fan-Be Cool! //Clock-Value Time! //Calendar-Be Up to Date! //Wallet-Save for Future! //Mirror-Observe Yourself! //Window-Expand Your Vision! //Wall-Share Others' Load! //Floor-Be Down to Earth! //Stairs-Watch Your Step! //(But the Most Inspiring) Toilet-When it's Time to Let Go, Just Let it Go! (But Do Clean Up)!

**\*COVID-19 is Driving Me Mad!** I went to a Hotel's Restroom. My friend opened the door with his elbow. Raised the toilet seat with his foot. Switched on water faucet with a tissue. Then washed hands and open the bathroom to leave with his elbow. But when I looked, I realized he forgot to pull his pants up!!

**\*Female Fatalities!!** If she listens to you for less than 5 minutes, she is your 'daughter'! If she hears you for 15 minutes, she is your 'sister'! If she listens to you for over 30 minutes, she is your 'mother'! But if she pretends to listen to you all the time, but does not remember a word of what you said, no matter how important – She is ... Yes ... A four letter word!! She is DEAF!! Why unnecessarily bring 'Wife' into every joke?

**\*I have been Blessed!** Today inside my bus I saw a very beautiful woman! How I wished my counterpart was just as gorgeous! But when she got up to leave, I noticed that she hobbled down the aisle. She had one leg and used a crutch! But as she passed by, she gave a most pleasing 'smile'! Then these words came to mind! "Forgive me Lord when I whine! The world is much more than mine! I have indeed been blessed fine! All praise to You when I dine!!

**\*Collapse of Education!** At the entrance gate of a University in South Africa, a message for 'Contemplation'! Destroying a nation does not require atom bombs or missiles ... It only needs 'lowering the quality of education' and 'allowing cheating in the examination'! - The results could be devastating!! \*Patients die at the hands of such quack doctors! \*Buildings collapse under such unqualified engineers! \*Money is lost in the hands of manipulating accountants! \*Justice vanishes at the court of corrupt judges! \*Humanity could grieve through fake religious academics! Thus, the 'Collapse of Education' is the Collapse of the Nation!!

**\*Contradictory English!!** \*Found Missing! \*Open Secret! \*Small Crowd! \*Clearly Misunderstood! \*Fully Empty! \*Pretty Ugly! \*Only Choice! \*Seriously Funny! \*Original Copies! \*Exact Estimate! \*Tragic Comedy! \*Foolish Wisdom! \*Liquid Gas! \*Working Holiday! \*Social Distancing! \*Happily Married!!

**\*Smile Awhile!!** Jail and Prison are synonyms, but Jailor and Prisoner are antonyms! //Oxymoron is a moron in charge of supplying oxygen to a gasping nation! //When villagers pronounced School as "Ihischool" everybody laughed. Now their children are attending "e-school"! //Only in Mumbai Rains change from "What

Lovely" to "VaatLoavli" in thirty minutes! //And now in a modern household – Dad is called 'TV'! He has a wife called 'Computer'! Their child is 'Cell Phone'! Second child is 'Video Games'! They have intelligent grandchildren named – 'WhatsApp', Facebook, Snapchat, and 'Instagram'! They speak to one another in 'Tweeter'! //Husband at home after retirement is called 'Homeopati'! //Wife allowing husband into home even if he comes late is called 'Allowpati'! \*Husband dancing to tune of wife is referred to as 'Nacheopati'!!

**\*Collective Noun for a 'Group of Doctors'!** //Clot of Cardiologists! //Orbit of Ophthalmologists! //Lump of General Surgeons! //Joint of Orthopedics! //Flap of Plastic Surgeons! //Glut of Gastroenterologists! //Culture of Microbiologists! //Synapse of Neurologists! //Rouleau of Hematologists! //Shock of Psychiatrists! //Belly of Gynecologists! //Brace of Dentists! //Howl of Pediatricians! //Rash of Dermatologists! //Mass of Oncologists! //Consolidation of Pulmonologists! //Stream of Urologists! //Pile of Proctologists! //Block of Pathologists! //Cohort of Epidemiologists!

**\*Marcus Cicero: (43 BC) of the Roman Empire wrote this amazing 'Wisdom'!** \*Rich-Exploit Poor! \*Poor-Work and Work! \*Soldier-Protects Both! \*Taxpayer-Pays for all Three! \*Banker-Robs all Four! \*Lawyer-Misleads all Five! \*Doctor-Bills all Six! \*Goons-Scare all Seven! \*Politician-Lives happily an Account of all Eight!!

**\*Buy one! Get one Free!!** It is a 'Marketing Gimmick'! But it is true in 'Real Life'! – "And Get Free"! \*Anger-Acidity! \*Jealousy-Headache! \*Hatred-Ulcer! \*Stress-Blood Pressure! But conversely, if "We Buy-We Get Free"! \*Trust-Friendship! \*Exercise-Health! \*Peace-Prosperity! \*Honesty-Sleep! \*Virtues-"But I say to you, Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who persecute you. So that you may be children of Your Father in Heaven! Be perfect as Your Heavenly Father!" (Matthew 5:44-45).

*Dr. Trevor Colaso, Vienna, VA. USA.*

## Thanksgiving

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever.Amen!!

Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is

—Norbert D'Mello, Mangalore



# The Significance Of Suffering

*“...the Son of Man had to suffer many things”*

(Mk.8:31)

**A**lmighty God reaches out to us not only in similes and parables to reveal divine truths, also by using Suffering in mental disorders, diseases, physical pain and plagues as apparent signs symbolic of teachings needed for the purification of the soul.

Thus the value of prayers and devotions are also known to be symbolic in cleansing the spirit to fortify itself in battles for the faith. The Blessed Eucharist when received at Holy Mass is symbolic of the nourishment needed for life. Suffering helps to redeem the spirit from psychological, physical, neurological, cerebral and spiritual pain.

The suffering of a penitent will bring comfort by going to the confessional, the Sacrament of reconciliation by forgiveness, regarded as a symbol of God's grace and wisdom. At times the penitent goes on suffering it will be taken as a virtue, pleasing to almighty God for His glory.

It is often said that the children of God suffer when they sin. When they turn against the Lord, abuse His Word, be-

come disbelievers, or lust for the ravages of unnatural sex...

To go against the laws of God and the laws of nature is to make a mockery of faith or moral values as they violate the love and trust which He expects from his children. Sin, when performed with full knowledge and consent is a grievous offence attracting the wrath of the Creator.



BY MELVYN BROWN

The gospel of suffering began from the Book of Genesis when Adam and Eve were punished and driven out of Paradise for disobedience to the word of God.

The significance of suffering stands on 5 Pillars of Divine Retribution and God's Grace.

**THE FIRST:** the Devil's Challenge. The suffering of Job was to prove his trust in God. All his world's possession were taken away from his prosperous life. "There was a man in the land of Ur, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil..." (Job 1: 1). For his suffering and faithfulness God was pleased and rewarded Job-eight years, with all wealth, happiness, peace and seven sons and three daughters. Job lived a hundred and forty years by God's grace.

**THE SECOND:** Suffering can often discern the glory of God. The paralytic who had suffered for thirty-eight years, was seen by Jesus. The Lord asked the man if he wished to be healed, and when the man spoke about his problem to reach the pool after the water was disturbed, Jesus told him to stand up, take his mat and walk to the pool. The paralytic did as he was told. It was a miracle over pain and suffering to show the glory of God. ( Jn. 5: 01-18).

**THE THIRD:** Sharing our pain and suffering with the agony of Christ in the hours of His Passion.

**THE FOURTH:** Often the devil makes us suffer to weaken our faith, trust and hope in Christ. The more we pray, do penance and bear the weight of our suffering we shame the evil one.

**THE FIFTH:** Suffering can be equated in a test of one's belief in God and His promises. You are not expected to walk on water. No but God wants you to believe in Him, and not to be like Thomas the apostle.

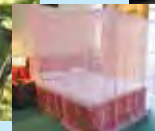
The significance of suffering is centered on the right and duty for us to thank God for giving us Salvation and Redemption from sin. So, the pain and suffering we bear is a small gift we receive when we share in the suffering of Christ Jesus.

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