



Ahmadi - Kuwait
St. Paul's C. S. I Church



Parish Messenger

October 2017



FIVE SOLAS

of the faith

1517-2017

F Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500 YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

Exploring a movement that changed the world

Celebrating 500 Years of Reformation

FROM THE PRESBYTER'S DESK

Rediscovering and Reliving the Faith

Dear Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the matchless name of our savior.



God has provided us with one more blessed month. Last month came to an end by celebrating the 70 years of our great Church - CSI and this month begins by celebrating the Youth Week. Both the elders and the young people are equal before the Lord and are equally important part of our Church. On the other hand, the today's youth in general represent a generation for whom the biggest visible change has been in their lifestyles. The old socialist mantra of "rice in every bowl" has now been replaced with "a cell phone in every hand". It is in this kind of a converging context, the meaning of 'Spirituality' has to be unlocked or redefined. The word 'Spirituality' is very much in fashion among Christians of our times. As youngsters our spirituality should reflect the choices that we make in our life styles, the preferences that we opt convey the commitment that we have towards life and its reality. Today, many youngsters are lured by the so called development paradigms which are not life affirming but life-negating. So let our life style reflect the true 'Spirituality'.

This month the Church also celebrates the Reformation Sunday, around the world. *What is reformation?* Dictionary refers to as, the act or process of improving something or someone by removing or correcting faults, problems, etc. and importantly of, a religious movement of the 16th century that began as an attempt to reform the Roman Catholic Church and resulted in the creation of Protestant churches. Reformation is renewal of life. To quote Rev. K. J. Victor or CSI Synod in an article that mentions, the protestant reformation was a broad movement in sixteenth century Europe. When the reformers sought to purify the church of unbiblical doctrine and practice, they often spoke of the need to "reform" the church according to God's word. Although this was a reaction against the Roman Catholic Church, it was also an embrace of the scriptures' unique authority, a return to the doctrine and practice of the apostolic church, and an outgrowth of various reforming currents in the medieval church. While many of these changes took place at the hand of Martin Luther and his German colleagues based in Wittenberg, a much more geographically diverse collection of Protestant theologians, ministers and congregations came to agree upon doctrinal creeds, liturgical (worship) reforms, and characteristics of church polity which became known as "Reformed". While the Reformed expression of Christianity has roots in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it became an enduring form of Christianity through written creeds and the churches which embraced them.

We should always be able to understand that the Word of God always stands above the Church. And according to the Gospel of John, chapter 10, the church is characterized as the flock of sheep that listens to the *voice* of the Good Shepherd and does not listen to the voice of a stranger. How are we now? Church is not a static institution but a dynamic body of the people of God. Reformation is not something that which happened only once; it is an ongoing process which is still happening. Reformed churches should continue to reform the people around and reform within. Reformation needs self-denial. To be something new/renewed we should be able to give up whatever was not good within us. That is only possible with the proper understanding of the Word of God. At this point we should note down the important '*solas*' with regard to the reformation. The Reformers were guided by the conviction that the church of their day had drifted away from the essential, original teachings of Christianity, especially in regard to what it was teaching about salvation. From this emerged the five solas. The Five Solas are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged during the Reformation to summarize the Reformers' theological convictions about the essentials of Christianity. *The five solas* of the Protestant Reformation offered a strong corrective to the faulty practices and beliefs of the time, and they remain relevant today. We are called to focus on Scripture, accept salvation by grace through faith, magnify Christ, and live for God's glory.

1. *Sola scriptura*: "Scripture alone"
2. *Sola fide*: "faith alone"
3. *Sola gratia*: "grace alone"
4. *Solo Christo*: "Christ alone"
5. *Soli Deo gloria*: "to the glory of God alone"

God Bless You All!

Levin Achen

EXECUTIVE CHURCH COMMITTEE 2017 -2020

With the approval of the *Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen* Bishop, the new Executive committee has come into effect. Following are office bearers:

Mr. Mohan George (Vice President) , **Mr. Babu Mathew** and **Mr. Joy Chacko** (Church Wardens), **Mr. Ajay Mohan** (Secretary), **Mr. Mammen V. Thomas** (Treasurer), **Mr. Stebin John Kandathil**, **Mrs. Dissy George**, **Mrs. Cijimol Sajan**, **Mr. Jomon Joseph**, **Mr. Dennis Mathew** (Committee Members).

GOD BLESS YOU !

NEWS AND UPDATES

Condolences & prayers to the bereaved family :

1. C. John (74), Father of *Mrs. Sucus Mathew* (Biji)
2. P.M. Mathai (75), Father of *Mr. Facin A. Mathai*.

Congratulations to the ICC TALENT TEST 2017 WINNERS:

1. Master Eric Thomas Kunnil (*1st Prize, Solo Juniors*)
 2. Mr. Ivin Koshy (*2nd Prize, Solo Super Seniors*)
 3. Mr. Sydney Dolton (*2nd Prize, Elocution Super Seniors*)
- Youth Movement AGM will be held on 5th October at Parsonage from 7pm to 9pm
 - Installation and dedication of the new executive committee members will be held on 6th October (*Friday*) during the Holy Communion Service.
 - Camp Ministry will be held on 16th October at K.C.C. Camp, Mina Abdullah from 7pm to 8pm.
 - Intercessory Prayer meeting will be held on 19th October at Parsonage from 7:30pm to 9pm.
 - Parish Day will be observed on 27th October at KALA Auditorium, Mangaf, from 6pm to 9pm.



BIRTHDAYS

Jolly M. Joseph	06
Jessy Mary Navin	08
Kunjunjamma Joy	08
Kenneth Kuruvilla	10
Raju K.	13
Rev. Levin Koshy	16
Jerom Joy	18
Reemy Rajan	22
Vijitha Ammini Mammen	23
Vishal John	25
Sumi Elsa John	26
Aleyamma Sumith Thomas	27

God's blessings be upon you as you celebrate yet another year on this journey with Christ and as you commit each day into the hands of the Lord.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mrs. & Mr. Benjamin Kurian	19
Mrs. & Mr. Saji George	19
Mrs. & Mr. Stebin John	25
Mrs. & Mr. John Babu	30

May you truly sense God's love as you celebrate your wedding anniversary and see the future years together as memories to be made.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS RETREAT



PONNONAM 2017



WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY

6th OCTOBER 2017 - FRIDAY - 07:45AM TO 09:30AM

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE / YOUTH DAY

SPIRITUALITY OF THE YOUTH IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Genesis 41:37-43, Psalm 111, Philippians 3:1-16, Mathew 19:16-22

13th OCTOBER 2017 - FRIDAY - 08:15PM TO 09:55PM

MATINS SERVICE

MISSION: GOOD NEWS TO ALL

Isaiah 55:1-6, Psalm 146, Acts 10: 34-43, Mathew 4:17-25

20th OCTOBER 2017 - FRIDAY - 08:15PM TO 09:55PM

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

TAKING RISK FOR THE REIGN OF GOD

Esther 8:1-17, Psalm 12, Philippians 2:25-30, Mathew 10:37-42

27th OCTOBER 2017 - FRIDAY - 06:00PM TO 09:00PM

PARISH DAY 2017

REFORMATION DAY

REDISCOVERING AND RELIVING THE FAITH

2Chronicles 34:8-21, Psalm 46, Revelation 2: 1-7, John 2:12-22



Faith
IS NOT
SO MUCH
SOMETHING
WE BELIEVE,
faith is
something
we live.

JOSEPH B. WIRTHLIN

with best compliments from:

Mohan George & Family

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