



Paracletha

Knanaya voice from Perth, Australia

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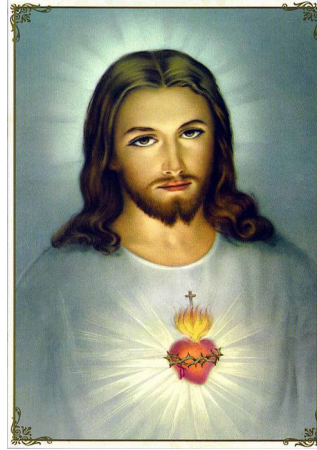
'Shlomo': The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

John 14:27 records the statement of Jesus before embarking on his journey to his perilous crucifixion, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful". He says goodbye to his dearest by wishing them peace. The peace that Jesus wishes them is both external peace and internal peace.

The reference to external peace can be the imbalance as a result of the socio-political situation. This lack of peace is omnipresent and during the time of Jesus it was beyond the control of the ordinary people. As we know, the Jews were waiting for a Messiah (saviour) who would free them from the yoke of the Roman rule. They were hoping for a person like Moses who redeemed the Israelites from the Egyptian slavery. Little did they know that the human incarnation of God in the form of Jesus was to redeem the whole mankind from their sins and offer them eternal freedom. Jews gave more importance to the rectification of the political system in order to gain peace whereas God aimed for internal peace in humans.

What is this internal peace? To start with, Jesus was just about to begin the process which was devised by God the father to redeem humans from their sin. He knew that this was going to cause strife in the hearts of his followers and therefore he wishes them peace. In Luke 23:28 Jesus says on the cross, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children". Surely His followers were in distress but Jesus wanted them to remember that he will rise again and will defeat death and sin. Jesus wanted his disciples to be able to find equilibrium between the sorrows and pain that arise out of the traumatic crucifixion and the hope and expectation of resurrection. This is what Jesus calls by the word Shlomo or Peace. It is also noteworthy that every time Jesus met his disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying 'Peace be with you'. If we look at the three years of Jesus' ministry, we can understand that He had trained his disciples very well in order to bring internal peace. One could argue that he was conducting a Personality Development course during this time, teaching them how God the father wants people to conduct themselves. Jesus, through his behaviour, became the ultimate

example for godly behaviour. Jesus called 'Love one another' as the second greatest commandment of all and (first commandment being Love thy God) in that statement lies all we need to bring peace within ourselves. In addition to the various miracles of Jesus when he heals people out of his love he stresses the importance of showing love through his parables. The Parable of the Good Samaritan tells us about the importance of loving each other without racial barriers, Prodigal Son teaches us about unconditional love. When we help others without any reservation or conditions, we experience gladness, we gain a particular kind of peace which is beyond all understanding and that is exactly what Paul preaches in Philippians 4:7.



How can we as Knanayites experience Shlomo while we lead our diaspora lives in Australia? The greatest way of sharing God's love and gain peace is by uniting in the name of Christ. When we gather in the name of Christ, He is in our midst. We need to pray together and pray for others. Our meetings should be a time where we shed our egos and share our achievements and failures. By sharing our failures with our fellow Knanayites we are requesting the intercession of our friend to submit our petitions to God. Thus when we discard our sense of ego we reach that equilibrium with the other members of the group which brings peace to our mind and soul. This is the equilibrium or Shlomo that will keep our Knanaya communities in Australia dynamic and united.

Dear all readers, this is the first issue of our publication and we, as a Knanaya community in Perth, aim to give expression to our spiritual thoughts through this quarterly publication. We will share our successes and also will request your prayers to strengthen us in our failures and weaknesses. I am aware that all members of our congregation are striving to be the best in the eyes of God, avails of every opportunity to grow in Christ and all the members including our children have a lot to offer. May God bless us profusely during this new year in every area that we work and grant us the peace that passeth all understanding!

For the greater glory of the Lord!

Manoj Kuriakose Kavumkal.

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Important Dates

VBS– 26-27th January
First Saturday meeting–
6th Feb, Willetton Pavilion
Family Fellowship– 19th
Feb.

Birth Day Celebrations:

January

Akhil Sijo, Noby Pappachan,
Juana George, Sajan Punnoose

February

Jeremy George, Namitha Reji
Alana Sijo, Nefy Gathish
Neeha Gathish

March

Akins Sujith, Rajesh Eaju,
Jiah Punnoose, Noah Punnoose

Wedding Anniversary:

Rajesh Raju & Judy
Jayesh Joseph & Preetha
Freddy George & Namitha
Sijo Abraham & Nisha

Sabha Calender

3 Day lent– January 18
Great Lent starts on Feb.10
Monty Thursday– March 24
Good Friday– March 25
Easter Sunday- March 27

General Information

"Mary, Did you know?" is a Christmas song with lyrics written by Mark Lowry and music written by Buddy Greene. It was originally recorded by Christian recording artist Michael English on his self-titled debut solo album in 1991. The song has since gone on to become a modern Christmas classic, being recorded by many artists over the years across multiple genres (Source: Wikipedia). It beautifully captures how blessed and fortunate Mary was! Listen to the song by following the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE

You can also read the lyrics below. A beautiful song to teach our children.

"Mary Did You Know"

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?

Mary did you know.. Ooo Ooo Ooo

The blind will see.
The deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap.
The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy is Lord of all crea-
tion?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day
rule the nations?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great, I Am.

(Source : <http://www.azlyrics.com>)





God's Unconditional Love

Johan Manoj, Age 7

God's love can be described as unconditional. He loves us without looking at the colour of skin, job, education or age. God loves everyone who accepts him and turns back to him. God's unconditional love is explained in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

Once there was a father who had two sons. One day the younger son came and said to his father, 'Father give my share of the property'. So the father divided the property between the sons and gave the younger

son his share. A few days later the younger son left to a far away country. There he wasted all his money in wild and wicket living. Soon there came a big famine in that country and he lost all his money.

Then he started working for a man in that country. Soon he started thinking about his father and his hired servants who had lots to eat. So he rose up and started walking home. From a far away distance his father saw him and felt pity on him. He ran to him, hugged him and kissed him.

The younger son said, 'Father I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Let me be one of your hired servants.' Before he could say anything else, his father shouted to his servants, 'Kill the fattest calf, let us eat and make merry for my son was dead and alive again. He was lost and is found.'

Just like the father who accepted the son who wasted all the money, our heavenly father accepts all those who accepts God and turn back to Him.

God's Love

Eva Rajesh, Age 8

Dear friends,

I would like to share some of my thoughts on God's love. Whenever I think of God ,I always remember the song,

"God's love,its so wonderful
God's love its so wonderful
So wonderful love"

As the song says, God's love is so wonderful, unconditional and unmeasurable.

One of my favourite bible versus John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Friend's,Can you imagine our parents letting us die for someone else? But God has sent his only son Jesus Christ to die for our sins.

Gods love is so much that he does everything out of love. God has created this beautiful world for us to live happily. He provides for us because he loves us. He speaks to us because he loves us. He punishes us because he loves us.

God knows about our troubles and our happiness. He made each one of us special and he wants to have a personal relationship with each of us.

My prayer for you today is, that you may understand how wide, how long, how high and how deep his love really is.

Heavenly father, we thank you for your love-a love so great that you gave your one and only son so that we could have eternal life. Amen!

Compiled by:
Manoj Kuriakose Kavumkal.

Send your response to :
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Visit our website :
<http://www.Stmarysknanayperth.com.au>

Aims and Objectives:

The objective of St. Mary's Knanaya Congregation and Worship Centre, Perth is to maintain and enhance the cultural and spiritual heritage and interests of the Knanaya community members in Western Australia and India and to provide social and charity services to the community. The congregation also aims to provide formal education in the areas of religion and Knanaya customs and traditions.

“May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, be with you always” (Philippians 4:7)

Celebrating Success!!!!

Congratulations to Manoj Kuriakose Kavumkal for achieving Senior Teacher status on the 18th of December, 2015. He started his career as a Secondary school teacher at Mor Severios Higher Secondary School (MSHS) Ranny in 1999. Then he migrated to Melbourne in 2005 and later moved to Perth, Western Australia in 2008. Currently he is teaching at Canning Vale College, 20 km south-east of Perth.



VBS 26-27th January, 2016

It was wonderful to see our children engaging in fun activities to strengthen their Christian faith and Knanaya traditions during the two day Vacation Bible School (VBS). It was remarkable to see a lot of parents and grand parents during these two days. Activities included action songs, art, craft, competitions and to top it all a VBS rally. Thanks to our teachers Nisha Sijo, Aji Mathew, Jolly Binish, Namitha Reji, Judy Abraham and Manoj Kuriakose for getting it well organised. Thanks to Vanitha Samajam for organising the food.

“With God everything is possible”

VBS

2016

Snapshots

