



"God always forgives": Pope Francis' first Angelus

தவக்காலம்

தேவ மைந்தனின் அரும்பாடுகளை,
நினைவு கூறும் புனித காலம்,
தவக்காலம்.

சிலுவையில் தம்மை தாழ்த்தி,
தம்மையே பலி கொடுத்து
நம்மை மீட்ட மீட்பரின்
அன்பை நினைக்கும் அருங்காலம்.

திருமகன்
சோதனையை ,சாதனையாக்கி
சாத்தானை ஜெயங்கொண்ட
காலம்.
தேவாதி தேவனின்,
மகிமை வெளிப்பட்ட காலம்.

உறுதியான விசுவாசத்தை,
நாம் கட்டியெழுப்பும் காலம்,
உயிர்த்த நாதரின் வெற்றியை ,
உலகெங்கும் பறைசாற்றும் காலம்.

இப்புனித காலத்திலே,
இறை மகனின் அரும்பாடுகளை
துதித்து ,
அவரை முழுமையாக ஏற்க,
நம்மை ஆயத்தபடுத்தி,
தேவன் அருளிய அன்பின் வழி
நடந்து,
தேவனோடு ஒப்புரவாகுவோம்.

- KAVITHA REMI

Forgiveness

All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice.[And] be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ (Eph 4:31-32).



God put different kinds of feeling within us when he created us. Sometimes feelings can lead us to act in a way that are good and loving and sometimes to act in a way that are bad and unloving. It is alright to have different kinds of feelings. However, it is not right to act mean or hurt others when we are sad or angry, it is actually a sin. When someone hurts us, we feel angry and that leads us to do mean things or hurt them back. When we act mean or hurt others, we are also unhappy. Instead we can be calm and express our feeling in a proper way. Yes, it is not easy, but let us think of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus had feelings too. Jesus said to Simon, "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church" (Mt 16:13). Jesus had so much confidence in Peter, yet he denied him three times. How do you think Jesus felt when Peter said he didn't know him? He would have been sad. Yet, He did not say anything that was mean or hurt Peter, rather He looked at him compassionately. That compassion helped Peter to repent and Jesus forgave him. In fact, after His resurrection, He asked Peter to take care of His people (Jn 21:15-19). Jesus during his ministry forgave so many people. To name, the woman caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-11), paralyzed Man (Mt 9:5), Zacchaeus the Tax Collector(Lk 19). He forgave the thief who was crucified next to Him (Lk 23:43) and even those who crucified Him (Lk 23:34).

Forgiveness is a choice we make through a decision out of our own will, motivated by

God and His command (Col 3:13). We must trust God to do the work in us, so that we can forgive those who hurt us and also to have the courage to ask forgiveness when we hurt others. We are the ones who suffer most when we choose not to forgive. We will know that the work of forgiveness is complete when we experience the inner peace that comes as a result.

It is not a easy job or a fast one. It will take time and it is hard to forgive someone. This needs lots of prayer. Also, when we put our leg in others shoe and see what went wrong, it gives us a different view of why we got hurt? or why others hurt us? or why we hurt others? This will also help us to forgive others or to ask forgiveness. Moreover, forgiveness gives peace, healing, strengthens our relationship, gives us freedom and fill our heart with God's compassion and love. Knowing that these benefits are waiting for us on the other side, we will be encouraged to forgive and ask for forgiveness. It might take time, but it's worth the effort.

In this lenten season, let us forgive others and not be judgmental, do our duty and not complain, be compassionate to one another and not be selfish, repent and regret and accept - I am wrong and not be proud.

"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven." (Lk 6:37)

- AGNES P. RAJ



UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTER VIGIL MASS MARCH, 30 2013, 11:30 PM

APRIL MASS APRIL 13, 2013, 6:45 PM



Saint of the Month - St. Patrick

St. Patrick was born in fifth-century to Roman Parents. Around the age of 16, he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland. He was sold as a slave to a person who made him tend his sheep in the mountains. Patrick did not have proper clothes to wear or enough to eat. Still like a good shepherd, he made sure the flock was well taken care. Being lonely on the mountains, he spent most of his time on prayer. His life was hard and unfair. Even then he put his trust in God and spent his time waiting for his calling.

Eventually he escaped from Ireland and began his studies to become a priest. Later he was made a Bishop. His desire to return to Ireland and spread the good news was growing stronger. Pope Celestine I sent him to Ireland where St. Patrick once was a slave. The Irish wanted to kill him. His relatives and friends urged him to leave Ireland but Patrick was persistent. He travelled throughout Ireland and spread the good news to poor and even to the warriors. He did not rest much. He was

very devoted to Jesus and Mary. It is stated that when St. Patrick died the whole of Ireland was converted to Christianity. Although Patrick became popular, he was a very simple man. He credited everything to God. Patrick died in 461. His feast is celebrated worldwide on March 17th.

Historical facts shows that St. Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant to explain about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. St. Patrick features in many stories in the Irish oral tradition and there are many customs connected with his feast day. Subsequently, St. Patrick is a patriotic symbol along with the color green and the shamrock. St. Patrick's Day celebrations include many traditions that are known to be relatively recent historically, but have endured through time because of their association either with religious or national identity. They have persisted in such a way that they have become stalwart traditions, viewed as the strongest "Irish traditions".

- Joe Natar

Repent

Repentance is the activity of reviewing one's actions and feeling contrition for past wrongs. We have many opportunities to feel sorry especially during the time of Lent. We have special prayers, we fast, give alms, attend retreats and go to confessions to purify ourselves. But not everyone is making use of them. Why?

Firstly there should be a desire to repent before we actually do it. If we want to desire we should think that we are sinners. If we think we are the living saints in this world we never ever desire to repent. In the olden days John the Baptist was telling people to repent from the wilderness. He did not have the luxurious hall and sound systems as we have today. And he did not greet them very nicely as brothers and sisters or ladies and gentlemen or dear children of God. Instead he called them "You children of poisonous snakes" because he understood whatever coming out of our mouth are deadly poison as a snake. Still people went to the wilderness to listen to him because they had a burning desire to repent no matter how he called them. As we read from the bible they were ordinary people, tax collectors and soldiers. Now we desired and repented. What is next? Showing our repentance to others. How do we do that? St. Paul below tells us below.

"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds." (Acts 26:20)

Our repentance should be shown in our actions. It is the same thing John the Baptist told the people.
Let us read the following bible verses.

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." (Luke 3:7-14) to them.

People were thinking they were the chosen and blessed people on earth as we say today and they were very proud of it because they are the descendants of Abraham and they will inherit the kingdom of God. But John the Baptist said "Don't cheat yourselves by saying Abraham is your father. It is worth for nothing". His main point here is to show our repentance in our actions. That is the reason he is telling the crowd "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." And to the tax collectors "Don't collect any more than you are required to". And to the soldiers "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

Now we have desired, repented and shown our repentance in our



cont....

Now we have desired, repented and shown our repentance in our actions. What is next? Keeping up our repentance and producing good fruit. What is a good fruit in the eyes of God? Bringing more and more people to repent by our actions. That's what John the Baptist was doing.

Let us take an example of a pig. Even if we clean a pig like snow white and let it go, it will go and sleep in the mud again. Dogs will come and eat what it has just vomited. Our repentance should not be like that. We are human beings once cleaned we should not get dirt again. If we continue living as liars, slanderers, drunkards, adulterers, burglars, swindlers, greedy, taking revenge, prideful, money-minded, etc and proclaim that we have convincing faith and we are the warriors of faith, I am speechless to praise such a faith. I never heard any of our saints practiced this kind of faith, I never read any of our prophets in bible practiced such a faith, I never heard from Jesus' mouth such a faith.

If our repentance is like that it is useless. We should practice our repentance in our actions (not in our words) then only we can bring more and more people to repent because they will see our actions as a living proof. I think the main reason today we are unable to bring more souls to the feet of our Lord is the living proof is missing in our lives. In other words we are not living the way Jesus lived and set an example for us. All the people went to the wilderness to hear John the Baptist because his life was a living proof for his teachings. He never had wealthy possessions or luxurious life. People were attracted by that even though he did not

do any miracles to them or never prayed for miracles to happen in their lives. He can simply tell the people "Go and live like me". Can we say that today even though we are very faithful people? Jesus Christ was very happy about John the Baptist' living and teaching as He said "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11). Will Jesus say this to us today based on our theoretical faith?

For a tree to give good fruits we have to take care of it nicely from the beginning to many years. Then only it can give good fruits. Our repentance is also like that. Otherwise as John the Baptist said every tree that does not produce good fruits will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Let us read from bible about a person and how he repented and how he shown it in his action.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and people known him very well because he cheated many of them to become wealthy. We can read below how he repented.

"Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." (Luke 19:8). Jesus was very happy about him and said "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." From Jesus' words we know whoever truly repent they all become the children of Abraham automatically and they will inherit the kingdom of God irrespective of any divisions we can think of (religion, caste, denomination, etc) because God created all of them and Jesus died for all.

- LEENUS RICH



HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY!

Very glad to wish and share the pleasure of praising every woman in our life.

There is a wonderful woman who always think about you and shower her blessings wherever you are and whatever you are. **She is your Mom!**

There is always a cute friend who always wanted to talk to you... fight with you...Proud to see your success...supports during your failure... loves to be with you. **She is your Sister!**

There is a beautiful lady who always walks beside you and promises her love for you ...**she is your Wife!**

There a little angel who thinks that my dad/mom is the best in the whole wide world and always says... I love you...**she is your Daughter!**

There is someone who is recognized after being proved that they respect and care for you, and supports you...**she is your Friend!**

As we can define the relationships and its boundaries, we cannot set a boundary for a Womanhood on the whole. Only thing we can do is, we can be proud of ourselves and work for our good deeds.

May God bless the womanhood and may he use every woman as his hand sent angels for good purpose.

I wish we can also realise how "Important and Valuable " is a womanhood in the family and society rather than how "Powerful" we are...

Every Woman succeeded not by their Works...but by their Deeds.

Wishing everyone, a Wonderful Woman's Day!

- AGNES JAMES



"Let us also learn to be merciful with everyone." - Pope Francis

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