



இனிய தமிழால் இறைவனில் இணைவோம்

N E W S L E T T E R



P E A C E

- Agnes P. Raj

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God -Mt 5:9

It is the beginning of the New Year. It is the time for new resolution. Our catholic church has dedicated the first day of January to Mary. And because she gave birth to the Prince of Peace, it is also known for world peace day. It is wonderful to join with others in praying for world peace.

Imagine that Jesus comes in front of us and asks, What are you looking for? as He asked the disciples of John the Baptist in Jnr:38, what will be our answer? Will we say that we are looking for peace? If so, then Jesus may say, 'Let it begin from you'.

How many times in the past years we have lost our peace? It is because we think we are right and our understanding is the correct one. All others are wrong. We judge others when we have no right to do it. We close our mind and heart for flexibility. We don't put our leg in others shoes to see their point of view. We also do not forget what others did to us or what happened in past years. All these lead us to loose our peace.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other". If we

believe that we all belong to each other and we all are one big family in Christ, there will be peace among us.

Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not;-Is 43:18. Forget the past. Be flexible. Be open to others thoughts and views. Follow the Lord if we truly want to start a new life in this New year. The new born King will give us peace.

Pope Benedict XVI message for 2012 World Peace Day is 'Educating young people in Justice and Peace'. How are we going to do this, when we have no peace with our own spouse, parents and siblings. In this New Year let us take a resolution to be peace with our own family members. Let us reconcile with our family members. Let us also make our resolution in the light of the graces we received during this Christmas season.

Turn from evil and do good, seek peace and follow after it - 1Peter 3:11

பொங்கலோ பொங்கல்!

"தை" வரும் முதல் தேதி...
அவளுக்கே நம் முதல் துதி!...

பசுமை என்னும்
பட்டு உடுத்தி

மஞ்சள் என்னும்
மங்களம் பூசி

கரும்பு என்னும்
கோல் ஏந்தி

பொங்கல் என்னும்
புதுமை படைக்க

வெற்றி என்னும்
வழி கிடைக்க

இனிப்பு என்னும்
இன்பம் வழங்க

வீடு தேடி வந்து விட்டாள்-நம்
"தை" என்னும் தேவதை!...



அனைவருக்கும் -
இனிய
பொங்கல்
நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள் !

- Agnes James

**PLEASE NOTE**

Tax Deduction: BATCC is a registered Non-Profit Organization in Bay Area [501(c) (3) Organization]. Any contribution you made to our church is tax-deductible. Donations given in year 2011 to BATCC can take a deduction on their 2011 tax return.

Yahoo Groups: If you are not registered on our yahoo group kindly register following the URL <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BayAreaTamilCatholic/> to receive more info about our community.

**Pongal** is

celebrated on the first day of the month Thai of the Tamil calendar.

The Tamil festival of Thai Pongal is a thanks giving

ceremony in which the farmers celebrate the event to thank the spirits of nature spirit, the Sun and the farm animals for their assistance in providing a successful harvest. The rest of the people celebrate the festival to pay their thanks to the farmers for the production of food. Overall, it is a festival to encourage social cohesiveness and unite people by bringing them together in a common function.

**Meaning & Significance**

Thai Pongal is an occasion for family re-unions and get-together. Old enmities, personal animosities and rivalries are forgotten. Thai Pongal is a festival of freedom, peace, unity and compassion crystallized in the last hymn on unity in the Indian spiritual text the Rig Veda. Thus, love and peace are the central theme of Thai Pongal.

Thanksgiving Day

The day of the Thai Pongal is devoted to thanksgiving to cattle. The farmers pay great attention to the animals which have ploughed the fields and drawn the carts throughout the year. To show his gratitude for this invaluable service the animals are bathed, their horns are painted in red, blue, yellow and green. Their foreheads are smeared with turmeric and kumkum. Their necks are adorned with colorful garlands. Pooja is offered to them and Pongal is given in plenty. This is called Mattu Pongal.

- Shanthi Raja.

THE PERFECT

- Leenus Rich.



To live a perfect life is a tough task for everybody. Jesus says that we must be perfect as God the Father is perfect. So we try again and again to be perfect, but only to find that we fail in many areas. Jesus tells us below what we need to do in order to be the perfect.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43-48)

One of the man described Jesus as “Good teacher” but Jesus said to him there is no one good except God.

“As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life? Why do you call me good? Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” (Mark 10:17-19)

We all are one hundred percent good and perfect in our own eyes but we should remember that no one in the world is one hundred percent perfect in the eyes of God. We all made mistakes and again we will

make mistakes. Instead of finger pointing at each other to prove who is perfect and who is not, let us think we all are sinners and we all are not perfect. As Jesus said let us all look at the plank in our own eyes first before looking at the speck of saw dust in our brother's eye.

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” (Mark 6:41-42)

As Jesus said below whether we judge, forgive or give we will get the same thing back, not one time but many times.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Mark 6:37-38)

It is very easy to say to others we have to forgive not seven times, not seventy times but in real life are we ready to forgive at least one time? That is a million dollar question each one of us should ask ourselves.

Wish you all a very happy new year.

WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Writing for the newsletter is a rewarding way to contribute to our BATCC community. Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest directly to BATCC Board (board@tamilcatholic.org). Personal transitions like marriages, babies, awards, college admissions, etc. are also welcomed. Accompanying digital photos and other artwork are strongly encouraged. All articles, transitions and photos are subject to editing, available space, and the acceptance policy.