



இனிய தமிழால் இறைவனில் இணைவாம்

## NEWSLETTER



## HOPE

- Agnes P. Raj

**“Those who hope in Yahweh will renew their strength. They will soar as with eagle’s wings; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and never tire” (Is 40:31).**

Pope Benedict described Advent as the season of hope. Hope, as the catechism defines it, is the “theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.”

We often lose sight of Jesus as the source of our salvation and happiness. In Advent we renew this hope of eternal life that is found in Him. We find the fullness of the kingdom of God in Him, and during Advent we rekindle our desire for Him. We invite Him into our hearts, to renew our trust and confidence in Him as savior.

By the virtue of hope, we trust that God will provide us with whatever means are necessary for our holiness - the graces, trials and encouragement needed for our personal growth with God. Whatever state of life we are in, whatever situation we find ourselves in, Jesus is leading us to Himself. So, our Advent hope does not demand anything extraordinary in order to grow. We only have to turn to Him, in the present moment, for guidance and strength. Once a journalist asked Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta. “What are your plans for the future?” Her answer: “I just

take one day at a time. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today to love Jesus.”

Facing injustice, violence, the terrible sufferings of a loved person, loneliness, sickness, we may be tempted to lose hope. Mary is our model of hope; her response to the Archangel Gabriel was “Let it be done to me according to your word.” She trusted in the Lord, offering herself totally to God and His plan for her life. She shows us how to renew our hope in God by submitting to His plan in our lives and trusting in His word that His life may be born anew in us.

In this time of year, we’re preparing for holiday celebrations and shopping, hoping our selections are appreciated. We are also preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus. Will Jesus be born in our hearts this Christmas? The first time He came, there was no room for Him in the inn. There will be no room for him this Christmas in the hearts that do not love. Let us be ready to say: “Come, Lord Jesus, come!” ( Rev 22: 20). Let us all have a hopeful Advent and a peaceful journey of life!

In Christ we live; in Christ we shall die, and in Christ we hope to live forever (ICor 15:20- 22).

## திருவருகை

## காலம்



அருள்வாக்கு: லூக்காஸ் 1:14

நி மகிழ்ந்து பேருவகை கொள்வீர். அவரது பிறப்பால் பலரும் மகிழ்வனடவர்.

## சிந்தனை:

திருவருகை காலம் ஆண்டுகள் மிக மகத்தான மகிழ்வான, மகிமை நிறைந்த காலம். கடவுள் தம் வாக்கின்படி தமது ஒரே மகனை மாமரியன்னை தந்தை தூசு மூலம் நமக்காக இவ்வலகிறகு அளித்தார். கிறிஸ்து பிறப்பினை எதிர்பார்க்கி நான்கு வாரங்கள் நம்மை தயார் செய்கிறோம். சிறு குழந்தையாய் பிறக்கவிருக்கும் பாலனை நம் உள்ளங்களில், நம் இல்லங்களில் வரவேற்க நம்மை தயார் செய்து கொள்வோம். நாம் செய்த தவறுகள், குற்றங்கள், பிழைகள் , அறிந்தோ அறியாமலோ பிறா மனம் புண்படும் வகையில் நடந்திருந்தால் , இவை அனைத்திற்கும் மன்னிப்பு கேட்டு பிறக்கவிருக்கும் சிறு பாலனிடம் இறைகுசி மன்றாடுவோம்.

## செய்ம்:

எமக்காக, எம் நடுவே சிறு பாலனாய் பிறக்கவிருக்கும் இயேசுவே, உம்மை எம்மிடையே வரவேற்க எங்களை தயார் செய்கிறோம். உமது வருகையை எதிர்பார்த்திருக்கும் எங்களுடைய உள்ளங்களிலும் இல்லங்களிலும் பிறந்து மகிழ்விக்க பாலனே உம்மை மன்றாடுகிறோம்.

- Shanthi Raja.

## Upcoming Events

Dec 24: Christmas Mass, 7:00 pm

Dec 31: New Year Mass, 11:45 pm



## LEADERSHIP

- Leenus Rich



As the new leadership team takes in charge, I would like to bring up some characteristics of a good leader as given by St. Paul.

• If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

• Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.

- Not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
- He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?
- He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.
- Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Jesus also mentioned about the characters of a good leader "But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves." Luke ( 22:26). We all want to be the good leaders but

whether we really follow what Jesus said. That is the question each one of us should ask ourselves.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ we all know God the father sent His angels to the shepherds first to inform about the birth of Jesus. There were many good people lived in Jerusalem but God did not send to them. The shepherds never went to church or never followed anything religious but God chose them.

Few days back I got a chance to talk to a previous Tamil school president. I was very surprised when he said "I was Tamil school president for the past two years and saw very soft to very aggressive people and addressed lots of issues but one thing I learned was for a successful leader you don't need to have extraordinary talents or super intelligence. The one thing you need is patience."

If we take a look at the life of Jesus He was very patient throughout his life especially during the troublesome period of His capture to death.

The human tendency think s patience is passive. But the meaning of real patience should be learned from the people who endured a long period of waiting.

God the father said those who has faith and patience will inherit the promises. As we read below patience is given equal importance as faith.

"so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Hebrews 6:12

## THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

- Sheryl Ratnam

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what exactly is Christmas? To me, Christmas is being together with my family and enjoying the little things that add up to create the true meaning of this season of joy. Christmas is the feeling of anxiety you get as you wonder what gifts await you in front of the tree. Christmas is the pleasure of licking candy canes and bundling up in scarves to stand in the chilly

winter air. Christmas is singing along with the jolly holiday songs



in the car on the way to school and back. Christmas is decorating the tree with ornaments and

trinkets. Christmas is putting up lights in front of the house with my dad and snacking on my mom's famous achu murukku. Christmas is the beauty of watching my sister's face light up as she opens her gifts on Christmas day. Christmas wouldn't be complete without my family. By being together with my family as one in love and celebrating this holiday, we cherish in the true meaning of Christmas.



## 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](mailto: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.*