



## REFLECTION

### WHAT AFTER CORONA?

Dear Parishioners

It is a time for Spiritual Awareness. During the last six months of pandemic and lockdown, the world has seen many notable events that indicated the “end of times”. Many disasters like unusual floods and rains, cyclones, earthquakes and famine, political upheavals and protests occurred in many parts of the world. Yet, the world does not seem to recognise the ‘end of times’, described in the Book of Revelation and in many other Scripture passages.

Now, Jesus, the Lord, steps in taking a chance to help the world. For that, he needs all the talents of his faithful believers to be made available to him. Millions of souls will be saved by him. The ‘seals’ described in Revelation are being opened and the ‘seventh seal’ is to be opened. A new awakening is needed, not going back to the old and previous way of life. We all need to take up a “new normal life”. We need to raise our hands in prayer to praise the Lord. We need to become unconditional servers of God’s plan. We need to become a new humanity with a new ‘conscience’ reaching up to a new spiritual adulthood. It is time to end all kinds of human corruption and selfishness. All earth and universe are craving to give birth to a new nature and everything on earth is to be purified. The practice of sanitisation and distancing has taught us something of a lesson.

‘Behold, I will come silently on a night of stars and there will be no more the cross of suffering and pain’, the Lord seems to say. I will bring the new ‘luminous Cross’ to enlighten the world, the Lord says. It is now time for us to grow internally and spiritually. “You can be my Peace” the Lord says. Hence, let us launch into some actions in earnest. More participation in the Worship of God celebrations.

- A regular Prayer time in homes and families.
- Opening the Bible every day at a particular time to read and listen to the Word of God.
- To be more and more humane, loving and charitable to one another.
- Doing away with all unnecessary worries and anxieties about the material welfare.
- Being satisfied and happy with what we have and live a spiritually fulfilled life.
- Curtailing the enjoyment of digital entertainment and sporting events.

These and similar actions will be the new normal way of life for all true believers. May the Spirit of Jesus guide us in all our actions. May a new Christian living described in the Letter to Titus by Paul, chapters 2 and 3 (please read) be our new way of life.

God bless us all.

Fr Joseph Rathnaraj

Parish Priest

1 August 2020

# THE LETTER OF PAUL TO TITUS

## Christian Living

**2** But as for you, teaching what is in accordance with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be sober, serious, wise, sound in faith, love and perseverance.

<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to behave as befits holy women, not given to gossiping, not addicted to wine, <sup>4</sup> but as good counsellors, able to teach younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be judicious and pure, to take care of their households, to be kind and submissive to the husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited.

<sup>6</sup> Likewise urge the young men to be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup> Show yourself in all respects a model of good works. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup> and sound speech beyond reproach. Then your opponents will feel ashamed and will have nothing to criticise.

<sup>9</sup> Teach slaves to be subject to their masters, and to give satisfaction in every respect, instead of arguing. <sup>10</sup> They must not steal from them but be fully trustworthy. In this way they will draw everyone to admire the doctrine of God our Saviour.

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all, <sup>12</sup> teaching us to reject an irreligious way of life and worldly greed, and to live in this world as responsible persons, upright and serving God, <sup>13</sup> while we await our blessed hope – the glorious manifestation of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He gave himself for us, to redeem us from every evil and to purify a people to be his own and dedicated to what is good.

<sup>15</sup> Teach these things, encourage and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you.

## Christian as a Citizen

**3** Remind the believers to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and to do good at every opportunity. <sup>2</sup> Tell them to defame no one, but to be peaceable, considerate and always polite to everyone.

<sup>3</sup> We ourselves were once foolish, disobedient and misled. We were slaves of our desires, seeking pleasures of every kind. We lived in malice and envy, hating and being hated by one another. <sup>4</sup> But God our Saviour revealed his eminent goodness and love for humankind <sup>5</sup> and saved us, not because of good deeds we might have done, but for the sake of his own mercy. He gave us rebirth in baptism and renewed us by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out abundantly over us through Christ Jesus our Saviour. <sup>7</sup> By the grace of God we were made holy and now we hope for everlasting life, our inheritance. <sup>8</sup> This is the truth, I want you to insist on these things, so that those who believe in God may be careful to excel in good deeds. These things are praiseworthy and profitable to everyone. <sup>9</sup> Avoid stupid arguments, discussions about genealogies and quarrels about the Law, for they are useless and unimportant.

<sup>10</sup> If anyone promotes divisions in the Church, warn him once and then a second time. If he persists in it, have nothing to do with him, <sup>11</sup> knowing that such a person is misled and sinful; he is self-condemned.