



CSI Diocese of Vellore

## St. John's Church

Fort, Vellore - 632004

Church Office : 0416 - 2220607

**Bulletin October - November 2024**

THE HEAVENS DECLARE  
**GLORY of GOD**

THE SKIES PROCLAIM THE WORK OF  
**HIS HANDS.**

PSALMS 19:1

Photo : Joshua Immanuel, 3rd year MBBS student

**Rev. Paul Robert Kennedy**  
Presbyter-in-charge

**Dr. Lionel Gnanaraj**  
Hon. Secretary

**Mr. Joseph Sampathkumar**  
Hon. Treasurer

## Pastoral Letter

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, May the grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

I praise God for all our Committees, Fellowships and wings of various ministries for being vibrant, working for the glory of God in all their activities. Last month we had wonderful retreats for the Sunday School Children and Women's Fellowship in Pravaham. In the month of August, Gandhinagar Area Fellowship Retreat was held at Springdays. We praise God for the words of Jesus sown in the hearts and minds of our people in order that they may have more fruit bearing life in His Vineyard in the days to come.

Our Confirmands are preparing themselves for the Confirmation Service that is scheduled for 17th November 2024. Let us continue to pray for all the Confirmands that they may commit their personal life to Jesus and reverentially partake in the Lord's Supper and be blessed abundantly with the life offered by the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross and His resurrection on the third day.

We had a wonderful Praise and Worship program organized by our Men's Fellowship. The special program for our spiritual growth is commendable. May God bless everyone who has a burden for the spiritual growth of our church members. Such programs for the spiritual growth of the people of God attracts God's blessings. In this regard I would like to refer to Rev. Isaac Johnson and his sermon. His preaching was an enriching experience for everyone who heard his message.

In preaching assignments, our Church members are doing justice to the topic assigned to them to enrich spiritual life of the St. John's Family. I admire their knowledge in their professional field and theological field at an almost equal level. They excel in both areas. It is a great gift for our Church.

The opportunity to serve the Lord is like eating sugar cane. Just as for eating sugarcane, no wages are required, without expecting any appreciation from anybody, let us continue to do



His ministry with all enthusiasm. May God continue to bless us immensely in the coming months too in all our endeavors.

Our St. John's Church is unique in its various ministries, in doing wonderful service to the communities in need. I mean here, outside of our church community. The Church exists for its nonmembers, not for its own sake; the reason behind is that the manifestation of Christ's love may be seen among gentile communities as well, so that the sharing of God's goodness with them also may be realized at either the present time or later. In the whole of Christendom, we need to break the Jewish mindset that all the resources God has given us should be used only for our own community. Our Church presence is being felt among children at Arni, rural communities at Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, senior citizens at Vanjur, tribal community at Nadanur Jawadhi Hills, mothers and babies at Vellore, Kaspas, the Fort working community, alcoholics, children / adults from poor backgrounds and the gipsy community.

We praise God for the administrative system in our CSI Churches such as yearly congregational meetings (AGM) as policy makers, Pastorate Committees as policy executors, the church offices as implementers of the same.

In Jesus' parables, He wanted His redeemed churches to be a light on the Lampstand, not under the Lampstand and a city built on the hill top to show light to the world of darkness and be a signpost for eternal life and heavenly blessings. It is applicable not only for the church but for all individual and family life. May God our Father continue to help us to be witnesses in all levels of our lives.

Let us remember all the departed ones on the 1st week of November and thank for their witness life and their families to live in peace and faith.

May our living God continue to uphold us as a vibrant follower of Christ, not just devotees.

- Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy,  
Pastor

## SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2024

**01<sup>st</sup> October 2024 - Tuesday @ 7.00 a.m.**

**First Day of the Month - Holy Communion Service**

**Celebrant:** Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy

**06<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - I Sunday**

**Mission Sunday / Laity Sunday**

**Theme:** Ministry of the Laity

**Lessons:** I Samuel 25:14-28 I Thess. 4:1-12  
Luke 10:25-37 Psalm 23

**Hymns:** 5, 23, 84, 75

**Altar Service** 7:30 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Morning Prayer

**Lay Readers** Dr. Shirley David & Mr. Durai Jasper  
Dr. Sunil Chandy

**PCs** Mr. Joseph Sampath Dr. Ebor Jacob

**Ushers** Mr. Ashok Davis Dr. Austin Christudoss

**Organists** Mr. Sathish David Dr. Vinod Abraham

**Celebrant & Preacher:** Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - II Sunday**

**Sunday for the Mentally & Physically Challenged and Palliative Patients**

**Theme:** Differently Abled: Dignity and Dependence

**Lessons:** Exodus 4:10-17 Acts 3:1-10  
Matthew 17:14-21 Psalm 103:1-33

**Hymns:** 9, 87, 96, 25

**Altar Service** 7.30 a.m. Morning Prayer 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

**Lay Readers** Dr. Tilak Francis Dr. Alfred Job Daniel &  
Mr. Ashok Davis

**PCs** Dr. Arun Bennet Samuel Dr. Jeeva Devakumar

**Ushers** Mr. Sam Christopher Mr. Boaz Prasad

**Organists** Mr. Wilson Navaraj Dr. Johann Ebenezer

**Celebrant:** Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy

**Preacher:** Rev. Aruldas

**16<sup>th</sup> October 2024, Wednesday @ 10 a.m.**

**Mid-month Holy Communion Service for Senior Citizens**

**Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy**

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – III Sunday**

**Youth Sunday**

**Theme: Youth in Search of a Meaningful Life**

**Lessons:** Genesis 39:1-23 Hebrews 12:1-11  
John 1:43-51 Psalm 17

**Hymns: 17, 34, 78, 59**

**Altar Service 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer**  
**Lay Readers** Dr. Ezhil Christudoss Dr. Samuel Chittaranjan  
& Dr. Jeeva Devakumar  
**PCs** Dr. Lionel Gnanaraj Dr. Anne George  
**Ushers** Mr. Sam Christopher Mr. Ashok Davis  
**Organists** Dr. Sam C Raj Dr. Vineeth Abraham

**Celebrant: Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy**

**Preacher: Dr. Joseph Nathaniel**

**27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – IV Sunday**

**Reformation Sunday**

**Theme: Church: Reformed and Reforming**

**Lessons:** Deut. 26:4-11 Acts 2:43-47  
Matthew 13:33-35 Psalm 109:21-31

**Hymns: 2, 17, 339, 250, 366**

**Altar Service 7.30 a.m. Morning Prayer 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion**  
**Lay Readers** Dr. Mary Jesudason Dr. George Chandy &  
Dr. Ernest David  
**PCs** Dr. Gigi Chandy Dr. Supriya Sen  
**Ushers** Mr. Ebi Ashley Mr. Boaz Prasad  
**Organists** Mr. Sathish David Dr. Pradeep Poonnoose

**Celebrant: Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy**

**Preacher: Dr. Arulappan**



## SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2024

**01<sup>st</sup> November 2024 - Friday @ 7.00 a.m.**

**First Day of the Month - Holy Communion Service**

**Celebrant & Preacher Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy**

**03<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 - I Sunday**

**Commemoration Sunday**

**Theme:** Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

**Lessons:** Isaiah 25:6-9      II Corinthians 5:1-10  
John 11:21-27      Psalm 118:14-15,17-21

**Hymns:** 99, 113, 118, 127

**Altar Service 7:30 am Holy Communion 9:30 am Morning Prayer**

**Lay Readers** Mrs. Vasuki George & Mr. Durai Jasper  
Dr. Devamani

**PCs** Dr. Tryphena      Dr. Sheela Durai

**Ushers** Mr. Ashok Davis      Dr. Austin Christudoss

**Organists** Mr. Sathish David      Dr. Vinod Abraham

**Celebrant:** Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy

**Preacher:** Rev. Madhan Singh

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - Sunday**

**Theological Education Sunday**

**Theme:** Light on the Lampstands

**Lessons:** Zech. 4:1-14      1 Cor. 3:10-15  
Matthew 5:14-16      Psalm 27

**Hymns:** 140,134,147,135

**Altar Service 7.30 a.m. Morning Prayer 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion**

**Lay Readers** Dr. Anika Amirtanand      Dr. Alfred Job &  
Mr. Ashok Davis

**PCs** Mr. Joseph Sampath      Dr. Ebor Jacob

**Ushers** Mr. Sam Christopher      Mr. Boaz Prasad

**Organists** Mr. Wilson Navaraj      Dr. Johann Ebenezer

**Celebrant:** Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Wilson Pauluri

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - Holy Communion @ 8.30 a.m.**

**Confirmation Service**

**Lessons:** Ezekiel 36:26-28 Romans 8:12-17  
John 14:15-17

**Hymns:** 141, 150, 166, 146

**Leader:** Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy

**Celebrant & Preacher:** Rt.Rev.Dr. H. Sharma Nithyanandham

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Wednesday @ 10 a.m.**

**Mid-month Holy Communion Service for Senior Citizens**

**Celebrant & Preacher:** Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - IV Sunday**

**Theme:** Waiting Prayerfully for the Coming of the Lord

**Lessons:** Malachi 4:1- 6 2 Thess. 2:1-17  
Matt. 25:1-13 Psalm 121

**Hymns:**194, 188, 190, 201

**Altar Service** 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion 9.30 a.m Sunday School  
Celebration

**Lay Readers** Dr. George Chandy Sunday School  
& Dr Ranjan Celebration

**PCs** Dr. Arun Bennett Samuel Dr. Geethanjali Arulappan

**Ushers** Mr. Ebi Ashley

**Organists** Mr. Sathish David Dr. Pradeep Poonnoose

**Celebrant and Preacher:** Rev. V. Paul Robert Kennedy

**News & Notices**

**CAROL SERVICE**

The **Carol Service 2024** will be held on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 5.30 p.m. Practice for both Adult and Junior Choir is arranged after the second service. You are invited to join from October 2024.

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

The Junior Church celebrates **World Sunday School Day** on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 during the second service.

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6.00 pm in the Parish Hall.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 and 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2024 at 5.00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

The Women's Fellowship is organizing a Mini Sale on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024, after the second service. All are invited to participate in the sale and to bring items for sale. Please contact the WF in charge for more information. Kindly pre-order for Briyani with Dr. Geethanjali Arulappan.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Confirmation classes are held after the second service. Confirmation candidates are requested to attend the classes regularly.

## **MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION**

We encourage you to be subscribing members, to be full and active members of the Church. We request and encourage you to contribute regularly (monthly) because all the programmes and projects of the Church depend on your giving. Also we urge all earning members and married people to make contributions in their individual numbers (envelope numbers). If you do not have one please contact the Church Office.

## **PC MEETING**

The Pastorate Committee will meet on Friday the **11<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November** at 5.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



## **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

The Youth Fellowship meets every Sunday between services in the JJ Pratt Hall. They also meet virtually for a special study program on Saturdays. Those needing the link may kindly contact Mrs. Valsa Augustine or Dr. Johann Ebenezer. The Youth Sunday Service will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024. A Special Offertory will be received in support of The Diocesan Youth Ministry.

## **WEDDING**

Congratulations to Mariam Rachel Thomas & Nischay Shajan, who were united in Holy Matrimony on 07.09.2024. We congratulate them and wish them a blessed married life.

## **COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

In remembrance of our beloved ones who have entered into glory, a Commemoration Service will be held on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024. Those who have lost their dear ones may kindly send a photo on or before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024, to be included in the obituary list.

## **OBITUARY**

With a deep sense of sorrow, profound faith, and Hope of Resurrection, I inform you of the home call of Dr. Bob Carman, a member of our Church, who had moved to the US. He served as a PC member and choir master along with his wife Lu (who went to be with the Lord a few months earlier).

With a deep sense of sorrow, profound faith, and Hope of Resurrection, I inform you of the home call of Mrs. Victoria mother of Mr. Magizhan and mother-in-law of Dr. Reeta Vijaya Selvi who entered into eternal glory on Tuesday 24.09.2024

Kindly uphold the members of the families in your prayers.

## COFFEE AND FLOWER CALENDAR

**October 2024**

Date	Coffee	Flower	Breakfast
6.10.2024	Anu & Mammen Chandy	Anu & Mammen Chandy	Anu & Mammen Chandy
13.10.2024	-	-	-
20.10.2024	Asisha & Justin	-	-
27.10.2024	-	-	Mathuram Augustin

**November 2024**

Date	Coffee	Flower	Breakfast
03.11.2024	-	-	-
10.11.2024	Mary & Jacob	-	Mary & Jacob
17.11.2024	Christudoss	-	Christudoss
24.11.2024	George & Susheela Koshi	George & Susheela Koshi	George & Susheela Koshi

### AREA FELLOWSHIP

Area	Date & Time	Place
Gandhi Nagar	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct. at 6:30 p.m.	Mrs. Leela Mammen 44B, Fourth Cross, E.B. Colony, Gandhinagar West
	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov. at 6:30 p.m.	Mr. Ravikumar and Mrs. Rajakumari Ph-2, Villa 69, Mayflower, Karnampet
College	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct. at 6:30 p.m.	Dr. Ashwin and Dr. Seles 14 Block, 3D6, New Sunset Avenue, CMC, Bagayam Campus
	15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. at 6:30 p.m.	Dr. Pradeep John Pramod and Dr. Anitha Jasper 817-3A3, Rehab Campus, Bagayam
Sathuvar chari	October	Mr. Alfred Vijay and Mrs. Nirmala Alfred 10/525/2, Phase-III, (Near PF Office), Nethaji Bose Road (Extn), Sathuvachari
	November	Mrs. Nellie Jayathilak, Plot.94, Phase-1, Housing Colony, Sathuvachari.
Town	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct. at 6:30 p.m.	Dr. Daniel Ezhilarasu and Dr. Punitha Ezhilarasu



## Wishing you God's Richest Blessings on your Birthday

### OCTOBER

1<sup>st</sup>

Nitin Philip Michael  
Sharon Jessica. A

3<sup>rd</sup>

David Manohar  
Nihal Daniel Thomas  
Noah Kurian Thomas  
Andrea Cris

4<sup>th</sup>

Nalini Rajamanikkam  
Ashish Jonathan Samuel  
Tarun Zachary Roy

5<sup>th</sup>

Artaban Johnson J  
Daniel Pradeep Promod  
Noah Anand  
Pranav Ullal  
Zephaniah Asher Chittaranjan

6<sup>th</sup>

Mintoo M Tergestina  
Rohit Paul  
Benjamin George  
Jaya Ruth Asirvatham  
Prasad. K.B.R  
Devamani Pandian  
Aarav Reddy

7<sup>th</sup>

Kishore Pichamuthu  
Ashok Mammen  
Angelina Sharon Thomas  
Anandit Mathew  
Sheila Samuel

Marilyn Delighta. S  
Praveen Benjamin  
Nidaan Joshua

8<sup>th</sup>

Abigail Grace  
Tina Liza John

9<sup>th</sup>

Adrien Dave Joseph

10<sup>th</sup>

Arulappan A  
Tyler Erker

11<sup>th</sup>

Surekha V  
Mary Raghuv eer. C

12<sup>th</sup>

Raju Titus Chacko  
Sukria Nayak  
Mallika Nancy Jesudasan  
John Arul David Raj  
Nikita Gracelyn Rose  
Ryan Lemuel Rajay  
Rishab Jesudasan

13<sup>th</sup>

George Abraham  
George K. Koshi

14<sup>th</sup>

Edwin Stephen  
Abraham Oommen  
Lavanya  
J N Jaya Kumar  
Aditi Solomon

15<sup>th</sup>

Priyanand Pusuluri

Karen Samantha  
Suchetha Vijayarajam  
Kimberly Jesudas

**16<sup>th</sup>**

Mona Baskar  
Michaele Daniella  
Praveen Gaikwad

**17<sup>th</sup>**

Annora Titus

**18<sup>th</sup>**

Annamma Alexander  
Henry Finlay Godson  
Jesija Finlay  
Sundara Bai Sundari  
Daniel Anandaraj

**19<sup>th</sup>**

Dinesh Samuel John  
Ann Carol Alex  
Jaden B Oliver

**20<sup>th</sup>**

Thomas. M.A  
Sheela David

**21<sup>st</sup>**

Santosh Thomas Samuel  
Merlyn Tilak  
Amy Sussane  
Tharyan Koshi

**22<sup>nd</sup>**

Shini Susan Samuel  
Telma Mythily  
Shobana Clifford  
James Solomon  
Micah Mathew Chandy

**23<sup>rd</sup>**

Frank Emmanuel

Christina Irwin  
Jeyanthi K  
Santhi  
Princy Sherlin Kamalya  
Hazel Samara

**24<sup>th</sup>**

Pramod Oliver Alexander  
Atara Abraham  
Jonathan Joseph Mithran

**25<sup>th</sup>**

Jayaprakash Muliylil  
Anjali Abraham  
Prasanna Victorprasad  
Mary Sarojini

**26<sup>th</sup>**

Sneha Varkki  
Jacob John  
Jebamani Augustine  
Jayden Philip Muliylil

**27<sup>th</sup>**

Joseph Sampathkumar  
Sunitha Mammen  
Chandrasekar  
Priya Abraham

**28<sup>th</sup>**

Asmitha Hannah Thomas  
Clifford Paul S.  
Nithya Rachel Raju

**29<sup>th</sup>**

Deva Prasanna Rajan. D  
Premila Lee  
Geeta Chacko  
Abijah Ashley  
Malliga Stanley



**30<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah Jepegnanam  
Thomas Anand Augustine  
Ranee Paula Jasper  
Pamela Christu Doss

**31<sup>st</sup>**

Ruby Nakka  
Theo Isaiah Deepak

**NOVEMBER**

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Ruth Baweja  
Arathy Raj  
Rohan David Rajiv  
Niav Jacob

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

Umarani Wilson  
Sanjeev Manasseh P

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

Darshana Maria Irwin  
Derek Prins M

**4<sup>th</sup>**

Kavitha Elizabeth George  
Susheela Koshi  
Nikhila Elsa George

**6<sup>th</sup>**

Nirmala Panchikal  
Cheryl Beck  
Anuroop Paul. P

**8<sup>th</sup>**

George John  
Jasmin Helan  
Vijaykumar Aruldas  
Merin Abraham  
Delin David M  
Deborah Betsy Barney

Jessica Kristyn  
Malliga Mithran

**9<sup>th</sup>**

Shruti Lisa  
Frederick Barnabas

**10<sup>th</sup>**

Baylis Vivek Joseph  
Samuel Jeba Seelan T  
Yohann Titus  
Jeyasachin Johnson

**11<sup>th</sup>**

Benedict V.Venkatesan  
Preethi R N  
Sunil Chandy  
Abhishek A K  
Anna Daniel

**12<sup>th</sup>**

Jacob K. John  
Lazarus Rajiv B P  
Dheepak Selvaraj

**13<sup>th</sup>**

Joshua Christudoss  
Seles James Martin  
Ayana Shruthi Arun

**14<sup>th</sup>**

Nirmal Margaret. N  
Christina Grace  
Jemima Jane Stanley  
Joel Jeevan  
Vijay Paul  
Jeyaraj Navamani  
Jayakumar  
David Kiruba Daniel

**15<sup>th</sup>**

Steven Lionel

**16<sup>th</sup>**

Pravin Paul Chittaranjan

**17<sup>th</sup>**

Ezhil Christudoss

Nayana Euron

Sunitha Serena

Usha Jesudasan

**18<sup>th</sup>**

Reshma Raju

Mithran Isaiah Selwyn

Anu Anna Mathews

Zion Chris Gerald

**19<sup>th</sup>**

Karen Jacob

Adarsh John

Shubathra Joshua

Jeyanthi Manokaran

Thomas Korah Kuruvila

Joseph Noel

Esther Inbarani A

**20<sup>th</sup>**

Sareen Shiloh Sharma

**21<sup>st</sup>**

Valerie Ann Bothamley

Jayanthi Peter

Ananth P Abraham

Sulochana Abraham

John Premnath

**22<sup>nd</sup>**

Aradhana Anna Korula

Anju Samuel

Mark ROHAN

Naomi Mariam Thomas

**23<sup>rd</sup>**

Samson Z P Moses

Vyom Jonathan Naik

Archana Padmakar

Rachel Koshi

**24<sup>th</sup>**

Latif Rajesh Johnson

Anita Joseph

Anthan Anurag Tigga

Johanna Arokah

**25<sup>th</sup>**

Harshad Arvind Varnjare

**26<sup>th</sup>**

Sharon Anbumalar Lionel

Daisy Sam

**27<sup>th</sup>**

Anne George Cherian

Kamini

Nishita Daniel Jayakumar

Vijay Immanuel

Nathan Titus

**28<sup>th</sup>**

Roshan K. Kurien

Beryl

Vinohar Balraj

Ranjit Koshi

**29<sup>th</sup>**

Anjali Roul

Jisha Devakumar

**30<sup>th</sup>**

Benaiah Manesh

Minnu Stanley

Tanya Michelle Muliyl

Jehosheba Paul Anya



## RAGIMANUPENTA CHURCH

### Birth of the Bangarupalayam Project

A spiritual revival was going on during the late seventies in Andhra Pradesh villages. Several people responded to the gospel of the Lord Jesus and new congregations were started in these villages. Rev. J.J. Pratt, who served as a missionary in the Telugu region before his ministry in St. John's Vellore, had an interest and wanted to nurture and support these new Christians. In February 1981, a



team from St. John's Church visited to assess the needs of the new Christians. In essence, the St. John's Church desired to help poor Christian Communities to put up church buildings for worship services and other meetings. The Church General Body meeting held in October 1981 resolved to give aid to new congregations to build Churches. Thadakara, Indranagar, Ragimanupenta, Guntlakattamanchi, Maradipalli and Diguamatyam were included in the project. Dr. Paul Vaska, Dr. Samuel Chittaranjan, Prof. Azariah, Prof. K. Barnabas, Dr. Anand Job and Mr. Sam Christopher carried out evangelistic work through preaching, film shows and medical camps. The Evangelistic Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, resolved to equip the Churches in outreach areas to mark the significance of our Church's 175<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration. Except for Ragimanupenta, other villages under the Bangarupalayam project built new churches. Since the members are very poor in Ragimanupenta, they are unable to build another church for their congregation.

**Ragimanupenta Church:** This church was started with ten families of new Christians in 1981. Now the congregation has 80 families. Mr. Chandrasekar, employed by our church, is working as Evangelist for Ragimanupenta and Indiranagar.

They are worshipping in the church that was built by St. John's in 1994. This place was donated by one of the church members, Mr. Rathinavelu. The present church is too small for its members.



Our Evangelistic team visited Ragimanupenta village on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2022. Dr. Jeevaratnam, Dr. Titus and Mr. Sam Jebadurai (CMC Chittoor) led the Praise and Worship in Telugu. Dr. Lionel in his greetings, shared a brief thought on Matthew 7:24-28 about the Wise and Foolish builders. Rev. Rajesh shared God's Word on the Redemption of God, from the lives of Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10) the tax collector and Nicodemus (St John 3:1-16), a ruler of the Jews. Mr. Joseph Sampathkumar, Mr. Sam Christopher and Dr. Tilak Francis participated in the trip. We distributed 55 Bibles in Telugu and handed over Sunday school materials.

The members of the Ragimanupenta church shared with us their need to build a new church to accommodate more numbers. Mr. Yesuratnam, the son of Mr. Rathinavelu who donated land for the present church, has generously given a large piece of land behind the existing structure for the new church. We visited the proposed site and offered a prayer for the blessings of the Lord Jesus on this project. After completing the registration of the land on CSITA - Synod and working out the blueprint, they laid the foundation for the new church building



on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Since the AGM of the church was held on that day, we could not participate in this important event. As reported in the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> August, our Pastor and Evangelistic Committee



convener visited Ragimanupenta to honour their invitation. The St. John's Church Evangelical team of yesteryears envisioned building a church for this handful of believers in that remote region; this has blossomed into a bigger congregation. Praise God for the wonderful work through St. John's Church members led by Rev. J.J. Pratt to reach out to these villages.



## **Sunday School Retreat**

The St. John's Sunday school enjoyed a picnic to Pravaham, Palamathy on Sunday, 15th September 2024.

Mohan and Jannice were our resource persons for the day and they took lot of effort to ensure that the children never experienced a dull moment. They were divided into a junior and a senior group. The junior group met after a morning snack in their classes - Volunteers from the team engaged them in activities and teaching that kept them engaged and challenged till the lunch break. The theme was about being like Daniel and the teachers were able to discuss Daniel's various attributes with their students through activities. After a scrumptious lunch, toddlers to grade 5 left for their respective homes.

There was a session from 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. taken by Mohan exclusively for the parents. He skipped his lunch break to take it as he was very keen to engage the parents with a challenge to intentional parenting. He used Daniel as an example of a young man – away from his family making firm decisions and challenged parents to raise such children with a firm Christian footing.

The senior classes from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the Senior class undoubtedly had the most fun at the picnic. The whole day was



broken into small sessions and challenges for them. The various attributes of Daniel-like perseverance, faith, trust, taking a stand, respect, reliability were discussed with various activities like archery, tight rope walking, a paint the flag session and the most enjoyed "prusiking" - or climbing a vertical using mountaineering rope techniques.

The evening was wrapped up with a debrief and sharing session that focused on what the children were taking back from the camp. It was insightful to see how the activities helped cement the children's thoughts about some fundamental scriptural truths. We wrapped up the session with a group dance inspired by the games we play!

No camp is complete without a wrap-up feast, and we were treated to a scrumptious BBQ prepared by Danny uncle and Nishita Aunty with loads of helping hands to make the salads and the condiments.

Please do contact the Sunday School Superintendent, Dr. Supriya, if you would like to and were not able to contribute to the costs of having the team over, by making a free will offering for the same.

We are so grateful for the effort Jannice and Mohan took to make the day special for our children. They were helped by a group of young professionals from Bangalore - about 10 young men and women from the Grace Bible Fellowship in Bangalore - who drove down just to help make the day a success. Mohan and Jannice have recently taken over the Samaritan camp in Yelagiri and we are sure they will be a great blessing to the place as they plan to revive it.

## Happy Christian Corner

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The Pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching." On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want - God is watching the apples."

### **Bulletin Bloopers - (*not ours, since it is well curated!!*)**

- ❖ Our annual church picnic will be held Saturday afternoon. If it rains, it will be held in the morning.
- ❖ The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- ❖ A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favorite recipe, also a short antidote for it.
- ❖ The senior pastor will be away for two weeks. The staff members during his absence you will find pinned to the church noticeboard.
- ❖ The low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p. m. Please use the back door.
- ❖ Ushers will eat latecomers.
- ❖ Women's Group sale of unwanted items. Please bring your husbands.
- ❖ The third verse of "Blessed Assurance" will be sung without musical accomplishment.
- ❖ Would the congregation kindly remember that the box marked 'For the Sick' is for financial contributions only.
- ❖ The vicar is on holiday until the 27th. Local clergy will be celebrating on the Sundays when he is away.
- ❖ Mr. Bradford was elected and has accepted the office of head deacon. We could not get a better man



## **How can you contribute to the church financially?**

The members and the congregation that worships in St. John's Church have always been very generous in their donations to the church and its various ministries.

This AGM a specific question was raised regarding an update on various church activities as well as details on how to contribute to the same. We have made efforts to showcase the various ministries and outreach programs of our church in every upcoming church bulletin. This article also lists the various account heads for contribution to these projects.

Please use the covers available to contribute to these various funds. If one is not a member, plain white covers used and the contribution can be earmarked for any specific activity. These covers are available at the church entrance or with our church staff / PC members.

We have a QR code which can be used to donate money to the church. These must be accompanied by specific instructions as to which fund the money should go to.

The various funds are as listed below:

### **Monthly Subscription and Thank Offering:**

**60% of the Free will offering ( Offertory ), the Monthly Subscription and Thank offering made via the designated cover are sent to the Diocese as our assessment contribution.**

Those who are members of St. John's Church need to make sure they send a monthly subscription of at least Rs.50

**Helping hands:** This fund caters to a large number of outreach projects such as Shanthigramam, Karunai Illam, Anbu Illam, etc

**Building and Maintenance:** Contributions to this fund go towards the maintenance of the church and its premises.

**Evangelistic work:** Various mission fields and evangelists are supported from this fund.



**Scholarship fund:** This fund is used to provide scholarships to deserving children for higher studies.

**Sunday School:** Funds are used for the activities of the Sunday school and for any project or area of need that the Sunday school decides to support.

**Youth activities:** This fund is used for activities of the youth in our church. They also contribute to special activities such as Hope House, Vellore Life Challenge.

**Women's Fellowship:** The Women's Fellowship helps run a day care centre in Kaspas called the Hope Centre, contributes towards feeding the urban poor, supports the higher education of girls, supports the Mahanaim project and contributes towards paying a Bible Woman every month.

**Ministerial Fund:** This fund is to meet the expenses of guest speakers, travel, food, and accommodation, the Pastor's monthly fixed travel expenses and to pay the salary of any junior or trainee pastor stationed at our church

**Bangarupalayam fund:** Outreach programme

**Nadanur project:** Outreach programme

**Foster care fund:** Contributes towards MBKG Pannai, Arni Boys Home

**Publication fund:** Used for any publications from the church

**Disaster relief fund:** This will be used to aid victims of disasters. Most recently it has been used for the Wayanad relief.

**Cemetery fund:** This is a new fund which has been started with the idea of buying land for a cemetery. This is a long felt need of the church.

Further information on each of these funds will be provided in the coming issues of the bulletin.



Independence Day celebrations at church



Youth programme with Rev Isaac Johnson





Gandhinagar area fellowship retreat



Vanjur old age home community





Sunday School Retreat - Pravaham, 15th Sept. 2024