

YOU ARE THE
SALT
OF THE EARTH

and the
Light
OF THE WORLD

MATTHEW 5:13,14



• OCTOBER 2026

JOHANNINE COMMUNIQUÉ

Newsletter of C.S.I St. John's Cathedral, Trichy



Village Outreach - Solaikudi



DCC Women's Festival



Farewell - Rev. A. Suresh Kumar & Ms. Mercy Suresh Kumar





Praise and Prayers

Independence Day



Village Outreach - Sengurichi



Special Song - Junior Church Children



Annual Thanksgiving Festival



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From the desk of the Presbyter Incharge ...

“You are the salt of the earth.” (Matthew 5:13)

Greetings to you all in the loving name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet” (Matthew 5:13).

Common salt with the chemical name Sodium Chloride, was a rare commodity in Jesus's time. Roman soldiers were paid part of their salary (solarium) in salt and the word 'salary' has its origins there.

Why might Jesus have chosen to call us as salt?

i) Salt is an essential commodity in human life. So also the role of Christians in this world. In ancient Egypt salt was used to preserve 'Mummies' which survived centuries. Traditionally in some cultures they are used in house warming and wedding ceremonies. An Encyclopedia lists 14,000 uses for salt. It is used in the manufacture of paper, PVC, textiles, soap and many other products.

ii) Salt cannot be substituted easily like sugar. So also Christians have no substitute to spread the Good News and the Word of God.

iii) Salt's ability to preserve: Salt wards off rot and decay. It is used to preserve food. Dry fish and dried meat (Uppu kadam in Tamil) are examples of this.

iv) Its ability to penetrate: Salt will penetrate and infiltrate whatever it touches. It is an aggressive substance and used to marinate foods to soften them and to add flavor.

v) Its ability to add taste: Any food without salt is unpalatable. Salt blends and adds flavour and taste to food. Even tasteless food

like the white of an egg can be made palatable with salt. Every Christian should bring flavour to the world around him. As salt, we are to so live our lives that we bring out the best in those around us. Our presence should make a difference.

vi) Salt's promoting ability: Salt creates a thirst for water. Every Christian has the wonderful opportunity to promote a thirst for Jesus in the world. When we live right, look right, act right, talk right and worship right, we will be able to create a thirst for Jesus in the hearts of those around us. We must walk the talk and talk the walk.

God commanded the Israelites, "Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings" (Leviticus 2:13).

Two examples for making a difference in everyday life:

Once there was a discussion on the best Bible translation. One said that the best was his mother's version because she lived an exemplary life inspiring faith and love in those around her. Her life had a remarkable, enduring, positive Christian influence on those who knew her.

Four boys were walking to school carrying school bags and lunch bags. One boy slipped and fell. The other boys laughed and made fun of him. But one boy picked up his bags and helped him to stand. He made the difference.

God wants us to be useful and to make a difference like the salt of the earth. Let us obey His call. The Spirit of Jesus in us empowers us to make a difference in this world.

- Rev. S. Sudharsan

Valuable and Visible

Dear brothers and sisters,

**“You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world”
(Matthew 5:13-16)**

Jesus spoke these words during his Sermon on the Mount. Jesus wanted them to know that they had a special purpose. He gave them a beautiful identity. He said, “You are the Salt of the earth...You are the light of the world”. These are not the titles we earn, but identities we live. The whole purpose of our Christian life is hidden in these two identities “Salt” and “Light”. Together they describe a Christian life that is both humble in service and bold in witness – in our family, extending to our church and reaching our community and society.

Without salt, food is tasteless and soon gets spoiled. As Christians, we must protect others through our prayers and stand for them in their times of trouble. If we lose our saltiness – if our prayer life becomes cold, if our words become bitter, Jesus warns, we are no longer good for anything.

About giving Jesus said, “Let not your left hand know what your right hand does” (Matthew 6:3). Just as salt dissolves unseen but gives taste, we should also serve and help others without seeking fame or praise.

We are called “salt” to be distinct from the world of sin and to live a holy and exemplary life by keeping ourselves pure. Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and tramped underfoot”. Our families and societies today are decaying from selfishness, dishonesty and broken relationships. As salt, we must preserve godly values by our integrity, forgiveness and prayer.

Salt in the salt shaker changes nothing. It has to touch the food. In the same way, we have to get involved with others, without staying isolated in our own cabins. Our mindful listening

when someone speaks, apologizing first, praying together are the preservatives that stop bitterness from rotting relationships. Let us not lose our saltiness, but instead maintain our saltiness through our daily prayer and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Light exposes what is wrong and reveals what is true. It does not fight with darkness. It simply shines and darkness disappears. Our honesty and purity show people there is another way to live. Light pushes back fear and guides like a lamp by showing direction. God didn't save us to keep Him secret. He put us on a stand in our family, work place, school and in society so others could see Him through us. So, let us come forward to stand up for what is right, help a neighbor in need, speak for someone who has no voice.

Light also symbolizes spiritual guidance, truth and hope that dispels darkness, sin and ignorance. As Christians, we are called to live visibly with faith, integrity and compassion. Our good works must dispel hatred, injustice and despair. And as a lamp, our actions must guide others towards God and bring Him glory.

In the Old Testament it is written, "every grain offering must be seasoned with salt" (Leviticus 2:13). Salt was a part of the sacrifice. So let us dedicate ourselves to God by sacrificing our comfort, time, vanity and all our desires. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify our Father in Heaven.

At home, we are both salt and light. We preserve values and we show the way. Let us flavour one place and light up one room. May we be the salt that heals and light that guides, so that our family sees Christ in us, our church grows with us and our society tastes the goodness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through us.

So let us live in a way that preserves what is good and illuminates what is true.

- Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews

Know Your Bishop

We are thankful to Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Samuel Rajadurai, Bishop, CSI Trichy Thanjavur Diocese, who has shared his life's journey, his interests and God's faithfulness in his life.



Dear St. John's family,

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Rev. S. Sudharsan asked me to share some biographical notes of my life with you. I furnish some of them. I was born on 20th April, 1965 (also the birthday of Adolf Hitler!) in Karur. My father, Mr. G. Sigamani, was a postgraduate History teacher and my mother Mrs. D. Sambooranam was a secondary grade teacher. I was their third child. I was born as an answer to my parent's prayers and they dedicated me to full-time church ministry when I was 10 months old. They adorned me with a golden cross that I still wear (not to be confused with the Pectoral cross!).

During my childhood, I was fondly called as “Kutti- Iyyer” by the elders at Karur Church. I had my schooling at CSI Boys Hr. Sec. School, Karur. Of my two older sisters, the elder Mrs. Inbarani Jayaraj was a Maths teacher at a government Hr. Sec. School at Villivakkam, Chennai and her husband was the estate manager at Anna University Campus. The other sister, Dr. Valarmathi Manoharan served in the Maths Dept of Bishop Heber College, and her husband, Er. A. Manoharan served in the Electricity Board, Trichy. I also studied (felt suffocated with!) Maths at BHC (1982-85).

At the age of 21, I had the call of God for full-time ministry

during a watch-night service in the dawn of 1986. I obeyed. But it was too late to join a theological course, as admissions were closed by December itself. So I joined post-graduation in Philosophy and Religion, a course offered in Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary (TTS) in Madurai, affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University. When I was drawn to the Philosophical schools, I had an experience that changed my entire perspective which moulded the focus of my life.

I went to Sivakasi for an industrial visit to learn the plight of working children. On my return, I was burdened with many questions, compelling me to seek answers. In September 1986, my teacher, Rev. Dr. Bastiaan Wielenga gave me the book 'Capital' written by Karl Marx to understand the exploitation of labourers under the capitalist mode of production. Marxist tools of analysis made severe impact on my understanding. That was the time the Liberation theology also came into the Indian theological circle. I accepted the slogan of Liberation theology, "Preferential option for the Poor". I came out of TTS in 1991 with MA and BD degrees. My BD dissertation was about Child Labour. That year the diocese did not recruit candidates for ministry. I went to Chennai and worked in the Centre for Labour Education and Development among the working children of the utensil sector.

In 1991, I married my cousin, Vasanthi Annammal. Soon after our marriage, we went to Chennai. We both worked in Chennai for one year. Life was very tough and highly demanding.

In 1992, I was recruited for ministry and was placed at Perumkarunai Palayam as a candidate for ministry. My sons were born and I had my ordination by the time I was thirty. In 1995-98, I worked as an Assistant Presbyter at All Saints Church, Trichy. I

conducted Bible Study classes in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Jeremiah and from Revelation to John. When I went to TTS to pursue my post-graduation in theology I chose to do my dissertation on the Images of Revelation.

After MTh., I was posted in Paramathi. In the Paramathi parsonage, Vasanthi had a Cobra bite. I, with courage, took her on my Bullet bike to Karur for hospitalisation. She was on the ventilator for 48 hours, and God blessed her with a new life and blessed me with her unfailing love. We continued to live and minister in villages.

In 2008, I joined my doctoral programme in Theology specialising in the discipline of Social Analysis, not to be confused with sociology. Though we study social theories, Social Analysis is yet another perspective or approach to biblical theology. I did my doctoral research in the area of agriculture and food security in the biblical framework. My doctoral degree was secured in 2012. My doctoral dissertation was published in 2017, and it secured the James Massey Subaltern Studies award for 2017.

I was elected as DCC Chairperson in 2015 and was stationed in Dharapuram. In 2018, I was selected for the Bishopric Panel by the Diocese and was not selected by the Synod.

I have always had a passion for village ministry. It suited well to my commitment to the poor and needy. I cherished the extraordinary love of the very ordinary people.

I have a great desire for reading and writing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I wrote a book "Learning from the Saints", a book for personal devotion based on biblical characters. It was welcomed

by readers and my sister Dr. Valarmathi M., translated it into Tamil, making it accessible to our Tamil congregation as well.

I have a passion for theological education. I continue to teach Political Economy and Biblical Theology to the PG students at TTS.

I was elected as the Bishop in December 2025. My day starts at 5 am. I sit in my office with my books at 5.30 and continue up to 7.30 am. I then spend time with my family and reach the Office at 9 am. I work up to 9 pm, and my day ends with thanksgiving at 9 pm.

Rev. S. Sudharsan asked me to write about my life and my faith journey, saying that the congregation would be interested in knowing about me and my call to full time ministry. Now as the Bishop of your diocese. I wish to say I am a very ordinary person, and prefer to continue life with minimal benefits and comforts. I hope I do not present myself as a saint.

I thank the Lord for this opportunity to connect with you all, sharing some of my life experiences.

I wish you all God's blessings. Shalom!

**- Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Samuel Rajadurai,
Bishop – CSI Trichy Thanjavur Diocese**

Holy Baptism

“And He (Jesus) took the children in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:16)

St. John's Cathedral family is happy to welcome a new arrival received into the fellowship of the church.

Baby A. Eveline Evana, daughter of Mr. A. Allwin Antony and Dr. Pearline Samuel, born on 27-3-2026, received Holy Baptism on 26-7-2026.

Preserve Goodness and Shine

Greetings to you all in the mighty name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

I deem it a great honour and thank our Lord Almighty and our beloved congregation for giving me this wonderful opportunity to share my article for the first time through Johannine Communique.

The metaphor of “Salt and Light” originates from the Sermon on the Mount in the Bible where Jesus tells His disciples and followers “..... you are the salt of the earth....” “.....you are the light of the world...” - Matthew 5:13-16.

This particular verse defines that Salt and Light represent a dynamic and two fold calling for how we are meant to impact the church and society.

Salt represents preservation and adds flavour while light stands visibly on a hill dispelling darkness and guides others towards truth. These two elements 'salt and light' together challenge us to step out of comfort zones and become an instrument of change in our lives among our congregation as well as in our society.

Jesus did not say “Become the salt of the earth”. He said “You are”. As Christians we often ask what God expects from us in the world? God has shown us our entire life's purpose in these two words 'Salt and Light'.

Salt – Preserving our home and society:

Salt represents preservation, flavour and value. To preserve moral

goodness, acting quietly behind the scenes and bringing out the best flavor in humanity by preventing moral decay. It is small but prevents decay and gives taste. As Christians, we are the salt in our homes. When we pray, forgive, speak with love and live honestly, we preserve our family members from all worldly dangers by giving taste in their lives. Without Christ in us, we lose our saltiness.

Our world today is decaying – values are changing, families are breaking and faith is becoming weak. So, as God's children, we are called to be the salt in our homes first. Salt is simple, small, ordinary and easily overlooked though it plays a major role. A pinch of salt is never seen but its taste is felt everywhere.

In the same way, our silent prayer in the early morning, our kind word to our neighbor, our forgiveness when others hurt us, our faithful attendance in church – these small acts preserve our family from decay. Let us keep our saltiness through our words and action.

Light – Shining in darkness:

Light represents visibility, truth, guidance and openly dispelling darkness through good deeds.

Jesus also said, “A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.”

God has placed each one of us in our family, church and society – not to be hidden but to shine. A small light can light a whole house. Your kind smile, your helping hand and your faithful life is that light. A light can be a comforting visit to a sick person, a word of encouragement to those who are depressed, keeping our homes filled with peace and thanks giving.

Our words and actions must guide others out of darkness and confusion. Let us live a life that gives direction for others to find their way towards Jesus. Scripture says, "...that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). The purpose is to glorify God and not ourselves.

The question is whether we are living as salt and light in the world.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world."

So let us choose a word of encouragement in our conversation each day and do something good intentionally with no expectation of credit. May our lives together make our church and society bright for His glory.

Finally, I conclude with the point - Let us be the salt that preserves and light that shines till Jesus comes.

- ***Mrs. E. H. Cynthia Jim***

Home Call

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the Earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes – I, and not another." (Job 19:25-27)

Mrs. G. Charlotte Sampoorani, aged 69, wife of Mr. M. Paul Inbanathan, younger sister of Bishop Paul Vasanthakumar and mother of Mr. P. Ruskin Matthews and Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews entered eternal rest on 23-7-26. She served as an English teacher and retired as PG Assistant in English at Bishop Heber Higher Secondary School, Trichy.

Quality

When someone tells us, “You are good for nothing,” we immediately become angry. Yet in Matthew 5:13, Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth.” He also says that if salt loses its flavour, it becomes useless and is thrown out and trampled underfoot. The importance of salt is not in its quantity but in its quality. Food does not need a large amount of salt; even a small amount can give it flavour. But if salt has lost its flavour, no matter how much we use, it cannot make the food tasty. Therefore, the quality of salt is more important than its quantity. When Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth,” He calls us to live a life of quality.

In Matthew 5:14, Jesus also says, “You are the light of the world.” A light exists to illuminate its surroundings. If we use a 100-watt light bulb instead of a 40-watt or 60-watt bulb in a large room, the room will be brighter. That is, when the capacity of the light increases, it gives greater illumination. Likewise, Jesus calls us to live lives that shine brightly and influence the people around us.

Whether salt or light, its effectiveness depends on its quality. In the same way, the value of our Christian life is not merely in how long we live or how much we possess, but in how faithfully and meaningfully we live for God.

The Bible gives us several examples of people who lived quality lives even in difficult circumstances. Let us look at a few of them and consider the good qualities we can learn from their lives.

Joseph: His integrity and excellent work, Potiphar entrusted everything he had to Joseph. Later, Joseph was falsely accused and imprisoned. Even in prison, he continued to serve faithfully. Eventually, God gave him wisdom to interpret Pharaoh's dreams.

Joseph then wisely prepared Egypt for the coming famine by storing grain during seven years of abundance and saved the people of Egypt, his father's family, and people from many nations from the devastating famine. Joseph lived as salt and light in his generation.

Daniel: Lived as a captive in Babylon, but he refused to compromise his faith or purity. He maintained a disciplined prayer life and excelled in wisdom and understanding. God gave Daniel the ability to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, helping save many lives. Daniel continued to honour God even when doing so placed his own life in danger. His circumstances did not change his character. Through his holiness, faithfulness, and wisdom, Daniel became salt and light in Babylon.

Paul: After accepting Christ as his personal Saviour, the Apostle Paul considered everything he had gained as worthless for the sake of the Gospel. He became salt to the Jews and a light to the Gentiles, faithfully proclaiming Christ and the Gospel to both. The thirteen letters he wrote nearly 2,000 years ago continue to teach us how to live a quality Christian life in Christ and how to be salt and light to the world.

Joseph, Daniel, and Paul all experienced captivity and faced extremely difficult circumstances. Yet they did not allow their circumstances to determine the quality of their character. They remained faithful in prayer, holiness, truth, integrity, and responsibility. Let us examine our lives in the light of God's Word. Let us pursue holiness, remain faithful in every circumstance, and become a blessing to others.

Let us live as salt and light. Let us pursue a life of quality. Let us prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord!

- Dr. E.C. Henry Amirtharaj

Why Am I a Flickering Light?

Jesus declared, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). He did not say, “Try to become light,” but “You are light.” This identity is rooted in Christ, who is “the true Light” (John 1:9) and “the Light of the world” (John 8:12). Believers do not produce their own light; they reflect His. Yet many Christians experience seasons when their witness becomes weak or inconsistent, prompting the question: Why am I a flickering light?

A flickering light is one that shines but lacks consistency. Biblically, this often reflects not the absence of faith but spiritual weakness. Through careful hermeneutical reading of Scripture, several causes become evident.

First, a weakened relationship with Christ causes our light to dim. Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches... apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). A branch cannot bear fruit apart from the vine, and believers cannot shine apart from Christ. Neglecting prayer, Scripture, worship, and obedience weakens our fellowship with Him and diminishes our witness.

Second, unconfessed sin clouds our light. Isaiah declares, “Your iniquities have separated you from your God” (Isaiah 59:2). Sin does not cancel God's love, but it disrupts communion with Him. David's prayer, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation” (Psalm 51:12), reminds us that repentance restores spiritual vitality. Hidden sin results in an unstable testimony.

Third, fear and worldliness often make believers hide their light. Jesus taught that people prefer darkness to light (John 3:19), and many Christians compromise to avoid rejection. Likewise, the

Parable of the Sower explains that worldly worries, wealth, and desires choke spiritual growth (Mark 4:18–19). A divided heart cannot consistently reflect God's glory. Instead, Christ commands, “Let your light shine before others” (Matthew 5:16).

Fourth, resisting the Holy Spirit weakens our witness. Paul exhorts believers, “Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:19). The Spirit empowers holy living and faithful witness. Ignoring His conviction or resisting His guidance causes the believer's light to flicker instead of shining brightly.

Yet Scripture offers hope. God does not abandon flickering lights. Speaking of the Messiah, Isaiah writes, “A bruised reed He will not break, and a smouldering wick He will not snuff out” (Isaiah 42:3). Christ restores rather than rejects. Peter denied Jesus, yet the risen Lord restored him and transformed him into a bold apostle. God's grace rekindles what seems ready to fade.

Therefore, the question is not simply, “Am I a flickering light?” but “Am I willing to return to Christ, the source of light?” As believers abide in Him, confess sin, obey His Word, and depend on the Holy Spirit, their lives become steady and bright reflections of His glory.

A flickering light is not the end of the Christian journey but an invitation to renewal. The One who called us out of darkness is faithful to sustain us. As we remain in Christ, our light shines before others, glorifying God and leading people into “His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

- Mr. J. Rupathilagan

Fulfilling Our Life's Purpose

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14) during His famous Sermon on the Mount. It shows that God has given each of us a purpose in life. Salt and light play important roles in human life and carry significant spiritual meaning in the Bible.

1) Salt: Salt is known to give flavour to food and also serves as a natural food preservative. Apart from that, salt helps remove stains and rust, clean teeth, relieve sore throats, prevent dehydration, eliminate odours, improve skin health, maintain fluid balance, support the nervous system, strengthen muscles, and maintain electrical neutrality in the body. Once, salt was used as a form of currency for trading. The word “salary” is derived from the Latin word *salarium*, which is associated with salt.

Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13). Salt provides many benefits and serves several important purposes in our daily lives. The Bible says, “We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

The Bible refers to good works as “fruit,” showing that our actions should reflect the goodness of God in our lives. The Bible says, “... you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work,” (Colossians 1:10). The Bible also encourages us to devote ourselves to doing what is good, so that we can provide for urgent needs and live productive lives (Titus 3:14).

We should not become weary in doing good, for at the proper

time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6:9). Those who do good will receive glory, honour, and peace (Romans 2:10). Surely, the Lord will reward each person for whatever good they do. (Ephesians 6:8).

2) Light: It is well known that light dispels darkness. Darkness can evoke fear, loneliness, anxiety, nervousness, tension, and a sense of helplessness. But those who are living in darkness are guided onto the right path by Jesus, who is the Light (Luke 1:78-79). The light removes stumbling blocks and leads people along the right path. Jesus was made as light to bring “salvation” to the ends of the earth (Acts 13:47). The light turns people from darkness and from the power of Satan to God, enabling them to receive forgiveness of their sins and a place among those who are sanctified (Acts 26:18).

Jesus says, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). Like Jesus, we are also the light of the world. God is light (John 8:12) and He makes us a light to others, so that we may guide them toward Him (2 Corinthians 4:6).

The Gospel is the light that frees people from spiritual blindness and leads them to the truth (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The Bible says, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9). Therefore, as followers of Jesus and as the light of the world, we should lead people out of darkness and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of their sins and an inheritance. Let our light shine before others, so

that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthews 5:16).

The Bible says, “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever” (Daniel 12:3)

3) God gives various gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as the message of wisdom, the message of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, and interpreting tongues (1 Corinthians 12:7-10) and the gifts according to God's grace include serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, and showing mercy (Romans 12:6-8) and for the work of service, Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-13). Also, He gives us the power to drive out demons and heal the sick (Mark 16:17-18) and He gives us authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy. Every one of us has been given gifts of the Holy Spirit and a God-given purpose in life. Therefore, let us use the gifts God has given us to serve His Kingdom and fulfil the purpose He has for our lives. Amen.

- Mr. Joshua Kamalanathan

Wedding Bells

“May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”
(Psalm 115:15)

The Marriage of Ms. W. Jemima, daughter of
Mr. Wilson to Mr. S. Christopher Oswin Suvishak, son of
Mr. Simon Sugumar was solemnized in
CSI St. John's Cathedral on 14-9-2026.

The Love of Jesus in Us

When my father, late Dr. D. Y. David started Mount Tabor Hospital and the School of Nursing in Mathur, he had a few things in mind. He wished to reveal the love of Christ to the villagers around.

He had the vision to help the underprivileged girls of that area to make a living by learning to care for the sick. He established a hospital that would provide medical aid to the downtrodden including poor cancer patients in their terminal stages. His prayer was the girls to complete their training and reflect the love (salt) of our Lord in their workplace and have the grace (light) to lead the patients to our Lord.

"How Great Thou Art" was a song which was close to his heart and was always in his mind. He understood that our Lord is a great God who takes care of all our problems and solves all the issues that challenge us.

The Bible passage which used to be read at every ceremony and meeting was Mathew 5: 13-16! The passage was read in English, Tamil and Malayalam. I always wondered why he chose that passage. I would like to interpret it in my own way!

The Word of God is the source of all knowledge. If embedded in us, we are useful and can reflect the love of Jesus in our lives. The Word/ Scripture is the salt and light making us worthy of the presence of God in our lives. Our actions at work and home should be a reflection of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the message we should be imparting to our colleagues and friends.

The prayer song "I need Thee, every hour" is the most apt one for our everyday existence! We need the love of Jesus in our hearts to do even our everyday chores - be it at home or at work!!

It's our duty to reflect the goodness and sacrifice of Jesus in whatever we do and speak. People should see the image of Jesus in our attitude and character! Earthly possessions disappoint, achievements fade, people fail us. But God's love and presence is constant!! The joy of the Lord is our strength. None can take the joy Jesus gives. The Psalmist says, "Happy are those who trust in the Lord. His plans for us are wonderful" (Psalm 40:4-5). Let's put our trust in Jesus Christ and Him alone!! Amen!!

- Dr. Sherene Paul

Living as Christ's Witnesses

***"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world...
(Matthew 5:13–14)***

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes two simple but profound statements about His disciples: "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world." He does not say that we should become salt and light. He says that we are. These words therefore describe both our identity as followers of Christ and the responsibility that comes with it.

Salt and light have different functions, but both point to the influence Christians are called to have in the world. Salt works quietly, from within — preserving what would otherwise decay, and bringing out flavour that would otherwise stay hidden. Light works openly, from without — it is seen, and by being seen, it guides. Together they picture a witness that is both inward, in the character we carry into every situation, and outward, in the difference others can plainly see.

Salt is valuable because of what it does. Jesus warns, "If the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?" (Matthew 5:13) A Christian who becomes indistinguishable from the world around them loses the very distinctiveness through which they preserve and flavour it — and so loses the means by which they

bear witness to Christ. This does not mean withdrawing from the world. Jesus prayed for His disciples, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one" (John 17:15). We remain in the world, present within it like salt worked through dough, but we are not shaped by its values.

Jesus then says, "You are the light of the world." Light is not meant to be hidden. "A town built on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14). "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Our good works are not for admiration; they are to point beyond ourselves to our Father in heaven.

This reminds us that witness is expressed not only through what we say but through how we live. Honesty when dishonesty is easier, kindness when it is not reciprocated, forgiveness when we have been wronged, compassion towards those who are overlooked, and faithfulness when no one is watching — these bear witness to Christ, both quietly, as salt, and visibly, as light.

Yet good works are not what make us acceptable to God. The Christian life begins with grace. We are saved by faith in Christ, not by our works — but the grace that saves us also produces a life that increasingly reflects Christ. As Paul writes, "We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works" (Ephesians 2:10).

Salt and light therefore call us to a distinct but engaged Christian life — present within the world like salt, visible before it like light, neither escaping nor blending in, but bearing faithful witness to Christ in ordinary places.

The question for each of us is simple: can those around us taste and see, through the way we live, something of the Christ we profess?

Reflection: Lord, help us to live faithfully as salt and light. May our lives reflect Christ, and may everything good that others see in us ultimately lead them to glorify You. Amen.

- Dr. Jackwin Sam Paul G.

Refined and Radiant

“Your lives are like salt among the people. Your lives light up the world.”

Refined

Salt in the ocean enjoys vast freedom, but it cannot become useful crystal salt until it is separated from the ocean. Sea water is pumped under pressure into salt manufacturing beds. There, the water evaporates, leaving the salt to form crystals and become useful powdered salt.

This process reminds us of God's work in our lives. Before we can become a blessing to others, God often separates us from worldly influences and leads us through difficult experiences. At times, pressure, pain, disappointment and sorrow may break our hearts. Yet, in God's hands, even our brokenness can become useful.

Through every trial, God refines our character, purifies our hearts and prepares us for His purpose. As He refines us, He also enables His light to shine more brightly through our lives.

The deepest compassion often grows from personal sorrow. The heart that has suffered and been comforted by God can understand the pain of others more deeply. God can use our tears, struggles and wounds to bring comfort to the weak, the needy, the lonely and the discouraged.

May we not resist God's work in us. May He purify our hearts, remove everything that does not please Him and make our lives like salt among the people.

May our words, actions and attitudes add God's goodness and grace to the lives of those around us.

Radiant

In the Bible, the word light is connected with joy, blessing, hope and life. Light also speaks of God's presence and favour (Psalm 27:1).

God is light, and there is no darkness in Him at all. Jesus said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Therefore, the only true source of light for our lives is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jesus desires His disciples to become the light of the world. We cannot produce this light by our own strength. Yet, as we look to the face of Jesus Christ and draw closer to Him, we receive the glorious knowledge of God's light (2 Corinthians 4:6).

The prophetic message shines like a piercing light in a dark and gloomy place. It gives us hope as we wait for the dawning of a new day, when the morning star rises in our hearts.

God's light guides us in every choice and decision. Through His Word, He makes our pathway clear.

As God refines us inwardly, His radiant light becomes increasingly visible through our lives. Our refinement is not meant to remain hidden, it is intended to reflect Christ's love to a world in need.

In this way, we reflect the glorious light of Jesus to the world. We are called to allow His light to shine through us, so that our lives may bring hope, comfort and encouragement to others and draw them closer to Him. As we remain close to Him, His light shines in us, more radiant day by day.

May our refined lives become radiant witnesses of God's love and faithfulness.

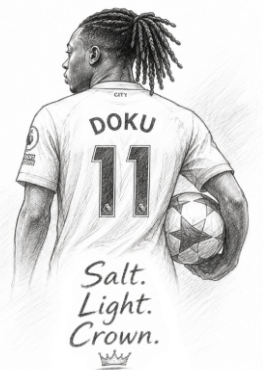
– Dr. D. Packiaraj

Until He Comes

Living for the Words that Matter

Jesus. Family. Football.

In that order. For one of the most exciting left wingers in world football right now, those three words describe Jérémy Baffour Doku's priorities. A serial winner at just 24, he is living a footballer's dream-playing for Manchester City, representing Belgium at the World Cup, and sharing the pitch with some of the greatest players of his generation. The packed stadiums, trophies, fame and applause are all part of his world. Yet, remarkably, football comes third.



And when asked what he wants to achieve most, Doku's answer goes far beyond football. His greatest ambition, he says, is that when Jesus returns, he will hear Him say: "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

But that leaves us with a more important question: What, according to the Bible, should I do to one day hear Jesus call me a "good and faithful servant"?

Across the New Testament, we find many glimpses of what it means to live as a faithful servant of Christ:

- Love God and love your neighbour - Matthew 22:37–39
- Abide in Christ and bear fruit - John 15:4–5
- Walk in holiness and obedience - 1 Peter 1:15–16
- Use faithfully what God has entrusted to you - Matthew 25:14–30
- Care for those in need - Matthew 25:31–46
- Persevere in faith - Hebrews 10:36

- Remain watchful for Christ's return — Matthew 24:42–46

But Jesus offers a beautiful encapsulation of all this in His Sermon on the Mount, where, in Matthew 5:13–14, He gives His followers two simple, unforgettable instructions:

BE SALT. BE LIGHT.

Salt works quietly, but its presence is unmistakable. It preserves, seasons and changes what it touches. Even in small amounts, it can make a difference far beyond itself.

Light shines into darkness. It reveals, guides and pushes back the shadows. Even a small light can change the way an entire room is seen.

The purpose of both finds expression in His simple calling: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

To be salt and light, therefore, is to let Christ's presence be felt and seen through our words, our conduct, our love, our spirit, our faith and our purity (1 Timothy 4:12)—so that our lives point beyond ourselves to the One we follow.

Because one day, the floodlights will go out. The trophies will gather dust. The applause will fade. Careers will end, records will be broken, and the things that once seemed so important will pass away. C. T. Studd captured the brevity of it all: “Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last”.

So, until our time on earth is done, may we remain the salt of the earth and the light of the world, faithful in the few things He has entrusted to us.

And when the Master returns, may we hear the words that matter above all else:

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

- *Mr. Marwyn Joshua*

Living a Purposeful Life

The absence of those we value is often felt more deeply than in their presence. Ordinary things that seem insignificant prove their worth much more by their absence. All that God created, tangible and intangible, huge and tiny, valuable and insignificant are created with a finite purpose. Salt and light are such everyday ubiquitous things used by the Great Teacher to impart important lessons in living out purposeful lives.

The usefulness of salt is in its saltiness. When it loses its saltiness, it is thrown out as garbage. In dishes where salt is essential, if it is missing, the dish becomes undesirable or useless.

Walking through a small uneven path during a pitch-dark night is challenging. It becomes foolish when there is a flashlight in the pocket which is not used. When the flashlight is switched on there is a sea change.

Yes, we have the light; how do we use it? Do we put it under the bowl. We select a vantage point from where it could be more efficient in driving out darkness. Any misuse of God given talents amounts to the same.

We are created with “saltiness” or “talents” with a finite purpose: useful not only for us but with a larger purpose. If we fail to use what we have, we are as bad as garbage. It is akin to walking in the dark night with a flashlight in the pocket, without switching it on.

We can lead a purposeful life realising the light in us and using it to drive out darkness. In the same way, our “saltiness” can add spice to the lives of many making their lives meaningful and purposeful.

That is why God commands us, “Let your light shine” before others so that they may acknowledge it as “good works” and glorify our God.

- Mr. Jacob Rajappa Dhas

We, the Salt and Light

Lord Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth” and “You are the light of the world” (St. Matthew 5:13–14). Salt adds taste and preserves food, while light removes darkness. Likewise, Lord Jesus calls us to bring goodness and hope to those around us.

Salt works quietly. Kindness, honesty, patience, forgiveness and love can influence others and show them our dear Lord Jesus Christ. As St. Paul says, “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6).

Light can be seen. Our faith should be reflected in our daily lives—by helping those in need, encouraging the discouraged, forgiving others and showing compassion. We need not do extraordinary things; even a kind word, a helping hand or a prayer can make a difference.

Our faith should be visible not only in church but also in our homes, workplaces and relationships. Above all, let us give God the glory rather than take credit for ourselves. Instead of saying, “I have won the first prize,” let us say, “By the immense grace of God, I have received the first prize.”

Jesus said, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (St. Matthew 5:16).

May we be like salt—quietly bringing goodness—and like light—reflecting the love of Lord Jesus Christ wherever we go.

— ***Mr. Charles Peniel***

Called to Shine

Jesus said to His disciples, “You are the salt of the earth” and “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13–14). These simple words carry a profound message about how Christians are called to live in the world.

Salt has a quiet but important role. It adds flavor, preserves food, and prevents decay. In the same way, Christians are called to bring goodness, truth, love, and godly values into society. Our presence should make a difference, even if we go unnoticed. A kind word, an honest decision, a helping hand, or a forgiving heart can influence people around us. If salt loses its flavor, Jesus says it becomes useless. Likewise, our faith should not remain only within the walls of a church; it should be reflected in our everyday lives.

Jesus also calls us “the light of the world.” Light is valuable because it shines in darkness and helps people find their way. As followers of Christ, we must remember that we are not the source of the light; rather, Christ is the true source. Yet His light should be reflected in our words, actions, character, and relationships. When the world sees compassion instead of hatred, hope instead of despair, and truth instead of deception, it can see something of Christ through us.

Jesus further says, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your excellent works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Our virtuous works are not meant to bring attention to ourselves but to point others toward God.

Being salt and light is therefore not a position or a title. It is a daily responsibility. Wherever God has placed us—in our family, workplace, college, church, or community—we are called to make a difference. May our lives preserve what is good, bring flavour where there is emptiness, and shine brightly wherever darkness is found.

- Dr. Jafrey Daniel James D.

This Little Light of Mine

“This Little Light of Mine” is an African-American gospel song that emerged in the 1920s. It is a simple yet powerful song that speaks about the importance of sharing our faith with others and letting our light shine in the darkness.

...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!"

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine..."

...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!"

This song is inspired by Matthew 5:14-16, in which Jesus states,

“You are the light of the world. ... let your light shine before others; then they will see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Edward G. Ivins wrote a poem titled “This Little Light of Mine” in 1925, which is often credited as one of the earliest known written versions of the song. The song then spread through oral tradition, particularly in communities across the Midwestern United States.

In the 1930s, American folklorists John and Alan Lomax documented an early version of the song at the Texas State Penitentiary in Huntsville. The song was also later documented through Doris McMurray, an African-American woman who was incarcerated in Texas.

Civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer spoke about the importance of singing during difficult times. She described how singing could sustain people even when they were imprisoned:

Singing is one of the key things that gives us the strength of spirit to keep going. When confined in a brick prison

cell—even when one has caused no harm to anyone—words sometimes spontaneously come to mind, and we begin to sing. Songs like one of my personal favorites: "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Going to Let it Shine."

Hamer performs:

This little light within me...

Wherever I go...

I carry the light of freedom...

Jesus gave it to me...

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine...

Throughout the prison...

In 2023, Singapore's National Day Parade featured the singing of "This Little Light of Mine." The song encouraged all Singaporeans to share their light and bless their communities.

The "little light" represents God's love, faith, kindness, goodness, and Christ's presence in our lives. Jesus teaches us that light is not meant to be hidden, but to shine through our words, actions, compassion, and love.

For generations, "This Little Light of Mine" has been sung as a gospel song and as a song of joy, peace, healing, hope, courage, and resilience, touching people across generations and communities. It reminds us that each of us carries God's light and should let it shine through our faith, love, kindness, and good deeds, as Jesus taught in Matthew 5:14–16. Even a small light can brighten darkness and bring hope. So, wherever we go, let us share God's love and boldly proclaim, "I'm going to let it shine!" Amen!

- Mrs. Blessy Sam

Plan of Service October & November 2026

Date	Theme	Bible Passages	St. John's Cathedral, Trichy		St. Thomas Church, Olayur
			08:00 a.m.	06.15 p.m.	
01/10/2026	First day of the Month –October		Holy Communion Service (06:00 a.m.) Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews		
04/10/2026	Laitry Sunday Every Member a Minister	Numbers 11:24-30 Psalm 92 Acts 6:1-7 John 15:12-19	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. S. Sudharsan	<i>Evensong</i> Rev. S. Sudharsan	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
11/10/2026	Sunday for Mentally & Physically Challenged and Palliative Patients Strength in Weakness: God's Grace in our Lives	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 34 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 John 9:1-7	<i>Matins</i> Rev. T. David Christudoss	<i>Evensong</i> Dr. Janet Joshua	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
18/10/2026	Youth Sunday Faith Over Feelings: Trusting God When Life Does not Make Sense	Jeremiah 29:10-14 Psalm 37: 23-40 Hebrews 11:17-31 Mark 4:35-41	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews	<i>Evensong</i> Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. Christopher Chelliah
25/10/2026	Reformation Sunday Reformation: A Call for Renewal	2 Kings 23: 1-8 Psalm 119: 25-32 Titus 3: 3-8 Luke 5: 36-39	<i>Matins</i> Rev. Daniel Vincent	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. Jothi Chandrasekaran	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj

01/11/2026	World Sunday School Sunday Be the Light: Dare to be Different	Daniel 3:16-30 Psalm 119: 9-16 Philippians 2:14-16 Matthew 5:13-16	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. S. Sudharsan	<i>Matins</i> Rev. Dennison Samuel	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
08/11/2026	Unity Sunday United in Christ, Witnessing to the World	Isaiah 2: 2-4 Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 13:5-13 Matthew 18: 18-20	<i>Matins</i> Rev. Richard Reid	<i>Evensong</i> Rev. D. Jeyasingh	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
15/11/2026	Sunday for the Girl Child Her Voice, Her Future	Numbers 27: 1-7 Psalm 8 Acts 16:13-15 Mark 5: 21-43	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews	<i>Evensong</i> Dr. Santhosham	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews
22/11/2026	Peaceful Coexistence: Sharing Christ's Love in a World of Intolerance	Daniel 6:1-17 Psalm 120 Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 9: 51-56	<i>Matins</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
29/11/2026	1 st Advent Meeting of Mary with Elizabeth Transcending Adversity with Hope	Jeremiah 33: 10-16 Psalm 68: 11-20 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 1: 39-45	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. S. Sudharsan	Advent Carols	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj

A Life That Makes a Difference

“You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world.”

(Matthew 5:13–14)

In a world searching for hope, compassion and truth, Jesus gives His followers a beautiful and powerful responsibility: to be salt and light.

Salt and light may appear to be simple things, but both have a profound purpose. Salt brings flavour and helps preserve what is good. Light removes darkness, reveals the way and gives hope. Through these two everyday images, Jesus reminds us that Christianity is not merely about what we believe inside the church - it is about how our faith transforms the world around us.

Called to Be Salt

Salt is valuable because even a small amount can make a big difference. A little salt can change the taste of an entire meal.

Likewise, a Christian does not need to be famous, powerful or wealthy to make a difference. A kind word, an honest decision, a helping hand, a forgiving heart or a compassionate act can influence another person's life.

Being “salt” means bringing the character of Christ into our families, workplaces, communities and society. It means standing for what is right while treating others with love and dignity.

Salt also reminds us of preservation. In a world where values can easily be compromised, Christians are called to preserve truth, integrity, compassion and righteousness—not through condemnation, but through the example of their own lives.

The question we should ask ourselves is:

“Does my presence make a positive difference wherever I go?”

If we are truly the salt of the earth, people should experience something of God's love through our words, attitudes and actions.

Called to Be Light

Jesus then says, **“You are the light of the world.”**

Light has one essential purpose—it shines.

A lamp hidden under a basket serves little purpose. Jesus teaches that our faith should not be hidden. Our lives should reflect the hope we have received from God.

Being light does not mean seeking attention or recognition. It means allowing Christ's love to shine through us.

When someone is lonely, we can be a light through friendship. When someone is hurting, we can be a light through compassion. When someone has lost hope, we can be a light through encouragement. When someone is facing darkness, we can be a light by walking beside them.

Sometimes, the brightest light is not a great achievement- it is simply being present when someone needs us most.

Salt and Light in Today's World

Today, our society needs people who will choose compassion over hatred, forgiveness over bitterness, honesty over convenience and service over selfishness.

The Christian calling is not to withdraw from the world, but to bring God's love into it.

We are called to be salt in our communities and light in our workplaces. We are called to build bridges where there are divisions. We are called to bring hope where there is despair. We are called to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to serve without expecting recognition. And above all, we are called to love—not only those who love us, but also those who may think differently from us.

Let Us Shine

It is choosing to live our faith every day—in our homes, offices, churches, schools and communities.

Let us therefore ask ourselves:

Am I adding flavour to someone's life?

Am I preserving what is good?

Am I bringing hope to someone who is struggling?

Can people see Christ through the way I live?

The world does not need more words alone. It needs lives that demonstrate love. May our lives become salt that brings goodness and light that leads others toward hope. And when people encounter us, may they not simply remember what we said, but remember **how we made them feel - loved, valued, encouraged and never alone.**

Let us be the salt that makes a difference.

Let us be the light that shines in the darkness.

Let us live so that through our lives, others may see the love of Christ and glorify our Father in heaven.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:1

- Mrs. Percy Godson

How Can I be Made Salty?

Salt in the Bible portrays the indwelling picture of God. The salt, the new vessel and the spring of water are the main elements in the miracle mentioned in 2 Kings 2:19-21.

The people of Jericho informed Elisha that their city was well situated but the water was bad and the land was unproductive. Elisha asked them to bring some salt and a new vessel. He put the salt in the new vessel and cast it in the spring of the waters and the Lord healed the waters.

Situation of Jericho: Beautifully situated and pleasant to behold but unproductive and barren. We humans look good on the outside but our heart is rotten without the Word of God and without connection with God.

Sickness of Jericho: Barrenness. The root of the problem was its water supply which was polluted leading to fruitlessness and withering. When we are not rooted in God, our hearts are polluted.

Solution for Jericho: The people of Jericho approached the man of God. Elisha threw the salt in the new vessel directly into the spring which was the source of water supply.

Proverbs 20:5 says, 'The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters.' Our heart is contaminated with godless, angry, impure and lustful thoughts. We need to approach God to salt the waters of our heart.

Elisha needed:

Salt: Salt in the Bible refers to the intrinsic presence of God. It is God's presence that preserves us and keeps us from corruption of the mind and heart.

New vessel: This is nothing but being born again and becoming a new creation so that God can make us to be productive and fruitful.

To go the source of the problem: The salt was thrown straight into the spring of water which was the source of the bad water. We need to analyse the source of our problem which deters our association/attachment with God.

How can we be made salty?

1. Salted by devotion to God: We need to approach God just as the people of Jericho approached the man of God. We need to devote ourselves to God and His word.
2. Salted by purification by God: Mark 9:49 says, 'Everyone will be salted by fire.' Salt is a preservative which prevents decay . It is imperative to commit ourselves for purification by God – our way of thinking, see the wrong in us, the darkness in us and finally see God's light in our darkness.
3. Salted by the presence of God: The salt thrown into the spring removed all the contamination and the water was healed. Similarly, the Lord's presence purifies the sinner, the arrogant and a selfish heart.

God gives us the water of life (John 4:14) to produce fruit. Satan tries to corrupt our hearts with willfulness, stubbornness, pride, arrogance, self-righteousness, prayerlessness and affinity to worldly things.

Let us make an effort to be the master's new vessel with salt in ourselves.

- Salt that serves as a preservative by arresting spoilage or decay.
- Salt that adds flavor to a bland and tasteless society.
- Salt that creates thirst for God and His righteousness.

- Mrs. Malathy Anand

Being the Salt and Light of the World

Jesus calls His followers to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-16). This means our lives should make a positive difference and turn people towards God. We can become the salt of the earth by

- * Living with goodness and integrity – preserving and healing.

- * Standing against wrongdoings. * Being a good influence

- * Showing love through actions * Serving others

We can be the light of the world by

- * Letting our actions shine * Speaking with grace

- * Walking in humility * Showing love and mercy

- Mrs. Austina Reuben

Jesus told the people who were listening to His teaching, “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13–14). These are not merely beautiful words; it's an invitation to examine the way we live and the influence we have on the people around us.

Salt and light are both very ordinary things, yet they have a powerful influence. Salt quietly changes the food it touches, while light makes it possible to see clearly in darkness. In the same way, a Christian is called to make a positive difference wherever he or she is.

To be salt means to preserve what is good. We can stand for truth, honesty, justice, kindness and human dignity, even when it is not easy to do so. In a world where wrong can sometimes become normal, being salt means having the courage to remain faithful to what is right.

To be salt also means bringing flavour and hope into people's lives. A kind word, a listening ear, a helping hand, or simply being present for someone who is struggling can make an unexpected difference.

We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can certainly change someone's experience of the world.

Salt also reminds us of sacrifice. It does its work quietly without seeking attention. Likewise, genuine Christian service often requires us to give our time, patience, comfort and resources for the sake of others. Jesus Himself showed us this way of life: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45).

To be light means allowing Christ to be seen through our lives. Our faith should not remain only in our words or inside the walls of a church. It should become visible in the way we treat people, respond to difficulties, forgive those who hurt us and care for those who are forgotten.

Light also gives direction. There are people around us who may be confused, discouraged or walking through difficult moments. Sometimes we can become their light simply by encouraging them, guiding them, listening to them or reminding them that there is still hope.

But being light does not mean judging or condemning those who are in darkness. Light reveals the way; it does not humiliate the person who is lost. Our truth must therefore be accompanied by love.

Most importantly, Jesus reminds us that our light should ultimately point people towards God:

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Therefore, becoming salt and light is not about becoming famous, powerful or extraordinary. It begins with the small choices we make every day.

A teacher who encourages a discouraged student is salt; Someone who forgives instead of taking revenge is salt. A person who speaks truth with love is salt.

A person who refuses to join in gossip is light. Someone who stands beside a lonely person is light.

Someone who brings hope into another person's difficult moment is light.

We do not need to change the whole world to be salt and light. We only need to faithfully transform the little corner of the world where God has placed us.

And perhaps that is the real challenge of Jesus' words: When people encounter us, do they experience a little more kindness, hope, truth, peace and love?

If they do, then our lives are quietly becoming what Christ called us to be-the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

- Dr. X. Mercy Angeline

As life moves in a swift pace, we often lose the essence of saltiness and the light we have been called to be. Being the salt of the earth or the light to the world does not necessarily mean that we have to be perfect but rather it calls us to be faithful and true in the sight of God that men may see our good works and glorify the Lord our God.

In a world, where our worth is often measured by how many likes we get or followers we have, to words of approval

we receive, we often forget to do the right thing, to stand up for the right cause and we chose to remain silent rather than to offer a helping hand. A light does not shine to receive praise but it shines so that others may see it and know it for what it is. Like a lighthouse that shows the way to sailors, our light should shine as to reflect the goodness of God. We, as Christians, are called to preserve truth, to show compassion and to spread the gospel. Jesus reminds us that our light should not be hidden but should shine bright like the city on a hill, to be a light in darkness and to be salt that preserves what's right and washes away the unclean. Therefore our existence is meant to be meaningful, fulfilling the purpose for which we have been chosen.

- Dr. Nancy Pearlin J.

We become the salt and light of the world by living according to Christ's teachings.

We should show love, kindness, honesty, forgiveness, and compassion to others.

Our actions should reflect our faith, even when no one is watching.

We should stand for what is right and help those who are in need.

Through our lives, people should be able to see God's love and goodness.

- Ms. Renita Catherin A.

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To truly become salt and light is not about trying harder to be visible, but about abiding deeper in Christ, who is the true

source. Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14) - not "you will become", but you are. We shine only when we have been with Him, just as Moses' face shone after being on the mountain. Light is reflected, not manufactured, for Jesus Himself declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness" (John 8:12). When we remain pure and unsullied, abiding in His Word and prayer, we retain our saltiness and preserve godliness in a corrupt world.

We live this identity when our life touches the world - salt is useless inside the shaker and light doesn't argue with darkness, it simply shines. We become salt when our words are "always full of grace, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6), choosing honesty and purity where compromise is easier.

We become light when our good deeds point to God, "Let your light shine before others... that they may... glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16), shining "like stars in the universe" (Philippians 2:15) through acts of love and truth.

- Mrs. Y. Jeba Isaac

Charles Spurgeon said, "The world does not read the Bible, the world reads Christians." Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world."

We can't change the whole world or fix every problem. We simply need to let our light shine. We are called to reflect Christ's light into the darkness through our words, our actions, our kindness, and our good works.

But we cannot reflect His light if we are not looking at Him. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus through prayer and His Word. The closer we stay to Him, the more His light shines through us.

We are not the source of the light; Christ is. Our calling is simply to reflect His light so that others may see Him and glorify God.

- Mr. A. Sam Ebenezer Raj

We can become the salt and light of the world by practising the teachings of Jesus and applying biblical principles in our lives.

While we may be familiar with Bible stories and even be able to recite many verses from Scripture from memory, these things, though good and necessary, are truly useful only when they are applied to our personal lives. Jesus teaches us this through the parable of the wise and foolish builders.

Like the wise man, if we read the Bible with an open heart, allow the Holy Spirit to correct, convict, and transform us, and make a daily effort to practically live out what we have learned from Scripture, then we can truly reflect the light of Christ and remain like salt that has not lost its effectiveness.

- Mrs. Johannah Abishek

What can hinder us from being the salt / light?

Fear, pride, selfishness, and the desire to fit in can prevent us from being salt and light.

Sin, hypocrisy, anger, unforgiveness, and compromising our values can weaken our witness.

Being too focused on worldly things can also distance us from God.

Sometimes we may hide our faith because we are afraid of rejection or criticism.

We must overcome these hurdles by strengthening our relationship with God and living faithfully.

- Ms. Renita Catherine A.

A worldly compromise, fear of disapproval or hidden personal faults that dull the spirit can be hindrances to our being the salt and light in this world.

- A. Compromise and comfort: Blending with the world by adopting bad habits, choosing comfort and safety over doing what pleases God, mixing faith with external impurities until you lose your unique influence.
- B. Fear and Pride: Feeling too scared or ashamed, trying to outshine by making yourself important, bitterness like longtime anger, unforgiveness and pride.
- C. Isolation and inaction : Hiding the light by keeping your faith locked away by not sharing it with the people around you, hiding from the broken world instead of getting involved to help it.

- Mrs.Austina Reuben

People who were the salt and light in their time

Abraham – Abraham showed great faith by obeying God even when he did not know where God was leading him. He trusted God's promises and remained faithful through many challenges. His life became an example of faith and obedience.

Joseph - Joseph went through betrayal, slavery, and imprisonment but continued to trust God. When he became powerful in Egypt, he did not take revenge on his brothers. Instead, he forgave them and used his position to save many people during the famine.

Moses - Moses trusted God and accepted the responsibility of leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Even though he felt inadequate, he obeyed God and continued to guide the people through many difficulties. His faith and leadership made him a light to the Israelites

Samuel - Samuel listened to God's voice from a young age and faithfully served Him throughout his life. He spoke God's message honestly, even when it was difficult. His obedience and integrity influenced the people of Israel.

Daniel - Daniel remained faithful to God even when he was living in a foreign land where people followed different beliefs. He continued to pray and obey God despite the risk of punishment. His courage and faith influenced the people around him.

Paul - Paul dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel after becoming a follower of Christ. He continued preaching despite facing imprisonment, rejection, and persecution. His perseverance brought many people to faith.

- Ms. Renita Catherine A.

Jesus Christ taught His followers how to be the salt and light through love and truth.

Biblical figures who exemplified this teaching:

Daniel served foreign kings with great honesty and stayed true to his faith in God under heavy pressure.

Queen Esther risked her own life to save her people from great danger with quiet courage.

Mary of Nazareth said "Yes" to God with a humble and brave heart.

Paul the apostle travelled across the world to share a message of hope and building God's kingdom.

Historical and modern figures:

Francis of Assisi gave up all his wealth to care for the poor.
William Wilberforce fought hard to end the slave trade in England.

Mother Teresa loved and served the poorest of the poor in India.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian actively resisted the Nazi regime.

Martin Luther King Jr. led peaceful fights for fairness and equal rights.

- ***Mrs. Austina Reuben***
(Compiled by Mrs. Malathy Anand)

1. What it Means to be Salt /

Light – Junior Church

Beginners:

Being salt means making the world a better, kinder place.
Being light means showing God's love so others can see it. -
Adrina Ben

Primary:

Light helps me to study. Light helps me to draw. - Inaaya
Light helps to see in the dark and for plants to grow. Can
make shadows. - **Jeevan**
To go to school. For plants to grow. Can make shadows when
we switch on the light. - **Jessy**

Juniors:

Have you ever had food without salt? It tastes horrible, right?
We need to be God's salt to make everyone better.
Have you ever tried putting makeup in the dark? It is not
possible. We need to be the light to show God's way to the
world.

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Have you ever tried putting makeup in the dark? It is not possible. We need to be the light to show God's way to the world. - **Juel Nazarene Joshua**

How can you show this at home and school?

Beginners:

At home we should obey our parents and share with our siblings. At school, we should help our classmates and show God's love. - **Adrina Ben**

Be kind like Jesus. At home, obey and help your Mom and Dad. At school, share your things and say kind words. This is how you shine like little light. - **Jazlyn Nissi I.**

Is it easy to be the salt/light in this world? What exactly does it mean? How can we really be the salt/light in this world?

Seniors :

Each and every one of us have different personalities. The main reason that Jesus wanted us to be salt and light is that He wanted us to be very helpful to others like the salt which enhances taste in food. He also wanted us to be glorious and be like intelligent people in others lives like a light.

- **A.Chrissida**

Jesus called us to be the salt and light so that we can make a difference. We can help and pray for those who are in need and telling people about the goodness of God. We can let others know about God's grace. A.Joyce Shalva Catherine

Being salt means making a positive difference in others lives by our activities. Being light means showing others what is right by being an example. - **A. Cyril Josh**

To prepare each one on earth to walk in the path our Lord created. To help people to get out from their sins. To add flavour in the lives of many. We are salt so that we can add taste to people's lives and help them taste God's goodness. We are light to the world so the ones around us can come out of darkness. - **Beulah**

Salt and light are compared to humans because both are there to create a difference in our lives. In the same way we should also be the change or difference in the world according to God's ways. For example, if there is something like bullying in school, you can stand up against it. By being a good person we can be the salt and light in the world by bringing a change. - **Johanan Eric Mathuram**

Being the salt and light in this world is not easy because we live in a world where people may not always choose what is right. Being salt means making a positive difference in other people's life through our actions, kindness and values. Being light means showing others the right path through our words and the way we live. We can be the salt and light by helping others, standing up for what is right, being honest, forgiving and treating everyone with respect. We don't have to do something big. Even small acts of kindness can influence others. Most importantly we should try to live according to Jesus' teaching and be a good example to the people around us. - **Shawn Lenariel S.**

Inters :

No it is not easy to be salt and light in the world, because standing up for what is right can sometimes bring misunderstanding. Based on Jesus teachings in Matthew chapter 5: 13-16, here is what it means and how to live it out.

Being Salt: Salt stops things from rotting and brings out good flavour. As the "salt of the earth" believers are meant to bring goodness, kindness and truth into a world filled with negativity and to prevent evil from spreading.

Being the Light: Light chases away the dark and helps the people see the path ahead. As the "light of the world," you show God's love to the others so they are not left in the dark.

Do good deeds: Help others, be honest and show kindness at school and home so people see your positive actions.

Stand up for the truth: Do not join in on bullying, lying or mean behaviour, even when it is hard.

Reflect love: Let your words and choices make a sweet, positive difference in the lives of your friends and family.

- D. Sharon Daniella

No, it is really hard to be the light or at least salt in this world . As you progress to be different or be truthful in this world, you face rejection and at this period, you feel lonely and nobody matches, but it is important to be the truth and light in this dark world to guide its way out of darkness.

- Sambhramjeet Kar

It's not easy to be the salt and light in this world but we can try by adapting and resisting cultural comfort and standing up for counter-cultural Christ-like values.

- Leena Michelle

No, it is not always easy to be salt and light in this World. We may face challenges and pressure from friends or parents. Instead of worrying we can pray and depend on God. Salt means that our lives should make a positive difference in the world. Light means showing God's character through our words or actions.

Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
(Matthew 5:16)

- Rihana Mary R.

Juniors :

It is not easy because sometimes we have to stand alone to do what is right. Being salt and light means keeping goodness alive and showing Jesus to others like a lamp in a dark room. We can do this by choosing honesty, being kind to everyone and not hiding our faith at school or among friends.

- Jebisa Blessy I.

It is not easy to be the salt/light in this world. It means helping others, doing good things and making the world a better place to live. These should be our nature like how saltiness and brightness are the nature of salt and light.

- Sherwin Abraham S.

No it is not easy to be the salt/light in this world because many people choose wrong over right. We can be the salt/light by helping others, saving others from sinning and making the earth a better place. **- A. Jerin Josh**

If we are really like light then it is easy to be like light.

- J.Allen Vijay

No, standing out and choosing to do right when others don't is hard.

The meaning : Salt stops bad things like gossip and brings peace. Light guides people out of darkness. How to do it : Pray to stay strong, stand up for others and speak with honesty and love - **Adriel Ben**

Collected by **Mr. Kishore David**

Compiled by **Mrs. Malathy Anand**

Personal Experiences of God's Goodness

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever".

We sing this more often and say that He is an awesome God. The Bible defines God's goodness through His character and through His actions.

On numerous occasions we tag "good friends, good movies, or good food" but do we acknowledge our God's goodness in the public domain? Even when we stand with our baggage full of greed and selfishness, God wraps us around with His unfailing love which portrays His Goodness towards us.

In my 6th grade, I had sleepless nights for a prolonged period of time. I had no clue of what's happening. One day during my catechism class, I heard the preacher say "Look up to God those who are experiencing sleepless nights... call on His name and surrender to Him". This felt too personal to me. And from then on, I confidently go to sleep, wrapped in His arms.

When God intervenes, He will deliver us from our distress and turn our mourning into joy. He is a faithful God.

Let's step out in faith believing in His goodness as and His promise "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). **- Mrs. Rensi Gracia Janet**

There was a season in my life that felt quiet, uncertain, and painfully still. In 2020, as I approached my 30th birthday, I found myself reflecting deeply on the years gone by. That morning, I woke early with a heavy heart. Looking back, I felt as though many prayers were still waiting for answers and several areas of life seemed unchanged. There were delays, unanswered questions, and moments of loneliness that made the future feel distant.

Yet, even in that season, God was silently at work.

What seemed unmoving slowly began to change. Within the following year, long-awaited answers started unfolding in ways I had not expected. I was able to complete my PhD journey, a season of waiting in our family turned into joy with the birth of our son, and circumstances that had once brought distance and loneliness changed as my husband, John, changed jobs and the relocation moved him back home and work brought stability again. What once felt barren slowly filled with hope and peace.

By the time I stood before God on my 31st birthday, my heart was overwhelmed—not with sorrow, but gratitude. I realized that many of the prayers I had once carried in tears had quietly become testimonies of His faithfulness.

This journey reminded me of a truth I hold close: God is never late. Even when life feels still and prayers seem delayed, He continues to work in ways we cannot always see. Looking back, I can only say with thanksgiving that God has been exceedingly good to me, and His timing has been perfect.

- Dr. Catharin Kayalvizhi D.

Salt and Light

N D I S C I P L E S A C T N M K B
 V T Z P P E A C E M A K E R S Q Z
 Z I J U V P B E A T I T U D E S V
 A H I R F T V A N O Q P M U S W S
 O T F E C T J M P U Q E E O A Z M
 T M C I B T A H D Z V R E M L H X
 H U U N L G G L O R Y S K I T M T
 E B J H E G L D E M V E T H V I M
 R E T E S Z J U C A R C M B C L A
 S F H A S Z L A T L D U V N O M T
 W O E R E Z I J U H O T M F G G T
 T R A T D D G W O O J E T O D O H
 Y E V L E P H Y S B Z D F D T O E
 E S E O R H T O I S H I N E F D W
 Q I N W O R K S N M E R C I F U L
 F M K I N G D O M O F H E A V E N
 A V M O U N T A I N P V C Z Q N F

kingdomofheaven	peacemakers	pureinheart	beatitudes
persecuted	disciples	merciful	mountain
blessed	Matthew	before	heaven
others	glory	light	shine
works	good	meek	salt

Bible Quiz on Salt and Light

20 × 1 = 20 Marks

I. Answer briefly :

1. What is the Salt Covenant?
2. When is salt thrown away?
3. Who loved darkness rather than light ?
4. Who failed to keep the lamp in the temple of God burning?
5. How is salt used as a metaphor in the Holy Bible?

II. Match the following :

6. Salt - Spring of water
7. Eye - Pillar of salt
8. Elisha - Pillar of light
9. Sodom - Grain offering
10. Israelites - Lamp

III. Write True or False:

11. A person who turns away from the Lord is compared to “a shrub in the wastelands” and is associated with a salt land where no one lives
12. We read about light both in the first chapter and the last chapter of The Bible.
13. Light was created significantly on the first day but the time when salt was created is not specifically mentioned.
14. The Psalmist says, "Your word is a light to my feet And a lamp to my path".
15. The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart.

IV. Who said the following?

16. "The light of the wicked indeed goes out, And the flame of his fire does not shine".

17. "The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness".
18. "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light".
19. "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt".
20. "Don't you know that the Lord, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt?"

Note: 1. Kindly use NKJV Bible. 2. Kindly hand-over hand-written answers to Mrs. Lalitha Peniel or send the answers on WhatsApp to 96292 22200. 3. The last date for receiving the answers is 30.10.2026 4. Prizes will be awarded at the end of 2026.

Answers to The Bible Quiz (God's Goodness):

1. Psalm 34:8 2. God is good All the time, He put a song of praise 3. i. King David ii. All the children of Israel iii. Jeduthun iv. King Solomon v. Jeremiah vi. Nahum vii. Lord Jesus viii. The Levite Singers ix. The Priests x. Asaph
4. 3 5. 8 6. Good to all 7. The great dragon 8. Have sinned 9. Good news
10. A Parable 11. True 12. True 13. True 14. False 15. False 16. Lord Jesus 17. John, The Baptist 18. St. Paul 19. St. James 20. A certain lawyer.

Answers to The Bible Quiz (God's Goodness) were received from:

1. Mrs. Monica Reid 2. Mr. Dalton 3. Mrs. Vimala Viswasaraj 4. Mrs. Malathy Anand 5. Dr. Vandana Palanivelu 6. Mrs. Felicia Amirtharaj
7. Mr. Abraham Isaac Mohan Raj 8. Mrs. Sumathi Valentine 9. Mrs. Doris Tucker 10. Dr. Jafrey Daniel. D 11. Dr. Nancy Pearlina. J 12. Mrs. Herlin Star. R 13. Mr. M. Samuel

- Mrs. Lalitha Peniel

Shining for Him

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds ...” (Matthew 5:16)

J. D. Miller wrote, “The world does not come to church to hear the minister. All it learns about Christ and the Christian life it must learn from those who bear Christ's name and represent Him. We are all responsible for the influences of our example. Our lives should be New Testament pages that all could read.”

C. S. Lewis's childhood faith was shattered, when at nineteen, he saw his best friend and others die in Somme, France, in World War II. Later, as a Fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford, he engaged in long discussions with friends.

What the Christians in his circle “said and the lives they lived” was the salt that impacted him. “I give in” he said, “I admit that God is God”. He went home and knelt in prayer. He became a prolific author of Christian books and is widely quoted even now.

Other facts from his life: He and his brother bought a house outside Oxford and his late friend's mother lived with them till she died. He had no children but started writing stories for children because he hosted child evacuees in his home when they were sent away from London to the countryside to be protected from wartime bombing. His books for children were much loved and made into films.

At home, at our places of study or work, in our church, among friends and even among people who dislike us - the Lord's spirit in us enables us to touch, impact, heal and bless those around us. Our personal purity and a burning desire to be Christlike in every interaction, in every role, in every situation, matters to God and His kingdom.

We do not decide when we enter or exit this world. We have but a little time to “shine”. To shine for Him is our privilege. May it be our prime ambition.

- ***Mrs. Devina Albert***

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13*

Jubilaté

Birthdays - October

- 1 Mrs. Damayanthi Kanagaraj
Mr. Jeffrey Anurag Modak
Dr. Mercy Bernard
- 2 Mr. G. Athisayam Samuel
Gnanadoss
Mrs. Priya William
Mr. T. Gnanasekaran
Mr. Daniel
Mr. Benjamin Sampath
Ms. Agnes Amirtha
Dr. Marcus
Deepan Boominathan
- 3 Mr. Gerard C. V. Diamond
Er. Nishal John
Vethanayagam
Mr. Vijay Dhanaraj
Mr. John Winston Reid
Mr. S. Amrit Sagar
Mr. Jasan Samuel
- 4 Mr. Charles Peniel
Mr. Anthony Avinash Noel
Mrs. Linda Nesamani
Mrs. V. Theresa Christopher
- 5 Dr. Joshua Jasper
Mrs. Ida Priyadharshini
Dr. Victoria Jeremiah
Ms. Olympia Shilpa Gerald
Mr. John Samuel
Mr. Sunand Mathai
- 6 Mrs. Rani Andrew
Mrs. Esther Joy Andrew
- 7 Mr. T. Anand Divakaran

- Ms. H. Christa Miracline
Mr. Leo Robert
Mr. S. Kirubakaran
Mathuram
- Mr. Peter Pradeep Stephen
Ms. Helena Hamshini
Mr. R. Sudhakar Devanesan
- 8 Mr. Benjamin Houlder
Mrs. Christina Yoganth
Mrs. Rani Anand
Mrs. Pauline Rupa
Ms. J. Brenita Jaedyn Sarah
- 9 Mrs. Sashi Ruben
Mrs. Cinthia Paulraj
- 10 Mrs. Deepa Elizabeth
Mr. S. R. Binukumar
Mrs. Hannah Divya
Mrs. Priya Ernest
Mr. Charles Sundaram
Mrs. Roopa Jean
- 11 Mrs. Manjula Mohandoss
Mrs. Ida Gnanaraj
Ms. Devina Parker
Mrs. Jenifer Paul
Jaden Timothy Samuel
- 12 Mr. S. Immanuel
Suresh Kumar
Mr. S.T. Jeyarajah
Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan
Mrs. Grace Soulwin
Mr. Herbert Balachandran
Mr. S. Paul Viswasaraj
Ms. Vimala

- Ms. Samentha Ruth Seelam
- 13 Ms. Nadia Caroline
Dr.Catharin Kayalvizhi
Mrs. Sheryl Weston
Er. B. Stephen
- 14 Mr. T. Gunaseelan
Mr. Earnest Ravi. S
Mr. T. Daniel Moses
Sathianathan
- 15 Ms. Diana Sheryn
Dr. Joseph Devadason
Rev. A. Suresh Kumar
- 16 Mrs. Belinda Houlder
Mr. Alex Ruben
Mr. J. Jonathan
Mrs. Sheela Justin
Vijayakumar
Mrs. Yvette O' Dath
- 17 Mr. John Caleb
Mrs. Lizzy Chris
Mast. Samuel
Jayakar Herbert
Mr. N. Vinothkumar
- 18 Dr. Joe Premkumar Raj
Mr. D. Ponjeya
- 19 Ms. Sherine Jenifer Harvey
Ms. Joanna Christine
Mrs. Mercy David
Dr.Tovia Stephen
Mrs. R. Shiny
- 20 Mast. A. I. Theoben
Dr. G. Jos Jasper
Mrs. Chrysenta Vijay
Ms. J. Neya
Mr. Nithin David
Mrs. KaminiPrabahar
- Mrs. Susanna Jeniffer
- 21 Mr. Steve Silus Reid
Mrs. Beula Moses
Mr. N. Jayagopal
Mrs. D. Reeta Mohana
Vadivu
Mas. Adam Benedict
Abraham
- 22 Ms. C. Shobana
Mr. S. Shawn Lenariel.
Mrs. J. AngelinJeevakarunya
- 23 Dr. E. C. Henry Amirtharaj
Dr. J. Ebenezer
Mrs. Vimala
- 24 Mrs. B. Deepika Sharon
Mrs. Agnitta Michelle Singh
Mr. Justin
Ms. Evanya Valentina Sester
- 25 Baby. C. Glyston Zane
Ms. Chrizzy Chris
Baby. Grace
Ms. FelishiaEnceitta
- 26 Mr. G. Jefferson Bernard
Mr. M. Isaac Samuel
- 27 Mrs. Ruth Quinn
Mr. D. Gnanasekar
Vasantharaj
- 28 Mr. Clifford Paul
Mrs. Hannah Gnana
Shobana
- 29 Mrs. N. Sajane Morrison
Mrs. Sarah Herbert
Dr.VandanaPalanivelu
Dr. John Robinson
Mrs. Annie Lydia Paul
Mr. Anand

- 30 Mrs. Brenda Sridhar
Mrs. JoannahAbishek
Mr. Simeon William
Mast. R. Elwin Jebaseelan
Ms. Beulah Elizabeth
Shamini
- 31 Ms. Sharon Priya
Ms. G.K. Ida Ruth
Mr. Robert Foncecca
Mrs. Sharon Oliver

Wedding Anniversary – October

- 1 Gp. Capt. Clement &
Mrs. Jemimah
Dr.Roopkumar&Mrs. Beulah
- 2 Mr. Haniel&
Mrs. Linda Nesamani
- 5 Rev. Lorens Joseph &
Mrs. Stella Kanthimathi
- 9 Mr. B. Benjamin Sampath&
Mrs. B. Abirami
- 10 Mr. John Wesley &
Mrs. Pamela Wesley
- 11 Mr. Immanuel Sugumar&
Mrs. Delilah
Mr. C. Franklin Paul &
Mrs. S. Vijayalalitha
- 12 Mr. Steve Silus Reid &
Mrs. Juanita Reid
- 13 Dr. D. Jubilee &
Mrs. A. Shanthi
- 17 Mr. Ravi Jonathan Dhanraj&
Mrs. Pamila
Mr. L. Bobby Pravin &
Mrs. S. Vanitha
- 18 Mr. Raj Thilak&

- Mrs. Vanitha Margret
- 20 Mr. Paul Samson &
Mrs. Shiny Kiruba
- 23 Mr. Remigius Dominic
McCrahan& Mrs. Alita
Charlotte
- 26 Mr. Jacob Rajeswaran&
Mrs. Punitha Jacob
Mr. Jean Walter & Mrs.
Roopa Jean
- 27 Mr. Jibu Jacob John &
Mrs. Reetu Rachel Vaghese
Mr. Charles Ekka &
Dr.SnehalathaEkka
- 31 Mr. Deepchand&
Mrs. Lydia Deepchand

Birthdays - November

- 1 Mr. DonavinFaron
Bronkhurst
Mrs. P. Shamlin Esther Selin
Mrs. E. PrathibhaVinoharan
Mr. M. Samuel
- 2 Mrs. Jansy Vincent
Mrs. Edna Chandran
Mrs. Diana Priyadharshini
Mr. Job Martin Durai
- 3 Mrs. Smita Vijay
- 4 Rev. Ravikumar V. E.
Mrs. KamalamAppadurai
Mrs. Dolly Felecea
Mrs. S. Vanitha Bobby
- 5 Ms. Andrea Doss
Mrs. Cynthea Peter
Mrs. Hannah Suganthi
Mr. Simeon Y.E.
- 6 Mrs. Muriel Reid

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 7 | Dr. Deena Sangeetha
Rev. J. UnicyArivolivu
Mr. Siddharth David
Mr. D. Karunakar
Dr. David Varghese | | Mrs. Jemimah Clement
Ms. P. Jenifer Jasmine Mary
Dr. B. Janet
Mr. G. Ernest Raj
Mr. C. Samuel Jeffry
Mr. DhanabalaSingam
Mr. B. Karunakaran |
| 8 | Ms. K. Hannah Miraculine
Mrs. B. Mary
Mr. Rajkumar
Ms. S. PrathanaMiraclyn | 17 | Mr. Remigius
Dominic McCrahan
Mr. J. S. Mohan Kumar
Mr. EbanuelAnbu |
| 9 | Mr. S. Alwyn
Mr. A. Samuel GiftsonDurai | | |
| 10 | Mrs. ShanthiniKirubakaran
Mrs. MalathiDhanaraj | 18 | Ms. JebisaBlessy
Ms. FebyBrigitta
Mr. Samrioh Mahim Tigga |
| 11 | Mr. Paul Christo Raj
Mr. Davis Christle Raj
Baby. JairusJeric Samson
Mr. Anand David | 19 | Ms. Chantelle Lydia Reid
Mr. Christopher Fonceca
Mrs. Anita Rajasekar
Dr.Sherene Paul
Mr. Gnana. Gladstone
Ms. Abigail Christina
Baby. Adeline Keziah
Mr. C. Justeen Deepak |
| 12 | Mr. Samuel Prabagar
Dr.ShibuVarkey
Ms. ShrutiCaterina
Mrs. A. Mercy Suresh | | |
| 13 | Ms. Shanthi Mary
Mr. A. Xavier Kennedy | 20 | Mr. Elvis Wemyss
Mr. J. Julian Abraham
Mrs. P. Karen Praiselin
Mr. Reuben Jacob
Baby. Tomas Antony
Mrs. Scinthea Anne
Mr. Shawn Michael |
| 14 | Dr. S. John Arul Jothi
Mrs. D. Ruth
Mrs. Reetu Rachel Varghese
Mrs. B. BharathiTheophilus
Mr. M. O. Mathew
Ms. J. ShanwonCalista | | |
| 15 | Mrs. Yolanda Wemyss
Mast. Alwin Joshua R.
Ms. Michelle Clifton
Mr. Arun Prakash M | 21 | Dr.Jayanthi Peter
Mrs. Premila Michael
Mr. Stanley Ananth
Ms. Eva Arumainayagam |
| 16 | Dr. D.E. Bennet | 22 | Mrs. GraciaJebaraj |

Mr. M. Chris Rohan
 Mr. Kevin Gnanaraj
 Mr. Peter Daniel
 Mrs. SheibaMathuram
 Mrs. Mary Samuel
 Mrs. Rajammal Ranjitha
 Mary
 23 Mr. V. Stanely
 Mrs. G. Shanthi
 Mr. VimalanRajkumar
 24 Mr. M. BensenSuraj
 Mr. M. Nitin Joshua
 Mr. Joshua Joel Charles
 Ms. KerenArunothayam
 25 Mrs. Joy BrittyShaline
 Baby. Ruhika
 Mrs. Jasmine Beulah
 26 Mrs. S. Portia Sylvina
 Rev. Richard Reid
 Mr. Arul Prakash
 Mrs. D. Bernice Samina
 Mr. P. DielDevathayavu
 Mrs. Winsom Reid
 27 Mrs. Vanaja Mohan
 Dr.Kavitha
 Dr.Varuna
 Dr. Mrs. D. KirubaiNimalan
 28 Dr. U. Santo Grace
 Mrs. Shiny Kirupa
 Ms. P.S. Johanna Baptista
 Mrs. P. VimalaKirubaharan
 29 Dr.Arun Immanuel Muthiah
 Mrs. Brownie Janet
 30 Mrs. Susan Samuel
 Dr.Sharmili Priscilla
 Mathuram

Wedding Anniversary – November

6 Mr. Christopher Thomas &
 Mrs. Lizzy Chris
 7 Dr. E. Andrew Santhosh &
 Dr. Edwina Vasantha
 Mr. Errol Augustus &
 Mrs. Blanche Augustus
 8 Mr. Joshua Pradeep &
 Mrs. Annette Ruth
 11 Mr. InderJeetkar&
 Mrs. Suchismita Panda
 Mr. Isaac Abraham
 Mrs. Sherry Abraham
 16 Mr. A. Sam Ebenezer Raj &
 Mrs. D. Blessy
 22 Mr. J. P. R. Tucker &
 Mrs. Doris Tucker
 Dr. J. Isaac Gnanaraj&
 Mrs. Baby Jebamalar
 23 Mr. V. Stanley &
 Mrs. S. Juhil Susanna
 Mr. K. Antony &
 Mrs. Irene Antony
 Mr. David Sugumar&
 Mrs Lily Selvakumari
 24 Mr. D. Ebenezer &
 Mrs. NesamKalaiSelvi
 27 Mr. P. Sam GnanaNimalan&
 Dr.Mrs. D. Kirubai
 29 Mr. G. Ernest Raj &
 Mrs. Shantha Ernest

Contact persons for Church Ministries

Presbyter Incharge	- Rev. S. Sudharsan – 94439 05437
Assistant Presbyter	- Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews – 88709 75135
Junior Church	- Mr. J. Kishore David – 94438 62979
Women's Fellowship	- Dr. Premalatha Sudharsan – 94420 36242
Youth Fellowship	- Rev. P. Jim Gnanan Matthews - 88709 75135
	Mrs. Rose Jasper - 97900 03368,
Feeding of the Poor ministry	- Mr. P. Samuel Satish Kumar - 94430 04004
Outreach Ministry	- Mr. Anand Divakaran - 96770 91544
Choir –	Mr. Edwin Selvados - 94430 35725
	Mrs. Malathy Anand - 94861 03637

This newsletter is for us, members of the family of St. John's, to grow in the knowledge and love of our Lord and to inspire and encourage each other in our walk with Him.

We invite articles, poems and testimonies for our forthcoming issues. The deadline for the 'Advent and Christmas Special' issue is 5-11-2026. For the January issue, the theme is 'All Things New' and the deadline for contributions is 5-12-2026. Hand-written copies of contributions (not exceeding 500 words) may be given to a member of the Editorial Board or emailed as an attachment in MS Word format to devinaalbert@gmail.com. Please follow the guidelines and honour the deadline. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

For an online copy of this issue or all future issues of Johannine Communique, please send an email request to Dr. J. Isac Gnanaraj <ajisac@gmail.com>. Your id will not be shared with others. It will also be available on St. John's Cathedral website - sistjohnstry.com

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Village Outreach - Sengurichi







Women's Sunday



Honouring Teachers -Teacher's Day

Seasoned with Salt

*Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt,
that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

COLOSSIANS 4:6

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1. Luke 12:1-5
 2. Proverbs 10:15-20
 3. Ephesians 4:21-25
 4. Leviticus 19:16-18
 5. Proverbs 12:21-25
 6. 1 Peter 3:8-11
 7. Romans 10:9-13
 8. James 3:1-5
 9. Proverbs 21:21-24
 10. Luke 6:43-45
 11. Proverbs 18:19-21
 12. Ecclesiastes 10:11-14
 13. Proverbs 13:2-5
 14. James 3:6-10
 15. Proverbs 15:20-23
 16. Titus 2:1-5
 17. Colossians 4:3-6
 18. Proverbs 15:1-5
 19. Proverbs 12:17-20
 20. 1 John 3:16-18
 21. Ephesians 4:29-32
 22. Proverbs 19:4-8
 23. Matthew 15:16-20
 24. Psalm 15:1-4
 25. James 1:25-27
 26. Proverbs 19:11-14
 27. Psalm 19:9-14
 28. Matthew 12:34-37
 29. Psalm 50:16-19
 30. Psalm 50:20-23
 31. Matthew 15:8-11