

## HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH

*He will swallow up death for ever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. (Isaiah 25:8)*

Our Lord told us that the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; but Jesus has come that that all may



have life, and have it to the full (Jn 10:10). He came to take away the curse that came on Adam's race once he had sinned in the garden of Eden and to give us eternal life (Gal 3:13). The tree of life that had been debarred for humans (Gen 3:24) was opened for us by Jesus (Rev 22:2). Jesus said he is the resurrection and the life and that whoever believes in him will not die but have eternal life (Jn 11:25). The Bible says that Jesus' death was the sacrifice for our sins (Heb 9:14). Like Elijah, Jesus raised up people from the dead and he himself rose from the dead becoming a firstfruits (1 Cor 15:23) to rise from the dead so that all believers can rise with him. This resurrection life begins when we confess our sins and receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. From death we become life in Christ and will continue when we die (Col 2:14). This is the good news that we must share with all.

*O merciful God, raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to new life in Christ, and grant us so to follow him day by day, that we may come to his eternal glory, who is the Resurrection and the Life of all believers, and who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*(Collect for 3 Sunday before Easter, Lent4)*



## SET THE OPPRESSED FREE

*'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free' (Lk 4:18)*

The Synodical Board of Social Services, Calcutta Project, has been working in several villages in South 24 Parganas consistently for twenty years and we can now see the fruit of their labours. They have worked on nutrition to help the children have wholesome food for their growth. The workers have been taking heights and weights of children. They have helped the villagers to grow their own vegetables by showing them how to cultivate with organic fertilisers and pesticides. Cauliflowers, cabbages, broccoli, potatoes, which they have produced are not only self-grown but fetch a higher price in the market. They have been raising 'koiler' (local and broiler) Rhode Island chicks and ducks. The tailors have been receiving orders from management companies. There is a continuous meeting so that they are always focusing and how to improve their living.

*Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him; give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen. pray.*



## **WORTH FAR MORE THAN RUBIES**

*Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. (Prov 31:28,29)*

*As we celebrate Mothering Sunday on the 4th Sunday in Lent, we remember the pain and love that mothers have taken to bring us into this world and make us the people we are. Let us also remember with thanks all who have done the work of mothers in nurturing us in the spiritual life and helping us in this difficult world. Mothers, you surpass them all.*



## **I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME**

*I was in prison and you came to visit me. (Mt 25:36)*

All prisoners are not criminals. The children of prisoners grow into crime, drug addiction and begin begging. To pay the lawyers' fee, the family of prisoners sell almost everything they have. Prisoners find it difficult to get into a job and into the mainstream of life. There is a big harvest to be reached in prisons.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pray for the candidates who are being prepared for Confirmation.

Pray for all preparations for the **EASTER RALLY**. This year the Easter Rally will begin from four different locations and walk to St. James' School grounds for a time of worship.

Pray for all our children sitting for Board Examinations

## **PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS WITH THANKSGIVING**

Pray for those working to exercise our Constitution- given freedom in the Supreme Court.

Pray for the needs of Bible societies, missionary societies, relief organizations. Pray for many Christians suffering for their faith in Jesus.

Pray for the de-escalation of nuclear arms building between many countries

Pray for the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan passing through an economic crisis.

Pray for the ministry of Bishop's College

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem .**

Pray for our NGOs that they may serve the needy people unhindered by red tape.

Pray for all efforts made by our Diocese, NGOs, SBSS, BCCMA, BCSM and our churches to give our children a future. Pray for the SBSS as they encourage poor farmers to grow their crops organically.

## **PRAYER IN BISHOP'S HOUSE FRIDAY 3PM**

All are cordially welcome to prayer in Bishop's House every Friday at 3pm

## **ONLINE PRAYER AT 9 PM ON FRIDAY**

Please join us for our online prayer on Friday 17 March 2023 at 9 pm. The theme is

**HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH!**

<https://meet.google.com/obv-oacf-wfr>

## PRAY FOR THE END OF WAR IN UKRAINE

Pray that God will bring the warring parties to a peaceful solution. Pray for countries trying to bring reconciliation . Pray for many countries going into recession because of this war.

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

(From the Archbishop of Canterbury)

Pray for the sick: **YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU**

Suresh Raphael, Sushila Ambat, Angela Ghose, Shanu Banerjee, Daisy Dey, Errol 'Podgy' Williams, Dolly Mani, Obed Pakianathan, Leena Baugh, Drishika Paul Chowdhury, Bradley Samuel, Ruth David, Daphne Lama, Conrad Matthews, Leila Lall, Bikash Sarkar, Aatman, Rev Anup Mondal, Rev Sukhendu Biswas, Dr. Lily Henry Jarvis, Tamara Tschuor, Anil Moothedam, Chaya Mukherjee, Shapna Bhattacharya, Rev Enos Das Pradhan, Gay Phipon, Shirley Rodriguez, Patsy Frederick, Ashley D' Rozario, Bikash Lobo, Barbara Anderson, Vijay Apte, Rahul David, Chitra Biswas, Shireen Tschuor, Barbara Hardy, Barbara Anderson, Cheryl Anderson, Rev Sachidananda Sarkar, Rashmi David, Rev Dr. Anugrah Behera, Diana Khawas (Kalimpong), Theo Baker, Shanti Manuel, Ruby David( wife of Prabhakar David), Dr. Mammen Chandy, Bipul Biswas (f/o Pronob Biswas, Bishop's House staff), Subrata Das, Bhowanipore Church, Bishop Dinesh Chandra Gorai, Del Rodriguez.

***He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases. (Mt 8:17). God has answered so many requests for healing! We give him glory and praise.***

## The 24 hour Chain Prayer

The 24 hour chain prayer is a chain of people praying around the clock for an hour each from different parts of the world. We have been continuing for four and a half years now. We pray that God's kingdom will come, his name will be hallowed, for the revival of the church, the persecuted church, for healing, prayer requests and for God's will to be done. If you are led by the Holy Spirit to give an hour in prayer every day for this cause or for prayer requests please contact +918334027210 or [cniprayertowercalcutta@gmail.com](mailto:cniprayertowercalcutta@gmail.com). (Mark 14:37, Rom 8:27, Luke 18:7)

The Prayer Tower is a weekly prayer letter of the Diocese of Calcutta. Its purpose is to deepen the spiritual life of our diocese by inspiring prayer and the study of God's Word. *"We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word "* (Acts 6:4 ).Prayer Requests can be sent to Rev. Andrew Simick, Prayer Coordinator, Diocese of Calcutta, Church of North India, mobile 918334027210, *email: [cniprayertowercalcutta@gmail.com](mailto:cniprayertowercalcutta@gmail.com)*