

TEST ME IN THIS

“Will a mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. (Malachi 3:8-10)

The prophet Malachi lamented that the offerings that the people who had come back from the exile, failed to

‘How have
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Malachi 3:8

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to give God what they should have. They had forgotten God and had treated him with dishonor. They failed to do what God required of them in their marriage, their giving and had even left God. A tenth of all that the Israelites possessed belonged to God, whether grain, fruit. It is holy to the LORD (Lev 27:30). Malachi told the people to examine the offerings that they were bringing to the Lord in the light of God’s Word. Our Lord taught us that our justice, mercy and honesty should go hand in hand with our tithing. (Mt 23:23). There is a great blessing when we offer to God what he demands of us. God even asks us to test him and see his bigheartedness.

Almighty God, giver of all good things; cleanse our hearts from envy and greed, and teach us the joy of sharing your gifts with others, so that all we have may be used for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

(collect for 25 Sunday after Pentecost)



LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Jesus said that the most important commandment is this: Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this; 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Matthew 12:29-31)

Our Lord taught us that the greatest commandment in the Bible is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In doing so he summed up the Law and the commandments with the positive teaching of love. There is a vertical and a horizontal dimension to this law which is fulfilled in the picture of the cross. Loving God and humans was fulfilled when Jesus met the demand of the Law by giving his life for our sins on the cross. We can reciprocate his great love by loving what he has commanded us to do in his living Word.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us, we pray, the gifts of faith, hope and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, grant us to love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

(collect for 24 Sunday after Pentecost)

(The picture above shows our Bishop, the Rt Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning blessing and dedicating the Duff Block of the St. Thomas' Church School, Chinsurah Branch on 6.11.21. This ICSE school opened up recently by our Bishop himself is an endeavor of the Diocese of Calcutta to meet the needs of Chinsurah with education in the English medium. In 1849, the Dr. Alexander Duff opened the Chinsurah Duff High School which is adjacent to the new school. This well-known school with a Higher Secondary background has played a big role in educating the people of this area.)

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

They went with songs to the battle, they were young, Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow. They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted, They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

(Laurence Binyon) .



I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. (Acts 2:17,18)

Let us continue to pray for a great revival in our church. We have a great legacy of the Maliyapota Dhanya Budhbar Mahasava revival. On 8 and 9 February, 2022 the 128th celebrations of the same will be held in Maliya Pota. May we continue to pray that God will use this revival meetings to reach out to the whole of Bengal. Pray for a revival that will come to men, women, young people and upon our children.

Pray for our diocesan programmes. Pray for a revival through Vision 2025 and for people to support a student in the BCCMA.

Your **Jesus loves you** gift for our suffering brothers and sisters can be sent to: INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK, INTL. BUSINESS BRANCH, KOLKATA (0585) "CNI CALCUTTA DIOCESAN CENTRAL FUND". Ac/No.058501000020056, IFSC:IOBA0000585

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 three 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. (Mark 14:37, Rom 8:27, Luke 18:7)

PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS WITH THANKSGIVING

Pray for God's protection upon doctors, nurses, medical staff, and all striving to contain the third wave of covid .

Pray for the needs of missionary and Bible societies, for evangelists, missionaries, pastors and relief organizations.

Pray for the unity , witness and service of the Church of North India now in its 51st year.

Pray for many groups organizing Bible Study, and prayer online.

Pray for the livelihood of migrant labourers.

Pray for the future education and vocation of children. Pray for children without access to online education.

Pray for the ministry of Bishop's College

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem .

Pray for a revival in our diocese among our members, in our giving, through Vision 2025, our Diocesan Women;s Fellowship, Diocesan Youth and Diocesan Sunday School.

Pray for all efforts made by our Diocese, NGOs, Diocesan Board of Social Service and our churches to reach those who are suffering.

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Pray for the sick: YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU

Rev Magdaliya Kamble (wife of Bishop Pradip Kamble), Dionne Bose (Durgapur), Bradley Samuel, Deb Kumar Debroy (father of Aniket Debroy), Irene Pushpa Das, Rev Dr. Anugrah Behera, Diana Khawas (Kalimpong), Cynthia Thomas, Maya Chowdhury, Sushila Ambat, Theo Baker, Elvina de Menezes, Shanti Manuel, Rahul and Rashmi David, Ruby David (wife of Prabhakar David), Fr Victor Yardi, Dr. Mammen Chandy, Swapna de Gomes, Chhewang Lhamu Panlook (CMC Vellore), Dilip Singh (of DBSS), Dr. Leila Varkey (sister of Rev Dr. Sunil Caleb), Bishop Mano Rumalshah, Estelle Sarkar, Wendy Christy (Dubai), Pem Doma Lepcha Panlook (Siliguri), Bipul Biswas (f/o Pronob Biswas, Bishop's House staff), , Debasish Biswas (Serampore), Jennifer D'Souza, Subrata Das, Bhowanipore Church, Winston Gomez (father of Rev James Gomez), Shirley Rodrigues, Bishop Dinesh Chandra Gorai, Del Rodriguez.

Rev Andrew Simick thanks all for praying for him during his eye cataract operation on 2.11.21 and for bearing with him in the absence of the prayer letter that week. .

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