



# St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

MAR 2026

"Equipping and Empowering Congregation in God's Mission"



***Cross: A Call to Connect***

**Presbyter-in-charge: Rev. Samuel B. Pujari**

**Presbyter's Contact Details:**

Email: [andrewschurchpresbyter@gmail.com](mailto:andrewschurchpresbyter@gmail.com), Mobile - +917019033593, Home - 080 25581110

**Church Office:** (Weekdays: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays: till 12:00 noon)

No.27, Cubbon Road, Bangalore 560 001, Office - +919741401874

Email - [andrewschurchblore@gmail.com](mailto:andrewschurchblore@gmail.com) Website - [www.standrewschurch.org.in](http://www.standrewschurch.org.in)

# From the Presbyterian's Desk



## **“Cross: A Call to Connect”**

*“For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin” (Revelation 3: 20)*

### **Cross**

Lent, a time the reflection, circles around Cross, a symbol of sacrifice, which in turn leads us to the Cross.

The first Calvary Cross was regarded as a symbol of shame, a punishment, a taboo which portrayed a person as a criminal. Christ went to the cross to take the punishment of humans. *(Roman 3: 25: whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed.)* By choosing Cross as the place of sacrifice it becomes a symbol of bridge between God and his Creation. *(Romans 5:1: Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.)* By faith we are justified and we are connected to God by believing in the sacrifice of our saviour, and trusting in the divine purpose of God's redeeming act on the Cross. We enter a connection of love and through love we are connected to God and called according to his purpose. *(Roman 3: 28: For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law).*

### **A Call**

Lent is a time we must understand the call from the Cross. Jesus is interested in connecting with us by being part of our life. *(Revelation 3: 20: For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.)* He is Knocking, if we open our heart He will connect as we focus on the Cross. Let's remember the sacrifices that took place on the Cross of Calvary to connect the Divine and Humans.

Are we willing to get connected?

Your Presbyter  
**Rev. Samuel B. Pujari**



## **Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries**

### **Education and Professional Networking Committee**



#### **Healing Ministry Sunday - A Gathering of Care and Purpose**

On Sunday, 8th February 2026, we celebrated Healing Ministry Sunday - a special occasion that reminded our congregation of God's abiding promise to restore, heal, and care for His people.

The morning began with a time of heartfelt worship, setting a tone of reverence and expectation as we brought before the Lord our prayers for healing - physical, emotional, and spiritual.

Following the worship service, members of our Health Care Professionals Network gathered for a warm and enriching time of fellowship. Doctors, Nurses, Allied Health Workers, and others serving in the Healthcare Sector came together - not merely as colleagues in a profession, but as brothers and sisters united by a shared calling to be instruments of God's healing grace.

Our Presbyter joined the group and provided valuable direction, casting a vision for what this network can mean - not just for its members, but for the wider church family and community. His guidance helped anchor the gathering in purpose, reminding the group that their professional skills are a gift to be stewarded in service of God's Kingdom.

The fellowship then moved into an animated and encouraging discussion on how the Healthcare Professionals Network can reach out more intentionally to the broader congregation at St. Andrew's. Ideas were shared around health awareness initiatives, pastoral care support, and community outreach - all reflecting a desire to serve with both competence and compassion.

We are excited about the journey ahead for this group and the blessing they will be to our church community.

**Mr. Wilson Prathap**  
*EPNC Convener*

## Youth Fellowship

Greetings to you all in the name of our LORD, JESUS CHRIST!

We thank GOD for carrying us through the month of February.

Last month, we had the youth of All People's Church join us for the second Sunday's evening service led by our youth. The message was shared by Mr. Sam Mathew, encouraging us to continuously let GOD use us for HIS purpose.

On the 14th of February as part of outreach, we visited the home of one of the elderly members of our church, where we spent a lovely time of fellowship with each other.

The youth actively participate in supporting the Care for the Elderly meetings every month by leading with praise and worship.

We meet every Sunday after service for a time of BIBLE study and prayer. We also meet online every Saturday at 8:30 AM for a prayer meeting. We would like to extend all the youth of the church to come and join us for this time of fellowship.

We continue to surrender all our current and upcoming activities to GOD and we look to HIM for HIS guidance in the month ahead!

**Miss Vivian E. Shiri & Mr. Prajwal Jacob**  
Conveners

## Men's Fellowship



### Visit to Karunashraya

On 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026, the *Men's Fellowship* of our church visited *Karunashraya*, a Hospice that provides free Palliative Care to patients with advanced-stage cancer.

The visit was a quiet and reflective experience for all of us. Due to the sensitive condition of the patients, we had limited interaction with them. However, even in those brief moments, we were deeply moved by the peaceful environment and the compassionate care shown by the doctors, nurses, and support staff.

As we walked through the facility, we offered gentle greetings where appropriate and spent time observing the dedicated service being carried out each day. We prayed within our hearts for their comfort, strength, and peace, asking the Lord to be close to them in their time of need.

The visit reminded us of the importance of compassion, humility, and silent service. It strengthened our commitment as Men's Fellowship members to continue supporting such ministries and to be sensitive to the needs of those who suffer.

We returned with grateful hearts, carrying a renewed sense of empathy and a deeper understanding of Christ's call to care for the vulnerable.

*"Carry each other's burdens,  
and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2*

**Mr. J. A. Prakash**  
Convener, Men's Fellowship

## **Women's Fellowship**



*And the angel answered 'The Holy Spirit will come on you,  
and God's power will rest upon you.  
For this reason the child will be called the Son of God.' Luke 1.:35*

*Greeting to all of you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

The members of the Women's Fellowship conducted a *Cottage Prayer Meeting* at the residence of *Mrs. Shobha Bhasme* in *CSI Colony*. We began with *Praise and Worship* and the message by *Rev. Jessie Ranjan*.

*She gave us the following 10 Key Takeaways:*

*\* Typology and Fulfilment: St. Augustine's view that the Old Testament is the New "concealed," while the New Testament is the Old "revealed".*

*\* The Significance of Names: How women in the Bible are often unnamed (e.g., Noah's wife, Job's wife), and stresses the importance of personal identity and names in a spiritual context.*

*\* Mary as the New Tabernacle: Just as God's glory (the Shekinah cloud) overshadowed the Tabernacle in Exodus, the Holy Spirit "overshadowed" Mary, making her womb the dwelling place of God.*

*\* The Ark of the Covenant: In the Old Testament, the Ark contained the stone tablets of the Law, the Manna (bread from heaven), and Aaron's rod. These are seen as "types" of Christ.*

*\* Jesus as the Fulfilment of the Ark's Contents:*

*The Law: Jesus is the "Word made flesh".*

*The Manna: Jesus is the "Bread of Life" who came down from heaven.*

\* *Parallel Journeys*: The speaker compares the Ark's three-month stay at the house of Obed-Edom in the hill country of Judah (2 Samuel 6), to Mary's three-month visit to Elizabeth in the same region.

\* *David and John the Baptist*: When the Ark was brought to Jerusalem, King David danced and leapt with joy. Similarly, the unborn John the Baptist "leapt" in Elizabeth's womb upon Mary's arrival.

\* *Elizabeth's Recognition*: Elizabeth's exclamation, "Why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" echoes David's awe-struck question regarding the Ark: "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?".

\* *Moses vs Jesus*: Moses is identified as a "type" of Christ; while Moses liberated the Israelites from physical bondage in Egypt, Jesus liberated humanity from the bondage of sin.

\* *The Call to Humility*: The session concluded by highlighting Mary's "simple faith" and *obedience*. The speaker encourages listeners to follow her example of accepting God's will without needing to fully understand the complexities of the plan.

We are grateful indeed to *Rev. Jessie Ranjan, Mrs. Shoba Bhasme, and all the ladies* for their participation and lively interaction.

*Mrs. Evelyn Sumana* was welcomed as the *President* of our Women's Fellowship. In her words I quote, "I feel privileged to be a part of this awesome team Let's work together and make a difference."

A good Team of highly blessed and talented women are in the process of creating something beautiful for the congregation for *Palm Sunday*.

We praise and thank God Almighty for all the favours and blessings He has bestowed on us.

***Mrs. Daisy Richard***  
*Secretary, Women's Fellowship*

## ***Sunday School***



*The Child Focus India*, had their *Vacation Bible School Training Program* at St. Andrew's Church. 14 of our teachers participated. They were blessed during the training session by learning new songs, games, crafts and creative teaching techniques according to the theme in a vibrant way. They were blessed to fellowship with other teachers from different churches.

This year, VBS is planned from April 6<sup>th</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup>. Requesting parents to send their children for the same without fail.

The Kannada Sunday School Children rendered a special song "Naanu Ondu Putta Taare" on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February during the Kannada Worship Service. The English Sunday School Children rendered the song, "Who Did Swallow Jonah" on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February during the English Worship Service.

The Sunday School continues its interactive classes with the teachers nurturing the children regularly. Specially praying for all the children appearing for their exams.

Andrew's family, kindly remember our Team as we prepare for VBS. We thank you for your prayers which strengthens our Team's ministry in different capacities.

**Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj**  
Sunday School Superintendent



The beauty of the Lent Season lies in its intentional, 40-day journey of renewal, bridging brokenness with the promise of Resurrection. May this time of spiritual "spring cleaning" help us deepen, refine, and purify our relationship with God.

Next, we take you on an exploration to connect a few familiar names of the Bible, to the tribes and places they came from. Ready? Here you go.

### QUIZ

1. Elkanah, the father of Samuel, belonged to which Levitical clan?
2. Samson belonged to which tribe?
3. King Saul belonged to which tribe?
4. Joshua son of Nun belonged to which tribe?
5. Titus, a trusted co-worker of Paul, was of what ethnicity?
6. Moses was from which tribe?
7. Jeroboam, the first king of the northern kingdom, was from which tribe?
8. Bezel, the chief artisan of the tabernacle, came from which tribe?
9. Aholiab who partnered with Bezel belonged to which tribe?
10. Mordecai, guardian of Esther, traced his lineage to which tribe?
11. From which tribe did Jesus's human lineage proceed?
12. Paul identified himself as a descendant of which tribe?
13. Which tribe was Anna the prophetess from?
14. Barnabas, known as the son of encouragement, belong to which tribe?
15. Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, came from which priestly line?

Correct entries will be published in next month's Newsletter along with Answer Keys. Send your **printed** answers to the **Church WhatsApp number 9741401874** by **20th March 2026** in the following format:

**Name**

**Serial number - Answer**

## *Reflection*

### **YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH**

Salt, mentioned over 40 times in the Bible, symbolizes permanence, purity, and covenant loyalty, while also serving practical roles as a preservative, seasoning, and purifying agent in both the Old and New Testaments.

But Jesus used salt to describe the way His disciples were to relate to the world. **Matthew 5:13** *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."* Jesus was telling His followers that they were of supreme value. He used this image to show how important believers are in bringing hope, purity, and influence to the world. What's the lesson for us?

#### *1. What does it mean to be the salt of the earth?*

It means living in a way that preserves Christian values, spreads God's love, and makes a difference at home, school, work, church, friends, social media, community, or wherever God has placed us. Our values, choices, actions, words, grace, encouragement and integrity, consistently point others to the goodness of Christ. We stand out! Just as salt makes us thirsty, our influence makes others thirsty for Jesus - the Living Water.

#### *2. How can we stay spiritually salty?*

By staying close to God through prayer, reading God's Word, and living out our faith daily. The more we walk with God, and stay rooted in Him, the more our lives reflect God's influence.

#### *3. How does being salty affect our relationships?*

When we live salty lives, our words become gracious, our actions more loving, forgiving becomes easier and our relationships stronger. We preserve!

#### *4. What happens if we lose our saltiness?*

If we lose our saltiness, we lose our effectiveness as witnesses for Christ. It happens when we align with worldly values, become lukewarm in faith or disconnect from God.

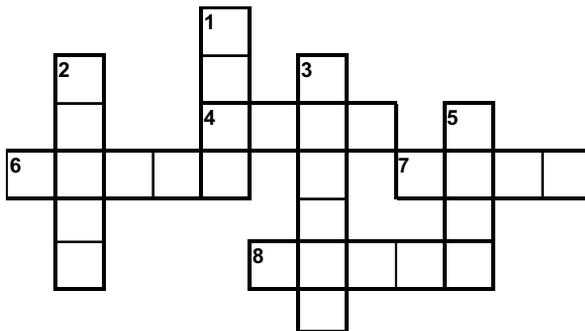
Next time you reach for the salt shaker, pause and remember: just as a pinch of salt can transform a dish, your presence, when you are walking with Christ, can transform your environment. You are called to be salt right where God has placed you.

## Children's Nook

### BE THE SALT, PLEASE!



**Matthew 5:13** *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing ....”*



#### ACROSS

4. A white mineral compound used to season food
6. Sweet, sour, salty or bitter qualities of food and drink
7. Not bad
8. The earth and its inhabitants

#### DOWN

1. To no longer have something
2. Absence of unrest and disagreements
3. By which food or drink is recognised from its taste
5. What we eat to get nutrients for our body

TASTE	FOOD	WORLD	PEACE	LOSE	FLAVOUR	SALT	GOOD
-------	------	-------	-------	------	---------	------	------

## Treasured Hymns

### THE OLD RUGGED CROSS by George Bernard



The Old Rugged Cross, one of the world's best loved hymns, was written in 1912 by George Bennard (1873–1958), a man who began ministry through the Salvation Army. A trial he faced caused him to reflect on the significance of the cross and what the apostle Paul meant when he spoke of *“entering into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings”* in Philippians 3:10.

One day, after long hours of study, prayer and meditation on the word, He said, “I saw the Christ of the cross as if I were seeing John 3:16

leave the printed page, take form, and act out the meaning of redemption. The more I contemplated these truths, the more convinced I became that the cross was far more than just a religious symbol but rather the very heart of the gospel.”

It was during these days of spiritual struggle that Bennard formed the theme for “The Old Rugged Cross.” Bennard said he was moved to write it after deep contemplation on the crucifixion. He stated, “I really didn't write it. I was merely the instrument God used.”

**Charles H. Gabriel**, a well-known gospel-song composer, helped Bennard with the musical arrangement. After it was published in 1915, the hymn became one of the most widely published songs. It has been the most favored of the approximately 300 songs written by George Bennard. When you read the lyrics, it is easy to see how it resonated with believers. To know Christ is to know what was accomplished for you on the cross. The great exchange of your sin for His righteousness.

## Quiz Answers for the Month of February 2026

Nob (1 Samuel 22)  
 Hebron (1 Kings 2)  
 Bethlehem  
 Gaza  
 Gath (1 Sam 17:4)

Jericho (Luke 19:1-2)  
 Berea (Acts 17:10-11)  
 Ephesus (Acts 19:34)  
 Laodicea (Rev 3:14-16)  
 Bethel (Jdg 20:18)

## Congratulations Quiz Stars for the month of February 2026

Esther Suguna Simeon  
 A. N. Indiradevi  
 Deepan Elbert Pramodan  
 Annie Felix  
 Felicia Manoraj  
 Lynette Natasha Karkada



Daisy Mark Prabhu  
 Gitanjali Lazarus  
 Rosabelle Prabhakar  
 Reena Anoop  
 Advik Jacob Palanna

## HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026

### INFANT BAPTISM



#### Liora Aviya Aditya Gunjal

daughter of Mr. Aditya Solomon Gunjal and Mrs. Vigola Susanna Gunjal  
 on 8th February 2026

### OBITUARY



#### Mrs. Rose Grove

aged 59 years; mother of Mr. Shane Clyde Grove  
 slept in the Lord on Friday, 13th February 2026



#### Mrs. Rusy Soans

aged 69 years; wife of Mr. Godfrey Pradeep Soans  
 slept in the Lord on Friday, 20th February 2026

### Calendar for the First Week of April 2026

Easter			
Theme - Resurrection: Victory over Death			
*5th April 1st Sunday	EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE		5:00 AM
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Samuel B. Pujari	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	
Old Testament	Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14	Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri	9:00 a.m
Epistle	2 Corinthians 5: 1 - 10	Mrs. Asha Franklyn	
Gospel	St. Mark 16: 1 - 11	Wg Cdr I D Soans (K)	

No Evening Service

## Lenten and Holy Week Meditations 2026

### Cross: A Call to Connect

DATE	THEME	TIME
<b>Wednesday</b> 5th February 2026	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <i>Lent: A Call to Renewal</i>	6:30 PM
<b>Friday</b> 27th February 2026	<b>Lenten Service</b> <i>Call to Repentance</i>	6:30 PM
<b>Friday</b> 6th March 2026	<b>Lenten Service</b> <i>Call to Reconciliation</i>	6:30 PM
<b>Friday</b> 13th March 2026	<b>Lenten Service</b> <b>World Day of Prayer</b> <i>"I will Give You Rest: Come"</i>	6:30 PM
<b>Friday</b> 20th March 2026	<b>Lenten Service</b> <i>Call to Persistence in prayer</i>	6:30 PM
<b>Friday</b> 27th March 2026	<b>Lenten Service</b> <i>Call to Total Submission to God's will</i>	6:30 PM
DATE	THEME	TIME
<b>Sunday</b> 29th March 2026	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <i>Let the King of Peace Enter</i>	9:00 AM
<b>Monday</b> 30th March 2026	<b>HOLY WEEK</b> <i>The Cleansing of the Temple</i>	6:30 PM
<b>Tuesday</b> 31st March 2026	<b>HOLY WEEK</b> <i>Jesus Teaches in the Temple</i>	6:30 PM
<b>Wednesday</b> 1st April 2026	<b>HOLY WEEK</b> <i>Ministry of Intercession</i>	6:30 PM
<b>*Thursday</b> 2nd April 2026	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> (Holy Communion) <i>Eucharist: Life-Giving Love</i>	6:30 PM
GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES		
DATE	THEME	TIME
<b>Friday</b> 3rd April 2026	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <i>Cross: The Celebration of Life</i>	9:00 AM
<b>Friday</b> 3rd April 2026	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Meditation on the Seven Words on the Cross	11:30 AM to 3:00 PM
DATE	EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES	TIME
<b>*Sunday</b> 5th April 2026	<b>EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE</b> (Holy Communion) <b>Theme - Resurrection: Victory over Death</b> <i>Service begins with a Play by the Youth Fellowship</i>	5:00 AM
<b>*Sunday</b> 5th April 2026	<b>EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE</b> (Holy Communion) <b>Theme - Resurrection: Victory over Death</b>	9:00 AM

## Calendar for the Month of March 2026

<b>*1st March 1st Sunday</b>	5th Sunday before Easter 2nd Sunday in Lent		
	<b>Theme: Call to Shoulder Each Other's Burdens</b>		
	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher Rev. Samuel B. Pujari</b>	<b>*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service</b>	
<b>Old Testament</b>	2 Samuel 9: 1 - 13	Miss Vivian E. Shiri	
<b>Epistle</b>	Galatians 6: 1 - 10	Mr. Prajwal Jacob	
<b>Gospel</b>	St. Mark 2: 1 - 12	Mr. J. A. Prakash (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		9:00 a.m
<b>6th March Friday</b>	<b>Lenten Service</b>		6:30 p.m
<b>8th March 2nd Sunday</b>	4th Sunday before Easter 3rd Sunday in Lent		
	<b>Theme: Call to be Inclusive</b>		
	<b>Preacher: Rev. Dishon S</b>	<b>Kannada</b>	
<b>Preacher: Rev. Dishon S</b>	<b>English</b>		8:15 a.m
<b>Old Testament</b>	Isaiah 56: 1 - 8	Mrs. Sabitha Simon (K)	
<b>Epistle</b>	Revelation 7: 9 - 17	Mrs. Gitanjali Lazarus	
<b>Gospel</b>	St. Matthew 15: 21 - 28	Mr. Glen Phinehas (K)	
Evening Service	Youth Fellowship		9:30 a.m
<b>13th March Friday</b>	<b>Lenten Service World Day of Prayer</b>		6:30 p.m
<b>*15th March 3rd Sunday</b>	3rd Sunday before Easter 4th Sunday in Lent		
	<b>Theme: Call to be Liberative</b>		
	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher Rev. Samuel B. Pujari</b>	<b>*Kannada Holy Communion</b>	
<b>Preacher: Rev. Samuel B. Pujari</b>	<b>English</b>		8:15 a.m
<b>Old Testament</b>	Isaiah 1: 12 - 17	Mr. C. P. Lawrence (K)	
<b>Epistle</b>	Ephesians 6: 5 - 9	Mr. David Seelan	
<b>Gospel</b>	St. Luke 13: 10 - 17	Miss Magdalene Preetha (K)	
*Evening Service	Holy Communion Service - Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Samuel B. Pujari		9:30 a.m
<b>20th March Friday</b>	<b>Lenten Service</b>		6:30 p.m
<b>22nd March 4th Sunday</b>	2nd Sunday before Easter 5th Sunday in Lent		
	<b>Passion Sunday</b>		
	<b>Theme - Cross: Manifestation of Grace</b>		
<b>Preacher: Rev. Paul Dinakaran</b>	<b>Kannada</b>		8:15 a.m
<b>Preacher: Rev. Paul Dinakaran</b>	<b>English</b>		9:30 a.m
<b>Old Testament</b>	Micah 7: 15 - 20	Mrs. Mary Sukumari (K)	
<b>Epistle</b>	1 Peter 2: 17 - 24	Mr. Jaswanth Thomas	
<b>Gospel</b>	St. Mark 10: 46 - 52	Mr. Arjun Christopher (K)	
Evening Service	Stuti Sanje		6:00 p.m
<b>27th March Friday</b>	<b>Lenten Service</b>		6:30 p.m
<b>29th March 5th Sunday</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>		
	<b>Theme: Let the King of Peace Enter</b>		
	<b>Preacher: Rev. Samuel B. Pujari</b>	<b>Combined Worship Service</b>	
<b>Old Testament</b>	2 Kings 7: 3 - 20	Mr. Erol Shailesh Wasta	
<b>Epistle</b>	Philippians 4: 4 - 13	Mrs. Rashmi Mohanraj	
<b>Gospel</b>	St. Mark 11: 1 - 11	Mr. J. A. Prakash (K)	
Evening Service	Palm Sunday Concert		6:00 p.m

*Note: Kindly keep the Church Office informed in advance about your inability to be present for the Scripture reading as scheduled.*