



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

"Equipping and Empowering Congregation in God's Mission"



Celebration Justice

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

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From the Presbyterian's Desk



“Celebration Justice”

God does not seek grand offerings, but rather calls us “to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with Him. (Micah 6:6-8)

The struggle for the dignity of labour has a long and significant history. Beginning in 1882, organised movements sought to secure fair working conditions, including the establishment of regulated working hours. In recognition of these efforts, May 1st was officially declared as Labour Day in 1923. This day stands unique as a celebration embraced across religions, marking the achievement of justice for workers who were once marginalised and undervalued.

The Church observes May 1st as Labour Day to affirm the equality of all people both employers and labourers and to emphasise the inherent dignity bestowed upon every individual by God. As Scripture reminds us in the Book of Micah (Micah 6:6-8), God does not seek grand offerings, but rather calls us “to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with Him.

As we enter the month of May, the Church is invited to renew its commitment to social justice. God requires from us hearts filled with love, kindness, and a willingness to act justly. This calling is expressed in how we treat others, especially those who are vulnerable, those who serve, and those who labour among us. To treat every person with dignity and equality is the truest offering we can bring before the Lord.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Samuel B. Pujari
Presbyter-in-charge

UPDATE FROM THE PASTORATE COMMITTEE



I am glad to inform you that the Pastorate Committee has, after prayerful consideration, resolved to sponsor *Ms. Merlin Sharon* as a ministerial candidate for her theological studies. She will be pursuing her *Bachelor of Divinity at Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, Chennai, from June 2026 to April 2030.*

This decision of the Pastorate Committee reflects our shared commitment to support and encourage those who are called to serve in the Lord's ministry.

I request you all to kindly uphold Ms. Merlin Sharon in your prayers as she begins this significant phase of her calling.

Mr. Vijay Kumar Palanna
*Secretary,
Pastorate Committee*

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries

Sunday School



Praising God for the provision and grace He gave to our VBS Team. Under the guidance of our Presbyter Rev. Samuel B. Pujari, VBS 2026 went on smoothly. Andrew's family, your support through prayers, talents and kind is much appreciated by our Team.

Teachers and volunteers, may God reward and bless all your hard work and dedication. We laud your talents and patience you showed to each and every child in different capacities.

This year's VBS theme: "Tribes - Beyond The 12"

*"Is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also?
Yes, of Gentiles also". Romans 3:29*

Merryl, a teen from our Sunday School, who had the lovely idea of the design for this page along with other teens shared the meaning of the theme as below:

"This year's VBS has taught us that even beyond the 12 tribes of Israel, no matter where we come from or who we are, God accepts us unconditionally. We also learned that the sufferings we experience in this temporary home called "Earth" are only for a time, and that one day we will receive the glory of God as His heirs. Overall, VBS has been a joyful and meaningful journey that strengthened our faith and brought us closer to God."

Every day, the children were able to understand the Bible story by a direct correlation with the day's key point. They also memorized a Bible verse. The daily Bible point would have been repeatedly used several times at each station through songs in "Drumbeat Opening Station", through Bible stories in "Origins Bible Centre", through craft and experiments in "Tribal Art Lab", through digitalised Missionary stories in "Hunters Mission Diary", through games in "Clan Quest Arena Games".

Every day's Bible Point highlighted that the children were special, no matter what! Below are the Bible Point of everyday:

- Day 1: Beyond The 12 I'm Included!*
- Day 2: Beyond The 12 I'm Accepted!*
- Day 3: Beyond The 12 I'm Set-Apart!*
- Day 4: Beyond The 12 I'm Grafted!*
- Day 5: Beyond The 12 I'm Heir Forever!*



Sharing Mrs. Esther's testimony of her son:

"Praise be to the Lord! We want to share a testimony of God's mercy over our family. This past year was a season of deep trial for our son. After falling into the wrong friendships, he began to struggle in his studies, sports, and music. He eventually stopped attending church and became isolated at home, struggling with his behaviour and the trauma of a difficult 9th-grade year.

In the midst of our toughest moments during his 10th-grade exams, God began to move. We are so grateful to the Sunday School Team, which personally reached out and encouraged our son to join VBS. Though he was hesitant at first, the warmth and acceptance of the VBS Team changed everything. We watched our son move from reluctance to joy - taking the initiative to attend, praying with other children, and even playing the drums for the Lord once again.



Thank you VBS Team, for including us as family and for showing us that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. We give all the glory to our gracious God for His incredible mercy."

113 children were blessed to attend VBS this year. Apart from the regular VBS sessions, we had *Love Feast, Final Day Programme* and *Picnic*. On the last day, we visited the *Elim Resorts* and had a wonderful fellowship by God's grace.

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj
Sunday School Superintendent
Director, VBS 2026



The Gospel of Luke is unique for its scholarly approach, its deep focus on social outcasts, and its emphasis that Jesus is a Savior for all nations, not just Israel. Written by Luke the Physician, it provides the most comprehensive narrative of Jesus' life while being the only Gospel to mention famous parables that comprise a significant portion of Jesus' teachings like *the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and Lazarus and the Rich Man*, among others.

Now it's time to dive deep into Luke's Gospel to find answers to this interesting Quiz.

QUIZ

1. With which parable did Jesus respond when asked by the lawyer "who is my neighbour"?
2. Which two parables precede the Parable of the Prodigal Son?
3. Which place does Jesus refer to as "my Father's house"?
4. According to the parable, why was the unjust steward dismissed from his job?
5. Only in the Gospel of Luke do we read about a widow's son being raised from the dead. Where did the miracle take place?
6. What did Jesus tell his disciples to sell their cloaks for if they didn't already have one?
7. In which city did Jesus meet Zacchaeus?
8. Who was Jesus referring to when he said "go and tell that fox"?
9. "Eat, drink and be merry" is a reference from which parable?
10. So watch yourselves. "If your _____ or _____ sins against you, _____ them; and if they repent, _____ them."

Correct entries will be published in next month's Newsletter along with Answer Keys. Send your **printed** answers to the **new Church WhatsApp number 7349251838** by **20th May 2026** in the following format:

Name
Serial number - Answer

Reflection

The Miracle of Pentecost

The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) are viewed as contrasting events, with Pentecost reversing the judgment of Babel. Babel represents human pride leading to division, language confusion, and scattering. Conversely, Pentecost represents divine grace enabling communication, unity, and gathering, where the Holy Spirit allows different languages to be understood.

Unity vs. Division: Babel's unity was based on *human pride and rebellion*, resulting in forced *separation and scattering of the nation*. Pentecost's unity is built on the *Spirit*, creating *communion and understanding* among people of different nations.

Language and Scattering: At Babel, one language was confused into many, causing division and scattering. At Pentecost, many languages were understood by the audience gathered from many nations, facilitating the spread of the Church.

The Goal: The Tower of Babel was built to avoid being scattered (Gen 11:4), representing a focus on human efforts. Pentecost empowered followers to spread the Gospel to every corner of the world, representing God's grace.

Humanity vs. God: At Babel, humanity sought to ascend to heaven in disobedience, to "make a name for themselves". At Pentecost, the apostles gathered together in obedience to Jesus' command to await the helper. God sent them the Holy Spirit, empowering them to spread the Gospel.

That is the miracle of Pentecost, the great reversal of Babel, and our mission today. Think about how Pentecost turns Babel upside down: God came down at Pentecost, just as God came down at Babel, not to judge, and not to take away power, but to give the disciples power through the Holy Spirit. Empowered, they were miraculously able to proclaim the Gospel in many languages, urging everyone present to call on the name of Jesus and be saved, resulting in 3,000 new believers and the founding of the first Church of Christ.

Children's Nook

Pentecost is the "Birthday of the Church," celebrated 50 days after Easter. It marks the day when Jesus kept his promise to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples, empowering them to speak different languages and boldly share God's message to everyone present.

Look up the Book of **Acts 2-3** to arrange the following early church events in the correct order.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| ___ 1. | A. Crippled man is healed by Peter and John |
| ___ 2. | B. A mighty wind filled the house. |
| ___ 3. | C. Peter preached in the temple about Jesus |
| ___ 4. | D. 3000 souls were baptized. |
| ___ 5. | E. The Holy Spirit filled the people in the house |
| ___ 6. | F. The day of Pentecost |
| ___ 7. | G. People in the house started speaking in different languages |
| ___ 8. | H. People sold their possessions and joined the Church |
| ___ 9. | I. Peter preached about Jesus' resurrection on the day of Pentecost |
| ___ 10. | J. People praised God |

Quiz Answers for the Month of April 2026

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Peace be with you | 6. Sea of Galilee |
| 2. Breathed on them | 7. Do you love me? |
| 3. His breaking of bread | 8. James |
| 4. Galilee | 9. 153 |
| 5. Jerusalem | 10. Their minds |

Congratulations Quiz Stars for the month of April 2026

1. Annie Felix
2. A. N. Indiradevi
3. Felicia Manoraj
4. Advik Jacob Palanna
5. Deepan Elbert Pramodan



6. Esther Suguna Simeon
7. Daisy Mark Prabhu
8. Reena Anoop
9. Rosabelle Prabhakar
10. Gitanjali Lazarus

HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2026

INFANT BAPTISM



Naomi Tarika Karodi

daughter of Mr. Vinod Paul Karodi and Mrs. Divya Jane Ashwal
on 12th April 2026

Weddings



Mr. Anish Enoch Kotian

son of Rev. Manoranjan Bennet Kotian & Mrs. Pramila Kotian
With

Ms. Sara Carol Diwakar

daughter of Mr. Austin Diwakar & Mrs. Shyla Diwakar
on the 10th of April 2026

New Members

Mrs. Kamalakshi Kanchan

Calendar for the First Week of June 2026

*7th June 1st Sunday	<i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i>			9:00 a.m
	Theme - Jesus: The Ultimate Influencer			
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Samuel B. Pujari	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service		
	Old Testament 2 Chronicles 20: 13 - 19	Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath		
Epistle	Acts 18: 24 - 28	Mrs. Asha Franklyn		6.15 p.m
Gospel	St. John 8: 12 - 20	Wg Cdr I D Soans (K)		
Evening Service			Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra	

Calendar for the Month of May 2026

4th Sunday after Easter			
*3rd May 1st Sunday	Theme: Walk with Christ in Passionate Love		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Samuel B. Pujari	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	
Old Testament	Jeremiah 31: 1 - 6	Mr. Erol Shailesh Wasta	
Epistle	Ephesians 3: 14 - 19	Mr. Wilson Pratap	
Gospel	St. John 21: 15 - 19	Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		9:00 a.m 6.15 p.m
5th Sunday After Easter			
10th May 2nd Sunday	Theme - Risen Christ: Assurance of Everlasting Presence		
	Kannada		8.15 a.m
English			
Old Testament	Isaiah 41: 8 - 13	Mrs. Mary Kumuda Sujaya Kumar (K) Mr. David Gilbert Karkada	
Epistle	Hebrews 13: 1 - 8	Mr. Stephen Pradeep Kotian (K) Mr. Jayakar Rao Essampally	
Gospel	St. Matthew 28: 16 - 20	Mrs. Chithra S. Herbert (K) Miss Karen Danita Isaac	
Evening Service	Youth Fellowship		9.30 a.m 6.15 p.m
6th Sunday after Easter			
*17th May 3rd Sunday	Theme - Holy Spirit: Promise of the Indwelling Presence		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Samuel B. Pujari	*Kannada Holy Communion	
Preacher: Rev. Samuel B. Pujari		English	
Old Testament	Isaiah 59: 14 - 21	Mr. Kiran. S. Kotian (K) Mrs. H. Nalini Lawrences	
Epistle	Hebrews 10: 8 - 18	Mrs. Evelyn Sumana Samuel (K) Mr. Roji M. Philip	
Gospel	St. John 14: 15 - 21	Mr. David Udaya Kumar Bangera (K) Mrs. Preethi Prabhu Pani	
*Evening Service	Holy Communion Service - Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Samuel B. Pujari		8.15 a.m 9.30 a.m 6.15 p.m
Pentecost Sunday			
24th May 4th Sunday	Theme - Pentecost: Hearing God's Voice in a Noisy World		
	Kannada		8.15 a.m
English			
Old Testament	1 Kings 19: 11 - 18	Mrs. Mary Gokavi (K) Mrs. Grace Gnanapriya Abraham	
Epistle	Acts 2: 1 - 13	Mrs. Savina Peters (K) Mr. Ryan Joshua	
Gospel	St. John 20: 19 - 23	Mrs. Sowmya Kairanna (K) Mrs. Clara Shyrine	
Evening Service	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Samuel Sunith R		9.30 a.m 6.15 p.m
1st Sunday after Pentecost			
31st May 5th Sunday	Trinity Sunday		
	Theme - Trinity: The Divine Communion of Love		
Kannada		8.15 a.m	
English			
Old Testament	Isaiah 48: 12 - 17	Mrs. Maria Priya (K) Mrs. Agnita Robert Narendra	
Epistle	Ephesians 1: 3 - 14	Mrs. Mirium Sadhu (K) Mrs. Anuja Rajeev	
Gospel	St. John 3: 8 - 16	Miss Janita Sarah Sumitra (K) Mrs. Sushma Jennifer Devadatta	
Evening Service			9.30 a.m 6.15 p.m

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