



STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

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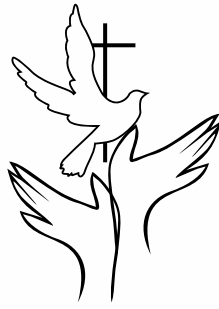


"Hope does not disappoint"
- Romans 5:5

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STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

As we step into the year 2025, I want to take this moment to wish you all a blessed and prosperous New Year. With the grace of God, we have made it to another milestone, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support and subscriptions during the first issue of Streams of Living Water. Your encouragement has been a true source of strength, and we are deeply grateful for each and every one of you who has made this journey with us.

This issue is especially significant as we celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025, a time of grace and renewal within the Catholic Church. Declared by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, the Jubilee Year invites the faithful to experience God's mercy in profound and transformative ways. It is a call for spiritual rejuvenation, reflection, and deepened communion with God and one another.

The Jubilee Year, which occurs every 25 years, is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on its mission, to ask for forgiveness for past shortcomings, and to seek reconciliation with God and fellow human beings. Pope Francis has emphasized the importance of this year as a time to renew our commitment to justice, peace, and charity. It is a moment to remember the Church's role in bringing hope and healing to the world, especially to the most vulnerable and marginalized.

For Catholics, the Jubilee Year is also a time for pilgrimages, the granting of indulgences, and special acts of mercy. It is an invitation to reflect on the divine mysteries of our faith, deepen our devotion,

EDITORIAL

and renew our mission to serve as instruments of peace and goodwill.

In this special Jubilee Year issue, we have compiled reflections and teachings that explore the profound significance of this holy time. We hope these features inspire you to draw closer to the heart of Christ and to live out His call to be agents of mercy and compassion in the world.

As we embark on this sacred journey together, let us keep our hearts open to the outpouring of God's love and mercy. May this new year be a year of grace, healing, and renewal for you and your loved ones.



With gratitude and blessings,
Mrs. Tantalita Young (Tammy)
Editor - Streams of Living Water

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I wish all our readers a very Happy New Year 2025. In this time of the Jubilee Year, the entire Church will organize various programs to revive the faith of the people. In the words of Pope Francis, *"Jubilee Year is the time to Celebrate Jesus, to celebrate the Church and to celebrate us"*. It is a celebration of God's love and mercy. We turn to God with gratitude in our hearts for his faithfulness and fidelity to the promises he had made with his people.

God's salvific plan was revealed to us in a particular time of history. With the arrival of Jesus, God's Kingdom is established on the earth. In the synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus stood up and proclaimed God's Word thus:




The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour

- Luke 4:18-19

Jesus spent his entire life telling the people God's unconditional love and compassion. He gave up his life on the cross, to prove that God's love is eternal.

The good news of Jesus, our Lord and saviour continues to be proclaimed by the Church in the present day. The Church proclaims the 'Year of God's favour' by the authority given to her by the Lord

himself (Matthew 16: 18-19). By being faithful to the Lord's command, the Church "*shines as a light before others, so that they may see her (your) good works and give glory to her (your) Father in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16). This is what proves the Church's fidelity to her Master. Jesus had mentioned to the apostles when he said,



***By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another***
- John 13:35

Jubilee year is a time to live the Gospel in a deeper way, that is: Loving one another the way Jesus loved us, forgiving one another as he has forgiven us and showing mercy as he has shown mercy to us." We become the Gospel to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are in the margins of society, the neglected and the oppressed ones. We need to become the voice of and for the poor. All our parish and Diocesan level Jubilee events should resonate this spirit of standing for the poor.

Let us surrender this Jubilee year to the intercession of Mary, our Mother and St. Joseph the custodian of all the families. We pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us all, as on the day of Pentecost!



With gratitude and blessings,
Rev. Fr. Gnana Peppin
Spiritual Director - C.C.C.R.S.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUTH:

FROM DISMAY TO HOPE



*I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things from the wise
and the learned and have revealed them to the little*

ones

- Mathew 11:25

Jesus says this to us today, especially to the youngsters of this present age: “How precious you are to me,” says the Lord. I think that we should have a conscious reply to this statement of Jesus. I would like to throw light on the short but fruitful life of none other than our dear Carlo Acutis.

Carlo was very talkative and open as a little boy. He said “hello” to everyone who passed by him on the street. When his mother took him out for a walk, he desired to visit the church and would always kiss the cross. Seeing this, his parents, who were not ‘practicing Catholics,’ decided to return to the church. This was such a mighty testimony. He said, “The more Eucharist we receive, the more we become like Jesus, so that on this earth we may have a foretaste of heaven.” What an amazing experience for just a teenager!

We are really proud of youth who are doing exceedingly well in every field in these times. However, the important question is: Where do young people stand when it comes to matters of the soul? There should be a shift in their perspective. The Lord has

blessed them with so many victories, honors, and privileges. What are you doing with all these blessings? Are you using them for the Lord and for His glory, or are you taking all the credit for yourselves?

If your answer to the former question is “yes,” then you will experience the full magnitude of His blessings for yourself. However, if your answer to the latter is “yes,” then you may lose the very essence and meaning of life. Remember, each time you use the blessings you’ve received for your own self-glorification, you stand in opposition to God.

My sincere prayer for this Year of Hope for all the youngsters is for God to bless you not according to your abilities *but according to His riches and glory* (Philippians 4:19).

Some resolutions for the Youth in the year 2025:

- *Take hold of hand in need, you may find it to be God’s hand.*
- *Breathe fresh air, you may find it to be celestial air.*
- *Talk to a stranger on the street, you may be talking to none other than Jesus himself.*
- *Passing through a tempest, you may find an unbroken calm.*
- *Step on board, you may find its heaven.*
- *Two hands one heart, one life, may become a living sacrifice.*
- *Feed an unknown guest, you may be feeding an angel sent by God.*



With gratitude and blessings,
Mrs. Synthia Beck

SAINT OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY

JOHN DE BRITTO

John de Britto, SJ, also known as Arul Anandar, (1st March 1647 – 4th February 1693) was a Portuguese Jesuit missionary and an evangelist, often called "the Portuguese St Francis Xavier" by Indian Catholics.

He is also called the John the Baptist of India.



HIS EARLY LIFE AND MISSIONARY WORK

John de Britto, born 1st March 1647 in Lisbon, Portugal, was the scion of a powerful aristocratic Portuguese family; his father, Salvador de Britto Pereira died while serving as Viceroy of the Portuguese colony of Brazil. He joined the Jesuits in 1662, studying at the famous University of Coimbra. He travelled to the missions of Madurai, in Southern India, present-day Tamil Nadu, in 1673 and preached the Christian religion in the region of the Maravar country. He renamed himself Arul Anandar in Tamil. The ruler of the Maravar country imprisoned him in 1684. Having been expelled, he returned to Lisbon in 1687 and worked as a missions procurator. King Pedro II wanted him to stay, but in 1690 he returned to the Maravar country with 24 new missionaries.

The Madurai Mission was a bold attempt to establish an Indian

Catholic Church that was relatively free of European cultural domination. As such, Britto learned the native languages, went about dressed in yellow cotton, and lived like a Tamil Thuravi/Sannyasi, abstaining from every kind of animal food and from wine. Britto tried to teach the Catholic faith in categories and concepts that would make sense to the people he taught. This method, proposed and practised by Roberto de Nobili, met with remarkable success. Britto remained a strict vegan until the end of his life, rejecting meat, fish, eggs and alcohol, and living only on legumes, fruits and herbs.

HIS EXECUTION

John De Britto's preaching led to the conversion of Thadiyathevan , a Maravar prince who had several wives and was required as a Christian to dismiss all but one of them. One of those dismissed was a niece of the neighbouring king, the Raghunatha Kilavan Sethupathi, the King of Ramnad (Ramanathapuram), who for her sake launched a general persecution of Christians. Britto and the catechists were seized and transported to the capital, Ramnad. From there he was taken to Orur, some 30 miles north along the coast, and was executed on 4 February 1693.

Britto was beatified by Pope Pius IX on 21 August 1853. He was canonised by Pope Pius XII on 22 June 1947. Saint John de Britto's feast day is 4 February.

THE MIRACLE OF THE RED SAND

This seashore sightseeing location is one of the most venerable pilgrim centres of Christians in the world over, as it is said to be the

site of Britto's martyrdom. It was at this place where Britto is said to have been beheaded in 1693. The sand dune here is believed to have been stained by his blood. There is a shrine constructed in Portuguese style containing a statue of Britto, known locally as 'Arul Anandar' who had modestly offered his neck to the executioner.

The red sand dune here in this shrine where the blood of Britto was spilled has great significance. Numerous incurable diseases are said to have cured by the application of the red sand on the respective body parts. Couples are believed to have blessed with children on visiting the shrine and many pray for departed souls at this shrine. During festivities, pilgrims mainly from Tamil Nadu and Kerala participate irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. Thus, together with Christians, Hindus and Muslims also come to worship at the shrine in thousands, to mark respect to a unique holy man who shed his life and blood at that spot. The occasion appears to be more as a social gathering rather than a religious festival. The auspicious ceremony is a rare opportunity for these simple people to bring gaiety and enthusiasm in their life. The strong faith and enviable ability to combine pleasure and righteousness on a pilgrimage gives a divine atmosphere to the Orur.

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

RENEWAL IN THE SPIRIT: A CHARISMATIC RECOLLECTION

On 8th of December 2024, the CCCRS had organised a monthly Charismatic Renewal recollection at Sacred Heart Church Dharamtala, people from around the city gathered seeking spiritual rejuvenation and a deeper connection with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The recollection was guided and led by the spiritual director of CCCRS- Fr. Gnana Peppin and our Chairman Mr. Raymond David.

The recollection began at 9am with the reciting of the Holy Rosary holding Mamma Mary's hand for our intercession. The recollection had a lively praise and worship session, setting the tone for an intimate encounter with God.

Mrs. Synthia Beck delivered an inspiring talk reflecting upon whether our heart is ready for Jesus to come and dwell in it. A reading from the gospel of John 12:1-11 was reflected upon which talks about Martha and Mary, wherein we see both were active but the difference was Martha was busy serving while Mary was contemplating at the feet of Jesus. In Bethany JESUS found open hearts that loved and eagerly waited on him. Martha, Mary and Lazarus had a special place in Jesus's heart. Similarly the Gospel reflection made the people to ponder on whether our heart are a place where Jesus would love to dwell.

Throughout the recollection Father Peter Durairaj and Father

Gnana Peppin were available to hear the people's confession.

This was followed by adoration where the people experienced the healing touch of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Annie Rozario shared a powerful testimony of how the Lord Jesus had intervened in her life and guided her family especially her husband with a suitable Job. Also how she and her family had experienced the hand of God on every there life. This testimony increased the faith of the listeners.

The testimony was followed by a talk by Fr. Sam from Emmaus Retreat Centre, who gave a powerful, thought provoking talk on Christmas, making the people to reflect on how Christmas should be more towards celebrating for others than self and making the Christmas more meaningful by giving, sharing and loving others.

Then the Holy mass was celebrated by Fr. Peppin and Fr. Durairaj. The people expressed a renewed commitment to their faith, eager to deepen their relationship with God. At the end of the mass the online magazine "Streams of Living water" was inaugurated and blessed by our spiritual director.

As the Christmas season was round the corner the recollection concluded with singing of Carols and a small Christmas gathering with some games for all the people and children. Also cakes were distributed by Santa Claus which really made all the people feel the spirit and joy of Christmas. At 3 pm the Divine Mercy Chaplet was recited invoking the Mercy of Jesus.

The Charismatic Renewal recollection was marked with powerful teachings, testimony sharing, celebration of the holy Mass, adoration and a fellowship meal. As we return to our daily lives, we carry with us the renewed spirit, hope, and joy that only comes from encountering the living God.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY SERVICE & INTERCESSION MINISTRY

We, the members of the CCCRS, praise and thank our LORD Jesus, for giving us a permanent venue for our services at Sacred Heart Church, Dharmtalla. It gives us much joy to be back here!

Every Wednesday the CCCRS members conducts an adoration service. Our service begins with the Holy Rosary at 4.45pm. This is followed by Praise and Worship, the breaking of God's Holy Word and concludes with Holy Mass.

During the Wednesday services Fr. Gnana Peppin, the Spiritual Director for the CCCRS is a source of constant support and guidance. We were blessed to also have Fr Suraj, Fr Sam and Fr Probal Gomes shared the Word of God during the services in December 2024. Their insights and explanations on the Word of God was commendable and food for our soul and sustenance for our spiritual life that renewed our strength. As we pursue Jesus in our daily highs and lows, our Wednesday Services point us in the right direction in our pursuit of Holiness. May each Wednesday Service enable us to climb yet another rung of the ladder of Spirituality.

Our CCCRS INTERCESSORY MINISTRY meets every Saturday morning, praying and interceding unitedly. Our prayer warriors storm heaven for various needs all over our city and our country,

India. Our focus is on the sick and suffering, the unemployed, the marginalised, those enduring family problems and those in bondage to addictions.

We encourage you to send us your prayer petitions. We assure you of confidentiality and the earnest prayer support of our Intercessory team.



Oh! the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

- Romans 11:33



With Love in Jesus,
Mrs. Lilian Hart





*“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us,
and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by
looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart
and far-sighted vision.”*

- Pope Francis

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