

## **JESUS HEALS THE BLIND MAN AT THE POOL OF SILOAM.**

Dearly beloved:

**B**efore I discuss the meaning and importance of this coming Sunday, I would like to say a few words about Johny Uncle's comments regarding last Sunday's sermon by Ponnu Varghese. As we all know, it has been our year-long practice that every Sunday during Great Lent, our senior Sunday school students deliver the sermons and for our Achan to give a summary afterwards. In his summation, he includes any additional points or messages that he wishes to convey to the members.

**L**ast Sunday, unexpectedly, Achen asked Johny Uncle to say few words about Ponnu's sermon. I believe that Achan wanted an evaluation of her daughter's sermon from an impartial source. In this regard, Johny Uncle made the following important additional and remarkable points: (1) **“Every day of our lives, we, either knowingly or unknowingly, experiences some kind of healing.** (2) **This miracle of healing may be either small or significant.** (3) **Jesus identifies with all kinds of sickness; it may be physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual.** (4) **When understand and appreciate those healing experiences, we become closer to God”.** Thank you Johny for your remarkable points. We read in the Bible the many accounts of Jesus healing the sick and infirm. During the Great Lent period, all the Holy Gospel readings and the sermons tell of the miracle healings of Jesus Christ.

**N**ext Sunday, April 2nd is the Sixth Sunday of Fifty-Days Lent. Our Holy Gospel reading for this Sunday is about the Healing of the Blind Man. The healing of the man who was blind from birth is one of the most remarkable miracles performed by Jesus as this act clearly reveals the power and glory of God. After covering the eyes with clay and His own spittle, Jesus, without telling the man that He was about to cure his blindness, told the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. This pool was one of the landmarks of Jerusalem because at the Feast of Sukkoth (Festival of Tabernacle), water from this pool was brought by the priest to the temple with great trumpet blasts while the people recited the words of Isaiah 12:3 - “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”. It was during the Feast of Sukkoth that Jesus identified himself as the source of this life-giving water. Jesus came and lived life according to the Old Testament.

**I**t was an ancient belief, not only by the Jews, that illness or disability came about as the result of sin. Because of this belief, the incurably ill and the handicapped were outcast from society, forced to beg for existence, and treated worse than animals. Jesus corrected this mistaken belief when He answers the question in today's Holy Gospel reading, verse 3. Jesus gave not only physical sight to the blind man, but spiritual vision as well. That is why Jesus proclaimed himself the “light of the world” (John 9:4). The miracle at the pool of Siloam points to the source of the miraculous life-giving water, which Jesus offers through the gift of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38).

**I**n today's Epistle reading of St. Paul to the Ephesians, He warns us to avoid the darkness of sin that we might walk more clearly in the light of Christ. The Lord offers us freedom from spiritual blindness due to sin. We are surrounded by people who are spiritually blind. How can we help them to see? Like the healed man, we can tell of what Jesus has done for us. *Jesus, in your name the blind see, the lame walk, and the dead are raised to life. Come into our lives and heal the wounds of our broken hearts.*

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.**

**[Bible readings for Sunday, April 2nd, 2006.](#)**  
**[\(Healing the Blind Man – Samiyo Sunday\)](#)**

**[Before Holy Qurbana:](#)**

**Deuteronomy - 25: 13-16, 26: 1-13**  
**Job - 42: 1-10**

## **Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles:   **I Peter**                   - **4: 12-19**  
Epistles of St. Paul: **II Corinthians**   - **9: 6-15 OR**  
                              **Ephesians**               - **5: 1-14**  
Holy Gospel:         **St. John**                 - **9: 1-41**

## **Importance of Next Week.**

- 1. Our Church is celebrating the “Catholicate Day” on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
- 2. Our Church is remembering Pampady Thirumeni on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.**
- 3. On Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> is ‘40<sup>th</sup> Day of Lent’ (Friday before Hosanna).**
- 4. On Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> is ‘Lazarus Saturday’ (Saturday before Hosanna).**
- 5. Next Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> is Hosanna/Palm Sunday.**

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex