



REV. ASHISH THOMAS



Vicar's Message to the Parish

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A Heart of Gratitude

As we complete the first six months of this year and enter the month of July, let us pause to thank God for His abundant grace, unfailing providence, and countless blessings. Through every joy and challenge, the Lord has remained faithful, guiding us with His loving hand. Let us enter this new month with grateful hearts, renewing our commitment to glorify Him through worship, prayer, witness, and service.

Upholding the "Space for the Future" Project

One of our most important prayer concerns this month is the July 6 City Council second reading of our "Space for the Future" project. This marks the final phase of approval, and upon its successful completion, we hope to begin this long-awaited project. This vision is not simply about constructing a building; it is about creating a larger and more welcoming space where people of every generation can gather to worship, learn, fellowship, and grow together in Christ. I request every member of our parish to uphold this project in earnest prayer, asking God to guide every decision and bless this endeavor according to His will.

Worship: The Heart of Christian Life

At this time, I would also like to once again emphasize the centrality of worship in Christian life. Worship is not merely one among many activities of the Church—it is the very purpose for which we are created. While we are thankful for the vibrant ministries and activities of our various parish organizations, we must remember that the Church is not simply a collection of organizations or a social club. Every ministry, fellowship, and activity exists to draw us closer to Christ and to deepen our life of worship. Let us therefore reorder our priorities and give first place to Sunday worship, prayer meetings, Bible study, and every opportunity for spiritual growth. As families and individuals, may we continually seek God's presence and dedicate ourselves afresh to His purposes.

Praying for Our Nation

On July 4, we celebrate the Independence Day of the United States. We thank God for this nation and for the freedoms, justice, and opportunities it has offered to generations of people.

As we celebrate, let us also pray that this nation may continue to uphold the values of justice, compassion, freedom, and respect for the dignity of every human being. In a world often marked by conflict and division, may God enable this country to be an instrument of peace, reconciliation, unity, and hope, inspiring nations not through power or war, but through justice, service, and peaceful coexistence.

Looking Ahead: Parish Day and First Holy Communion

As we prepare for our Parish Day celebrations in September, let us remember this event in our prayers. Along with Parish Day, we will also celebrate the First Holy Communion Service. I encourage all children who are 12 years of age and above and are eligible to prayerfully prepare themselves to receive Holy Communion. I request parents and Sunday School teachers to guide and encourage our children in this important spiritual milestone.

A Special Appeal to Sunday School Teachers

I would also like to make a special appeal to all our Sunday School teachers. Beyond teaching lessons in the classroom, let us help our children develop a lifelong love for worship. Kindly encourage them to attend the Holy Qurbana regularly and, whenever possible, sit with them during worship so that they experience belonging, care, and active participation in the life of the Church. Our children learn not only through instruction but also through our presence, example, and encouragement.

Thanksgiving for Our Clergy

This month we also thank God for the faithful ministry of the clergy who have served and continue to serve our parish and the wider Church.

We continue to uphold Rev. V. T. John Achen in our prayers, asking God to grant him good health, strength, and many more years of fruitful ministry.

We joyfully congratulate Rev. Johnson Varghese Achen as he celebrates 45 years of ordained ministry, and Rev. Jaims Thomas Achen as he celebrates 40 years of ordained ministry. We praise God for their faithful witness and pray that He may continue to use them mightily for His Kingdom.

We also thank God for His healing mercies upon the mother of Rev. Biju Y. Achen. Many of you prayed faithfully during her illness while Achen was in Kerala caring for her. We praise God that she is recovering well and that Biju Achen has safely returned. May the Lord continue to strengthen him and richly bless his ministry.

Let us also remember Rev. Jess Achen as he continues his ministry at the Redeemer Mar Thoma Church, New Jersey, and also serves as the Diocesan Vice-President of the Youth Fellowship. May God grant him wisdom, strength, good health, and abundant grace as he serves His people.

Remembering Our Bereaved Family

As a parish family, we also remember in our prayers the bereaved family of **Mr. Amal Raju**, who was called to his eternal rest in the Lord. We especially uphold his mother, **Mrs. Anicama Iype**, his sister, **Miss Neha Raju**, and all the members of the extended family.

May the God of all comfort surround them with His abiding presence, strengthen them in their grief, and grant them His peace that surpasses all understanding. May the hope of Christ's resurrection sustain them, and may the Lord continue to lead and guide them with His love and grace throughout the journey ahead.

Renewing Our Commitment

As we enter the second half of the year, let us renew our covenant with the Lord. May these coming months be marked by greater faithfulness in worship, deeper commitment to prayer, joyful fellowship, loving service, and a renewed passion to witness to Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Let us encourage one another to walk faithfully with the Lord, knowing that He who has led us thus far will continue to guide us according to His perfect will. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and your families always.

With love and prayers,

Ashish Achen

Vicar

July 2026