



Tamil Catholic Association USA

April 03, 2011

TCA President's Message

தமிழன் என்று சொல்லடா... தலை நிமிர்ந்து நில்லடா!

Welcome to the Tamil New Year celebration. Wishing you all peace, harmony, all-round progress and much happiness in the New Year.

As Tamils living far from the boundaries of Tamil Nadu, we in TCA persevere our Tamil cultural identity, observe our ancient traditions and values. I like to emphasize that we should pass this rich heritage to our children and also bring familiarity of the Tamil language.

As we commemorate the lent season, let's reflect ourselves and remember the heights to which God soared to redeem us. Let's have a meaningful lent season.

Continue to provide us your constructive feedback and let us reaffirm our collective dedication and support to grow our organization to the finest.

Enjoy the spring! **By Thomas Amutharasu**

தமிழ் முத்துக்கள்!

தமிழ் என்ற பெயர் எப்படி வந்தது தெரியுமா?

"ழ" என்ற ஒலி உலகிலேயே தமிழில் மட்டும் தான் உண்டு தன்னில் "ழ" வை கொண்டது தமிழ் என்பது தான் காரணம்.

Do you know the meaning of "Tamil"?

The only language in the world that has the sound "zh". Tamil means that it contains "zh".

இந்தியாவின் முதல் செம்மொழி எது தெரியுமா?

தமிழ் தான் இந்தியாவின் முதல் முதலாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள பட்ட செம்மொழி பழமை, தனிப்பட்ட முறைமை, மற்றும் பழமை வாய்ந்த இலக்கியங்கள் செம்மொழிக்கு தேவையான காரணங்கள்.

Tamil is the first Indian language to be declared as a "Classical Language". A classical language should be ancient, it should be an independent tradition that arose mostly on its own, not as an offshoot of another tradition, and it must have a large and extremely rich body of ancient literature

சங்க இலக்கியம் எது என்று தெரியுமா?

கி.மு. 600 இருந்து கி.பி. 300 வரை உருவான தமிழ் இலக்கிய இலக்கண நூல்கள் சங்க இலக்கியம் என அழைக்க படுகிறது. தொல்காப்பியம் தான் கி.மு. 300 இல் எழுதப்பட்ட முதல் சங்க கால தமிழ் இலக்கண நூல். எட்டுதொகை, பத்துபாட்டு, திருக்குறள், சிலப்பதிகாரம், மற்றும் மணிமேகலை பிற சங்க இலக்கிய நூல்கள் ஆகும். Sangam literature is the Tamil literature|written during the period dated from 600 BC to 300 AD. Tolkappiyam is the first Tamil grammar book written around 300 BC. Ettuthohai, Pathupaatu, Thirukural, Silappathikaram, and Manimeghali are the other Sangam literatures.

தமிழில் அச்ச ஆன முதல் புத்தகம் எது தெரியுமா?

தம்பிரான் வணக்கம் என்ற 16 பக்க செப புத்தகம் தான் தமிழில் அச்ச ஆன முதல் புத்தகம். இது 1578 இல் இயேசு சபை பாதிரியாரால் போர்ச்சுகல் நாட்டிலிருந்து கொண்டு வந்த எந்திரத்தால் அச்சிக்கப்பட்டது. பின்னர் இது வியென்னா வழியாக அமெரிக்கா வந்து சேர்ந்தது. தற்போது உலக புகழ் பெற்ற ஹார்வர்ட் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் உள்ளது. Thamilan vanakkam is the first Tamil book ever printed. This 16 page prayer book was printed by Jesuit priests during 1578 using machines from Portugal. The book found its way to Vienna and then to the United States. Finally it was donated to Harvard University library.

- தாஸ் பிரிட்டோ



I am Tree

Growth in the making
Bare branches growing leaves
At the base are flowers
From April Showers.
I bare the nests,
Where birds will hatch
I watch from above, enjoying all that
takes
Place.

Just out of hibernation,
No more of preservation.
Sprouting new beacons of green
But starting out lean.
Stretching out my arms
Love singing those sacred psalms
The smell of fresh air is stunning
And sometimes I feel like running
But of course I can't, for the nest of
Younglings rest on my branches
Death will be replaced
By life which is remade.

By Rowena Rajan

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The Varushapirapu is the Tamil New Year, it is a time for celebrating new and prosperous beginnings. The 14th of April is the beginning of the first month Chittirai of the Tamil year (Kara year), which is celebrated as the New Year and is also known as "ChittiraiVishu". Varusham is the Tamil word for "year" and 'Pirapu' can be translated as the "birth" or "beginning" or "commencement" of an event. According to Hindu mythology, on this day the Creator of the world Lord Brahma started creation. As we all are from Tamil Nadu and speaking Tamil, we are celebrating this "Tamil New Year".

As Catholics, we have the obligation to think and reflect about the Lent. Lent is a time to look at our temptations, sin and its consequences. During Lent, we are challenged to die to sin so that we may rise again to the new life in the Risen Christ. Scripture says that testing comes to us by an outside agency –the social evils. However, the good news is that, though we are tempted and often succumb, God's grace provides the way of salvation for us. Prayer, penance and acts of charity enable us to defeat our temptations.

Life messages: 1) We are to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did using the means he employed. Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth and a position of authority, power and glory, and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones, to gain these things. Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance and the effective use of the 'Word of God.' Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by prayer (especially by participating in the holy Mass), by penance and by meditative reading of the Bible.

2) We are to grow in holiness by prayer, reconciliation and sharing during Lent: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him in fervent prayer and listening to Him through the meditative reading of the Bible; b) by being reconciled with God through the sacrament of reconciliation and reconciled with others by asking their forgiveness for our offences. c) by sharing our love with others through selfless and humble service, almsgiving and helping those in need.

- Fr. Grace Guna

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Editor's Note

**Hello TCA members!
Happy Tamil New Year and
Happy Easter!**

We hope you enjoy it.

Thank you all for your contributions to this newsletter and for your continued support of the TCA Youth Group.

Changes to Catholic Masses in the United States

The most sweeping changes to the Catholic Mass in 40 years will be rolled out in 2011, the U.S. bishops announced Aug. 20th, 2010 after receiving formal approval from the Vatican.

The new English-language translation of the Roman Missal, the official text of prayers and responses used in the Mass, will be implemented on Nov. 27, 2011, the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. Beginning with the new liturgical year in November — the calendar churches use — American Catholics will say some very common phrases or sentences in a way that is in more in keeping with the Latin meaning.

“Essentially what the church has done in this translation is gotten closer to the literal translation of the Latin,” said Michael Diebold, director of communications for the Lansing Catholic Diocese, a 10-county area that includes Jackson, Mississippi.

American Catholics dropped Latin for English in the 1960s with the Second Vatican Council. This is the third edition of the Roman Missal — the instructional book and texts of the Mass. Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Vatican approval was granted on June 23, with additional changes approved on July 24.

Over the next year, priests and parishioners will work through the changes to the text, such as the prayer “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,” which will change to “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.” Other familiar passages, such as “Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again” will no longer be used. Changes to the wording of the Nicene and Apostles’ creeds have also been made.

The bishops said “no other edition of the Roman Missal may be used” in U.S. dioceses. Monsignor Anthony Sherman of the bishop’s liturgy office said dioceses should start planning now “so that when the time comes, everyone will be ready.”

Pope John Paul II ordered the new translations to encourage greater fidelity to the original Latin. Translations into local languages after the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s were too hastily and sloppily produced, according to the late pope.

Some U.S. bishops have objected to the changes as difficult to understand and pronounce, but the Vatican showed no willingness to keep the current Mass that’s familiar to millions of Catholics.

Also included in the new translation are prayers for holidays specific to the United States, such as Thanksgiving and Independence Day, as well as prayers to U.S. saints, including St. Damien of Hawaii, St. Katharine Drexel and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The new translation also includes a special Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life, to be celebrated each year on Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

By Alin Clement

Kids Page

By Mario Jayakumar, Grade VI

Word Search: Can you find these *Lent* words?

E L U O D W B E H O L D N L D
X H A Q E C E O V E A O K E S
C G E T S J L E R L I K N R T
L U V X S L E Y P T E O T L T
U A I S E A T R A I U W U S S
D L L A L V O L U N N S T K A
E H P J B D O C C S N G X Q T
Y E O W Q S P E W I A T N T I
R A G H N D I S C I P L E S S
G V Z O K I N G D O M H E F F
N E C I O J E R Z Q D I S M I
U N W D U G H A T A K P B Z E
H Z P D C B Q A J W Y R J X D
S T E H P O R P T U K X N R Y
X A V P O O R W D E E Y U S Z

BEHOLDBLESSEDCOASTALCONSOLATIONDENOUNCEDISCIPLESEVILEXCLUDEHATE
HEAVENHUNGRYINSULTJERUSALEMJUDEAKINGDOMLAUGHLEAPPOOR
PROPHETSREJOICESATISFIEDTWELVETYREWEepingWOE

THE BEATITUDES

THE BEATITUDES ARE EIGHT TEACHINGS BY JESUS FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. EACH OF THE BEATITUDES IS ABOUT A BLESSING AND JESUS WOULD GO TO THE MOUNTAIN SIDE TO PREACH ABOUT THE BEATITUDES AND HE WOULD ALSO TEACH ABOUT LOVE, GRACE, AND WISDOM. TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE BEATITUDES, UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS AND

O R O P _____
O U R M N _____
E K M E _____
U N H R E G _____
E R Y C M _____
E R A H T _____
K E R A M E P A C E _____
C T U D R S E E E P _____

Blessed are the merciful for the will be shown _____
Blessed are the _____, for they will be called children of God
Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the land
Blessed are they who _____, for they will be comforted
Blessed are the _____ in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Blessed are the clean of _____, for they will see God
Blessed are they who are _____ for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Blessed are those who _____ and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.