



“GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO

Just feel gratitude.

BUT FOR US TO SHOW IT BY GIVING THANKS
TO GOD WITH OUR LIVES.”



CELEBRATING WORLD ANGLO-INDIAN DAY 2023

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE FEDERATION OF ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA





THE CALCUTTA ANGLO-INDIAN SERVICE SOCIETY

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

CELEBRATING WORLD ANGLO-INDIAN DAY 2023

THE ST. JAMES' CHURCH
A. J. C. BOSE ROAD, KOLKATA

WEDNESDAY, 2nd AUGUST, 2023 AT 5.30 P.M. (IST)



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE FEDERATION OF ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA

INTRODUCTION

Jessie Hiranek Secretary CAISS

We once again are attempting this extraordinary coming together of members of our community from across the world. This ecumenical service has once again been put together to bring together our unique community to praise and thank God with gratitude in our hearts imploring God's Blessing on our community from all across the globe. Dear friends it is indeed a privileged for us to host this service in Kolkata from the very iconic St. James Church or Jora Girja as it is popularly known. Let us begin today by joining in the singing of our opening hymn as we welcome the celebrants to the altar.

OPENING HYMN - HERE WE ARE *(All Stand)*

Choir

And here we are, lifting our hands to You
Here we are, giving You thanks for all You do
And as we praise, and worship Your holy Name
You are here dwelling within our praise

For every answered prayer, for always being there
For love that hears us when we call
For arms that lift us when we fall, oh yeah
You have always been right beside us, leading us all along the way
And we made it through (we made it through)
Because of You (Because of You)

And here we are, lifting our hands to You
Here we are, giving You thanks for all You do
And as we praise, and worship Your holy Name
You are here dwelling within our praise

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION *(All Sit)*

Rev. Fr. Shreeraj Mohanty

OPENING PRAYER *(All Stand)*

Rev. Fr. Shreeraj Mohanty

Blessed and Glorious God, we come before you with thanksgiving in our hearts, seeking your presence at this hour. You make perfect and illumine all things. Your loving kindness never fails. Enable us with your grace as with humble hearts and readiness of wills we come, as a community to worship you and give you thanks and praise. Accept at this hour, the reading at your word and the perching of your Gospel and the offering of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. May your presence be revealed to us and may we worship you in spirit and truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and reign with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever. **Amen**

ADORATION & CONFESSION

Rev. Fr. Shreeraj Mohanty

Worthy of praise from every mouth, of confession from every tongue, of worship from every creature, is your glorious name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God for ever.

You created the world in your grace and by your compassion you redeemed it. Heaven and earth are full of your praises: glory be to you, O God most high.

O Lord, even though we are not worthy to praise you; but, for your mercy's sake, accept the praises of all your servants in this city and throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious Father, your might is beyond measure, your wisdom beyond knowledge, your love beyond all telling. You have put eternity into our hearts and made us hunger and thirst for you. Satisfy the longings you have implanted that we may find you in life and find life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant and our obedience incomplete. Day by day we fail to grow into your likeness; yet you are slow to be angry with your children. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour, do not hold our sins against us, but in your tender love, forgive. **Amen**

Absolution (*Remain Standing*)

May the Almighty God, bring you to the Cross of Jesus, that you may find salvation. Help you to know your sins and repent of them. Give you pardon and peace in your heart and on the day of judgment, show you His merc; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING (*All Sit*)

Mr. Gordon Maher President IFAIA

1 Corinthians 12:5-7 & 12-13

Different Kinds of Service

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So, it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM : PSALM 121 (*Remain Sitting*)

Ursula Fosberry Secretary FAIAI

I lift up my eyes to the mountains-
where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip-
he who watches over you will not slumber;

Indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you-
The LORD is your shade at your right hand;
The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all harm-
he will watch over your life;
The LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (All Stand)

Choir

Alleluia.... Alleluia.... Alleluia....

GOSPEL READING : (Remain Standing)
John 15:12-17

Rev. Fr. Brent Otto, S.J.

Love Each Other

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

This is the Gospel of The Lord. ***Praise be to you Lord Jesus.***

HOMILY (All Sit)

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS (All Sit)

Introduction to Intercessory Prayers

Rev. Fr. Orson Wells

Prayer is a powerful opportunity to talk to God,". "While most people know that prayer is our opportunity to ask God for help, we often forget that it is meant to be a transforming experience for us as well. When we take time to sit back and listen for a response from God, we are attempting to make prayer into a two-way conversation instead of a one-way monologue." Today we have come into His presence so that He may take control of our lives and keep us in His care

Creator God, be near to me. When I'm uncertain, offer me comfort. When I'm afraid, give me courage. I give you thanks for all of the good things in my life. I ask for help with the things that aren't so good. Be with our leaders, and help them to make good decisions. Lord we come to you in our weakness give us your strength.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Mr. Leslie Pereira Joint Convenor CAISS

Lord we pray for the Pope Bishops, Priests, Religious and for all those who lead our Church and nations. May they be filled with your Holy Spirit and be conscious of their duty to serve your people. May they renew their commitment to deliver, from their plight, those who are suffering and in need.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Dr. Charles Dias President/Chairman FAIAI

Heavenly Father we pray for all those present online today, our members, benefactors and those who touch lives in organisations working for our community across the World. We pray that you will give them strength to carry on the work you have entrusted to them. We remember those who have gone before us into the land of the living and pray that their souls may rest in peace.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Mrs. Joy Gasper Working Secretary IFAIA

We ask you, Lord, to bless the leaders of our community that they may strive and succeed in bringing our community closer in love and harmony. We pray very specially for the young people of our community in India and all over the world. May they acknowledge and be proud of their heritage and may they strive to carry on the mantle of taking our community forward and to greater heights.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Mr. Gilbert Faria FAIAI

Lord we place before you all our temporal and spiritual needs. We plead that in your mercy and bounty you may wipe away hunger, war, disease and strife and may you embrace us in your comfort, peace, joy and love. We pray that all those who live in the darkness of sin may experience the power of your saving love and walk in the true light of Christ.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Rod D'Croix IFAIA/CAIA

O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is still burdened with illness and with uncertainty. Come to our aid, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Hear our cry, O God. Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to control and eliminate the coronavirus.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Mrs. June Gallyot FAIAI

Sustain all workers and business owners who have suffered loss of livelihood due to shutdowns, quarantines, closed borders, and other restriction. Grant to all a satisfactory employment or work so as they may have enough and are able to sustain themselves and their families Lord for those who are unable to work grant them your provision and take care of their needs.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Joe Bailey IFAIA

Console Lord, all those who have lost their loved ones at this time. The pandemic has taken a toll on numerous families across the world and all of us have at some time or the other lost family or friends in heart wrenching circumstances bewildered and shocked even finding it difficult to mourn. Lord we place each longing heart aching with such loss into your care to console and heal.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Ms. Dolores Chew

We pray for a resolution to the situation in Manipur. A stop to the mindless killing and anarchy. We pray for all those suffering away from their homes in refugee camps struggling each day. We pray for children who have lost their parents that God may be kind to them and protect their future. We pray that Governments both at the State & Central may work towards finding a immediate solution to the situation and instill confidence in all people of the State.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Mrs. Sherry Antick CAISS

We pray for all of us gathered to celebrate this special day from across the world. Father God grant that we may become more sensitive to the needs of others and offer them help and support in times of need. We implore that the example of Jesus may inspire us always to use our gifts and talents in the service of others.

Response : In Your mercy hear our prayer O Lord.

Summing up of Intercessory Prayers

Rev. Fr. Orson Wells

HYMN - IN HIS TIME (All Stand)

Choir

In his time, in his time
He makes all things beautiful In his time
Lord please show me every day
as you're teaching me your way
that you do just what you say In your time.

In your time, in your time,
you make all things beautiful in your time
Lord my life to You I bring
with its winter and its spring,
may I fathom everything in your time.

There's a time, there's a time,
both for sowing and for reaping there's a time
Time for losing, time for gain,
Time for joy and time for pain,
every purpose under heaven has a time.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER (All Sit)

Introduction to Thanksgiving Prayers

Rev. Fr. Pat Walsh SJ.

Through these thanksgiving prayers, we will be sharing our love for one another by praying for each other at this time.

Let us Pray Gracious God, in these times when we find it difficult to pray in thanksgiving for your many gifts to us. Loving God, please understand.

We are thankful for family and friends and sad that, we miss some of them this year as we join in the celebration.

We are thankful for the freedom of our nation and worried about the deep divisions being driven between and among our people.

We are thankful for the kindness shown during times of difficulty and impatient that thing a changing back to our uncaring ways again.

Gracious God, Thank you for loving me when I am sad, distressed, worried, and impatient just as you love me when I am thankful.

Response : Gracious God, I thank you with all my heart. Amen

Thank You for Our Community

Dr. Oscar Nigli AIAIA / FAIAI

Father of all mercies, we offer up to you our community unique and diverse a bouquet of varied flowers, as a symbol of the many different talents. May it always feel your radiant presence in our lives and seek consultation in your refuge. Guide each member of our community, Lord to adapt to the new conditions of life and to continue doing your will.

Response : Gracious God, I thank you with all my heart. Amen

Thank You for Work

Mr. Harry MaClure AITW / FAIAI

Lord You gave us St. Joseph, the worker, as a model of all labour and employment. As we bring before you all those who labour, we thank you Lord for creating the means and the opportunity to sustain ourselves. May we endeavour to accomplish all you have set before us in your divine will, keeping in mind the account we must one day give of time lost, talents unused and the good omitted.

Response : Gracious God, I thank you with all my heart. Amen

Thank You for Your Care

Mr. Peter Loverly AIAC / IFAIA

Compassionate Lord, as we place at your altar, the difficulties and situations members of our community may face. May we be reminded that whatever we do to the least of our brothers that we do unto you. As we bow our heads in prayer we bring before you our brethren who are victims of misfortune and calamity and those who have not had the opportunity to realize and nurture their true potential. Grant us the charity, humility and compassion to develop as a community empowered by your care.

Response : Gracious God, I thank you with all my heart. Amen

Thank You for Knowledge

Dr. Geffory Francis IFAIA

God the divine teacher and source of all wisdom, we offer to you all our children who study in these difficult times, thank you for the tools of learning and means of gaining knowledge. We thank you for the faculties of intelligence and discernment that you have bestowed on us and the talents and virtues that you have blessed us with. We ask that you would bless all those who enjoy your gift of a good education. May they realize that there is no greater knowledge than the knowledge of you and may they use their education for the greater glory of your name.

Response : Gracious God, I thank you with all my heart. Amen

Thank You for Your Blessings on our Youth

Mr. Nelson D' Nacio CAISS

Father God we are conscious of your divine presence in our midst. We pray that the youth of today may not rely entirely on their own abilities, strength, intelligence and talents but with humility surrender themselves to the overwhelming presence of God and acknowledge Him as their Lord and Master. May more young people respond to your call of holiness and devote their life to the spreading of God's Kingdom.

Response : Gracious God, I thank you with all my heart. Amen

Summing up of Thanksgiving Prayers

Rev. Fr. Pat Walsh SJ.

THANKSGIVING HYMN - THANK YOU LORD *(All Stand)*

Choir

I come before You today
And there's just one thing that I want to say
Thank You Lord Thank You Lord

For all You've given to me
For all the blessings that I cannot see
Thank You Lord Thank You Lord

With a grateful heart With a song of praise
With an outstretched arm
I will bless Your name

Thank You Lord I just wanna thank You Lord
Thank You Lord I just wanna thank You Lord
Thank You Lord

THE SIGN OF PEACE *(All Stand)*

Rev. Fr. Patrick Eaton SJ.

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

(All to share the sign of peace by the shaking of hands)

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All Sit)*

Introduction to Offertory Prayers

Rev. Fr. Patrick Eaton SJ.

Almighty God, generous in your grace and giver of every good gift under heaven we seek your face the afternoon hour. Undeserving though we are you have imputed upon us your servants your goodness and in your immeasurable love paved the way for the redemption of humankind through Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray that you would give us an awareness of your mercies. We bring before you these elements of flowers, candles fruits, bread and collection which are symbolic of the preserving mercies in our life.

Response : O Lord, we humbly ask you to accept these offerings

CANDLES

Mr. Glynn Taylor

These Candles are a reminder that You O Lord are the Light of the World and that we must be beacons of your light. May we, as a community strive to contribute to the building up of people and our nations through engaging in empowering and serving others. We thank you for those who light up many lives through their generosity. May the light of our community so shine, that the world may see our good works and glorify you, our Father in Heaven.

Response : O Lord, we humbly ask you to accept these offerings.

FRUITS

Mr. Noel Cranenburgh

Fruits are a reminder of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the blessings that God calls us to claim. It would not be right for us to claim these gifts and not share them. In sharing them, may we bring joy through providing employment to those who are unemployed, peace through counseling and new life through empowering, uplifting and building up a person's human dignity for a better quality of life. May our fruitfulness as a community be a source of blessing and inspiration to society as large.

Response : O Lord, we humbly ask you to accept these offerings.

BREAD

Mr. Justin Jude

Bread first of all is a reminder of your body which was broken for us so that we may have eternal life. Although we are sinners, yet Lord You provide for us. We should, therefore, share what we have with those who do not have. May our hearts always be open to the needs of those who are struggling for existence, especially those within our community. May the bread we offer remind us of Your desire that we should feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bring joy to those in sorrow.

Response : O Lord, we humbly ask you to accept these offerings.

FLOWERS

Ms. Yvonne Cranenburgh

Heavenly father we offer you these Flowers which are now being brought to this alter by different members who are all part of this our unique community each flower Lord, so different from the other yet as we place them in this basket at your feet Lord they are transformed into a beautiful offering to You our creator. For the calling You gave our founders and the outpouring of Your grace to give them the strength to accept the challenge to step out in faith. For the times of uncertainty and doubt You gave us the grace to trust You. For the times of difficulty we faced You gave us the grace to be strong. For the times when there was loneliness and no one to seek advice from You gave us the grace of a prayerful heart and a listening ear. For the times there was a shortage of food and resources, You gave us the grace of being able to provide the basic needs. For the times there was ignorance and failure You gave us the grace of being able to educate and learn. For the times when there was sickness and suffering You gave us the grace to be able to provide treatment and care. Lord we give you all the glory. You are our strength, You are our joy, You are our peace, You are our provider, You are our protector and You are our God.

These Flowers are a reminder that You are the Creator and You have created all things well. Everywhere we look, we see your creation. O Lord, we especially thank You for creating us the Anglo-Indian Community. May we flourish and be flowers in your garden of people, bringing joy, love, peace and hope to all whom we meet.

Response : O Lord, we humbly ask you to accept these offerings.

Summing up of Offertory Prayers

Rev. Fr. Patrick Eaton SJ.

Heavenly Father, you are the giver of all good things. You did not spare your own Son, but gave Him up for us all, and with Him you lavished every other gift upon us. You have taught us that happiness lies more in giving than receiving. Make us ready of heart and cheerful of spirit to give all that we ought for the good of your house, the growth of your kingdom, and the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (All Stand)

All led by Rev. Fr. Patrick Eaton SJ.

Let us join in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive, those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen...**

UNITY PRAYER (All Stand)

Rev. Fr. Nigel Pope

Let us join in reciting the Unity Prayer.

Lord God, we thank you for calling us, the Anglo-Indian community, into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will. You have made us strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.

Lord we place this community in your care to mold according to your plan and use mightily to do your will. You have protected us through all these uncertain times and continue to bless us and the work we continue to do in Your name. Bring us together Lord to serve you in the lives of those who we so often forget.

Grant us the grace as a community to constantly strive for things that unite us and not dwell on the things that divide. We pray Thee O Lord, that You would guide us closer to You and to one another in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace and love, and strengthen us together in mission and service to your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY (All Sit)

Rev. Fr. Nigel Pope

GREETINGS ON WORLD ANGLO-INDIAN DAY (All Sit)

**Mr. Gordon Maher President IFAIA
Dr. Charles Dias President/Chairman FAIAI
Mr. Barry O'Brien President In-Chief AIAIA**

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. Colin Fitzgerald

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PROTECTION (All Stand)

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Dias Chaplain, FAIAI

Almighty God, please cover us.
Come enclose us now within your mighty care.
Thank you that your hand is upon our lives.
Gracious Father, please protect us.

Come be with us in every moment of our days.
Thank you that your grace is like a shield all around us.
Prince of Peace, please bless us.

Come keep our health in perfect balance.
Thank you for the gift of life. We are truly grateful.

O Holy One, please keep us.
Come and settle our minds with your peace.
Thank you that you free us from all fear.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, please encircle us.

Come surround us with your strength and power.
Thank you that you are with us always.

Mary our Heavenly protector and Mother of Good Health
We Come to you and implore you to intercede for us.
Keep us in you care and bless us with Good Health. **Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER & BENEDICTION (*All Stand*)

Fr. Orson Wells

Lord God, we give you thanks for revealing your glory to us in our worship. We thank you for deepening our understanding of the need to be united as a community of Anglo-Indians. We pray O Lord, that as we depart today that you would grant to each one of us your gifts of patience when people are indifferent to Your claims, compassion as the world becomes more selfish, sympathy for the needs of all creation and love in a world of ever increasing hatred and prejudice which reflects your forgiveness and mercy.

Go out in the world in peace. Be brave; keep hold of what is good; never pay back wrong for wrong; encourage the fainthearted, support the weak and the distressed especially of the Anglo-Indian community; give due honour to everyone. Be always joyful; pray continually; give thanks whatever happens; for this is what God in Christ wills you.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you, especially the Anglo-Indian community near and far; this day and forever more. **AMEN.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN HOW GREAT THOU ART (*All Stand*)

Choir

Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Refrain :

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

WISHING YOU A HAPPY WORLD ANGLO INDIAN DAY



THE CALCUTTA ANGLO-INDIAN SERVICE SOCIETY

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