

VISION 2020

The Diocese of Raiwind, Church of Pakistan | Issue 2 | Spring 2019

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COVER STORY: REVIVAL AFTER THREE DECADES | PAGE 8

**REV. YAQOOB SAMUEL,
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
RAIWIND**

REJOICING AT THE TIME OF HARVESTING WHEAT CROP AFTER MANY YEARS

**"He that goeth forth
and weepeth, bearing
precious seed, shall
doubtless come again
with rejoicing, bringing
his sheaves with him"**

Psalm 126:6



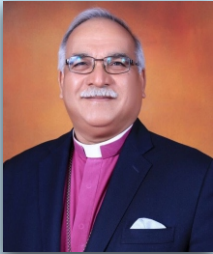
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God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

R Diocese of
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EASTER MESSAGE 2019

BISHOP DR AZAD MARSHALL
BISHOP OF RAIWIND

Across the world the sound of worship will draw us all together into the common remembrance of Jesus Christ being our Lord, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World.

From Palm Sunday, when I processed with the congregation of St Peter's Church, throughout Holy Week, till we find ourselves peering into an empty tomb. On Easter Sunday we will congregate across the Diocese of Raiwind. We will participate, through reading, hearing and proclaiming God's truths as brought to us in His Holy Scriptures, the Holy Bible.

Our songs, our prayers and our reflections, our convictions and our faith will be going up before the Lord. Women and men who believe in Jesus are singing out in celebration that Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed! Let us join together in singing and celebrating the same. Let us proclaim to our selves and our neighbor 'That Jesus Christ is risen, and Jesus Christ is Lord'. Let the preaching of the Gospel be an active proclamation of faith and our firm belief in God's completed work of restoration on the cross of Christ and His Resurrection.

As Lesley and I send you our Easter morning greetings and love, we are mindful of those in parts of the world where it costs to lead the people in worship, where it costs to lead your families to church, where it costs to proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord. We are mindful of the mingling of grief and rejoicing that people around the world face. We are particularly touched this season by the weight of what Christ has accomplished and the fullness of the Gospel truth in turning us back from sin and from being adrift and forging His Church.

Our Lenten reflections have led us to acknowledge and remember that we are placed upon the earth, yet we are to manifest the resurrection power of Christ by rising from our despair and grief and living in the heavenlies, even in the midst of all the suffering we face daily. I recently witnessed a play by young Seminarians which brought us face to face with the daily struggles of people, from poverty, to modern day slavery, from challenges that women in our midst face and overcome daily, to lack of education, from lack of resources to lack of will. Sometimes, we brush the suffering and brokenness of our world under the carpet and become immune to it. We forget to engage with the grief it causes us and our communities or even the grief it causes the heart of God. Yes the reminder there at the play, and here in my own Christian life is this, that His resurrection life enables us to overcome the brokenness of these times, the fear, the frustration and the failure.

Here it is, as we kneel at His cross, and rise in awe at His empty tomb, and say like St Thomas 'My Lord and my God' that His resurrection life flows through us and enables us to bear heartfelt mercy, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, that we may bear with one another and forgive one another as the Lord has forgiven us. Over all this we are to put on love...that Christ's peace may reign in our hearts (Col 3: 13-15).

Dear friends, regardless of where you may be led to be active in the loving of your neighbor, in praying for those who are hostile to you and in recognizing that God is at work: renewing, restoring and reviving all that looks grim and hopeless, remember.

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

CONFIRMATION SERVICES (2018 - 2019)



In the period 2018-2019, Bishop Azad Marshall confirmed almost 500 children in the three Districts of, Lahore, Kahna Nau and Raiwind. The confirmation services took place in various churches in the Diocese. Of the 500 young people who were confirmed, 70 were confirmed in St Mary's Church, Raiwind; 50 in St John's Church, Liaquatabad, Lahore and 25 were confirmed in St Mary Magdalene Church, District Raiwind.

Confirmation is a re-affirmation of the baptismal vows which were taken on behalf of the candidates by their parents and godparents. The candidates now confirm that they are renewing those vows for themselves and promise to live by those vows in the presence of God, the Bishop and the congregation. After they have promised to serve the Lord and renounce the world, the flesh and the devil, the Bishop lays hands on each one individually and prays for the Holy Spirit to come upon them and help them live Christ-like lives.

The confirmees were warmly greeted and garlanded by their families and Church members. Pray for the confirmees that they may continue to grow in their faith and walk closely with the Lord.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER (2018)



The Annual Christmas Dinner hosted by the Diocese of Raiwind was held on 17 December 2018 in the grounds of the CREC Girl's Hostel.

The evening opened with prayer by Rt Rev Dr Azad Marshall, Bishop of Raiwind, after which he welcomed the Chief Guest, Mian Muhammad Soomro, Federal Minister for Privatisation and Aviation, and other distinguished guests and over 400 Diocesan employees. The choirs of St Peter's School and Lucie Harrison School led in the singing of Christmas carols.

In his Christmas Message, Bishop Azad Marshall emphasized that Christmas is a time of celebration of God's love shown to the world by sending His Son into the world that by Him the world might be saved.

The Chief Guest, Mian Muhammad Soomro, expressed his thanks to Bishop Azad Marshall for inviting him and extended Christmas and New Year Greetings to all present.

Bishop Azad Marshall expressed his appreciation for the ministry and services of the Diocese of Raiwind family who worked faithfully for the glory of God. Together with the Chief Guest, he distributed Christmas gifts to the Clergy and Institution heads, who in turn thanked him for arranging this beautiful Christmas programme.

CLERGY LENTEN RETREAT

CLERGY LENTEN RETREAT, DIOCESE OF RAWIND, CHURCH OF PAKISTAN HELD ON FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2019, AT CENTRAL CATHEDRAL OF PRAYING HANDS, LAHORE.

A Clergy Lenten Retreat was arranged at the Central Cathedral of Praying Hands, Lahore, on 15 March 2019, for the clergy from all three Districts of the Diocese of Raiwind. Rev Canon Christopher Edgar, Priest in Charge of Central Cathedral welcomed all those who were present and opened the Retreat with prayer.

The Retreat commenced with readings from the Book of Jude, which had been chosen for meditation during the Retreat. The letter was divided into three sections, each section being read by one of the three District Superintendents, namely, Rev Yaqoob Samuel, DS Raiwind District; Rev Ayyaz Gill, DS Lahore District and Rev Shamaoon. Munawar, DS Kahna Nau District.

Bishop Azad Marshall led the study and gave an insight into the complete history and background of this Book. He conducted a verse by verse exposition and challenged the clergy about their ministry and calling.

Bishop Azad Marshall, assisted by Rev Canon Christopher Edgar and Rev Ayyub Masih celebrated Holy Communion for the clergy. Intercessory prayer

was led by Rev Saleem Akhtar. Participants were divided into groups to meditate on the Word of God from the Book of Jude.

In closing, the martyrs of the attack on the mosque in Christ Church, New Zealand, were remembered and prayer was offered for the families who had lost loved ones.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS



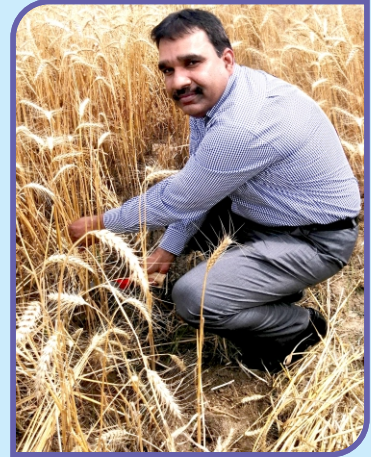
The Executive Committee of the Diocese of Raiwind met on 18 March 2019 at Dar-ul-Mussarat Training Institute under the Chairmanship of the Diocesan Bishop, Rt Rev Dr Azad Marshall, who opened the meeting in prayer, followed by a brief devotion and time of prayer.

During the meeting the Executive Committee elected the Rev Emmanuel Sardar Khokhar to be the new Vice-Chairman (Clergy) and Mrs Parsica Kamran as Diocesan Treasurer. Bishop Azad Marshall appointed Rev Ayyaz Gill and Rev Shamaoon Munawar as District Superintendents of Lahore and Khana Nau respectively. We congratulate them all as they take on their new responsibilities.

Bishop Azad Marshall closed the meeting with prayer. He invoked the Holy Spirit to guide and enable the Executive Committee as they carried out the duties entrusted to them in the administration of Diocesan matters, and to enable and empower those involved in evangelistic ministry to faithfully fulfil the vision and mission of the Body of Christ.



HARVEST TIME



The cover page shows Rev Yaqoob Samuel holding sheaves of wheat which have just been harvested at the Agriculture Farm at the Mission Compound, Diocese of Raiwind. This was the first crop of wheat to be harvested after many years. This had been made possible by the intallation of a new tube-well at the Mission Compound. It was dedicated on 7 November 2018 by Bishop Azad Marshall, in the presence of the Executive Committee members, Heads of Schools and Diocesan officers.

After giving thanks to God for the wheat crop and for all who had labored in the fields, Bishop Azad Marshall began the harvesting by cutting the first sheaf, and was soon joined by others who were present.



DEDICATION OF CHRISTIAN TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE



On 7th November 2018, the newly renovated Christian Technical Training Institute in the Diocese of Raiwind, was formally opened and dedicated. Bishop Michael, who had been the first Bishop of Raiwind, was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Bishop Mano Rimal Shah, clergy and officers of the Diocese were also present.

After the opening of the Institute, the assembled guests were invited to proceed to the Meeting Hall, where a ribbon had been placed across the entrance. Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali was requested to cut the ribbon, after which he prayed. Admitting the guests into the hall, Bishop Azad announced that this hall was being dedicated to Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali in recognition of his services to the Diocese as its first Bishop. After a prayer of dedication, Mr Amanat Gujjar unveiled a portrait of Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, which was then put up in the hall.



INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

On 18 March 2019, the Diocese of Raiwind arranged an Interfaith Conference at 17 Waris Road, Lahore, to discuss core issues that hinder peace between the two faith communities. Religious leaders of the Muslim community and Clergy from the Diocese of Raiwind came together and discussed various areas of interfaith conflicts and the solutions to overcome them.

Efforts for the two faith communities to live together in harmony and to work together for the good of society are being affected by the insecurity of Christians who, because of the religious intolerance and extremism in the past, live in constant fear of conflict that may erupt at any time without warning and just cause.

Bishop Azad Marshall offered full support to help make Pakistan a place where people of all religions, caste and creed, could live together in peaceful co-existence. The Muslim leadership agreed to develop interfaith harmony and raise awareness among the people that religious intolerance was not only harming Pakistan but humanity. All recognized the need to build an atmosphere of tolerance for each other's faith, and saw dialogue as one of the best means to achieve this.

Pakistan is standing on the brink of the most critical time in its history. Tolerance and respect for one another will lay the foundation for a serene and tranquil society and help improve Pakistan's image in the world comity of nations.



SHAM-E-CALVERY



The congregations of the Diocese of Raiwind came together at the Mission Compound on 22 March 2019 to attend Sham-e-Calvery for an evening of music and worship. Bishop Azad Marshall was the Guest of Honour and was warmly welcomed by the Choir Leader and organizer of Sham-e-Calvery, Mr Johnson. The organizing Committee of the programme presented Bishop Azad Marshall with a bouquet of flowers and a memento.

Renowned Ghazal legend, Ustad Ghulam Ali Khan, Singer Muhammad Ali and Actor Nayer Ijaz were also present.

Rev Yaqoob Samuel spoke about the development of the infrastructure in the Diocese and the establishment of the Christian Technical Training Institute in Raiwind. He expressed appreciation of Bishop Azad Marshall's efforts to foster both the spiritual and social development of the clergy and people of the Diocese.

Bishop Azad Marshall shared a message from the Word of God, quoting Matthew 3:17



MOTOR CYCLE DISTRIBUTION & OPENING OF COMPUTER TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN



On 12th October 2018, Bishop Dr. Azad Marshall fulfilled his promise of providing motorcycles to Catechists and opening a Computer lab for Women.

All the clergy with the members of Executive Committee of the Diocese of Raiwind gathered for the distribution of Motorcycles to Catechists. Eight motorcycles were handed over to the Catechists. This will facilitate their ministry far flung rural areas of the Diocese.

After this a new Computer Lab was inaugurated in one of the class rooms of Lucie Harrison Girls High School. This will enable young girls to be trained in secretarial and administrative work. These girls will be able to stay in Lucie Harrison Girls Hostel, which had been closed down.

IFFTAR DINNER



Bishop Dr Azad Marshall, Bishop of Raiwind Diocese, Church of Pakistan & President National Council of Churches in Pakistan hosted an Iftar & Dinner on Wednesday May 29, 2019 in Hospitality Inn, Lahore.

A large number of scholars, Lawyers, Journalists, Judges, Writers from various faiths attended this event. Also, among the participants were Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad Grand Imam and Khateeb Baadshahe Mosque Lahore., Allama Dr Muhmmad Hussain Naeemi, Mr. Mohsin Muhmmad Mohsin Leghari, Minister for Irrigation, Punjab, Malik Arshad (Ex President Lahore Bar Association), Mr Jamshed Rehmat Ullah, Advocate Supreme Court, Barrister Harris Azamat, Ch. Javed Elahi , Maulana Asim Makhdoom, Chairman Interfaith Dialogue Forum, Dr. Badar Munir, Mr Amir Hayat Hiraj, Ex – MAP & Chairman Punjab Food Authority, Mr Zaheer Abbas, Member District Council, Khanewal (Ex-Minister) Pujab Khalil Tahir Sindhu, Rev Dr Majeed Abel, Moderator Presbyterian Church, Rev Shahid Mehraj, Dean Lahore Cathedral, Fr. Francis Nadeem (OFMCAP), Prof. Kalyan Singh Kalyan, Amar Nath Randhwa, Peer Shafaiat Rasool Noori, Rev Emmanuel Khokhar (Vice Chairman, Clergy - Diocese of Raiwind), and members of the Executive Committee, Diocese of Raiwind, Church of Pakistan. Syed Mahmood Ghazvi presented a Interfaith Harmony Peace Award to Bishop Dr Azad Marshall form National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony Pakistan. Mr Samson Salamat presented a medal for all the peace and interfaith efforts by Bishop Dr Azad Marshall.



EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACK IN SRI LANKA AND NEW ZEALAND



Not long after the attack on a mosque in Christ Church, New Zealand, terrorists attacked several churches while worshipers were celebrating Easter services, in which many lives were lost and many were injured.

Expressing his solidarity with the victims of the attacks, Bishop Azad Marshall said “our hearts are full of sorrow for our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka, who have suffered the loss of loved ones in the dastardly attack on churches which took place in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday. We pray for God's comfort and strength for all the families who have lost loved ones and those who have been injured.”

This inane massacre will surely go down as one of the saddest events in the annals of the history of the Church in Sri Lanka. This attack took place on Easter Sunday when Christians were celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour is deplorable, but Easter brings a message of peace and hope. The Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ, suffered for the sins of the world, and while He was suffering at the hands of evil men called out “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”, and has left an example for us to follow.

A former Bishop in Iran, the late Bishop Dehqani-Tafti, had to leave his country after he was attacked. A year later his only son Behram was killed. He was unable to attend his son's funeral but wrote the poem below and had it broadcast from BBC at the time of the funeral, demonstrating the love and forgiveness that our Lord showed his persecutors while suffering at their hands.

A Father's Prayer Upon the Murder of his Son

O God, we remember not only Bahram but also his murderers;

not because they killed him in the prime of his youth

and made our hearts bleed and our tears flow.

Not because with this savage act they have brought further disgrace

on the name of our country among the civilized world;

But because through their crime we now follow thy foot- steps

more closely in the way of sacrifice.

The terrible fire of the calamity burns up

all selfishness and possessiveness in us;

Its flame reveals the depth of depravity and meanness and suspicion,
the dimension of hatred and the measure of sinfulness in human nature;

It makes obvious as never before our need to trust in God's love

as shown in the cross of Jesus and his resurrection;

Love which makes us free from hate towards our persecutors;

Love which brings patience, forbearance, courage,

loyalty, humility, generosity of heart;

Love which more than ever deepens our trust in God's final victory

and his eternal designs for the Church and for the world;

Love which teaches us how to prepare ourselves to face our own day of death.

O God, Bahram's blood has multiplied the fruit of the Spirit in the soil of our souls;

so when his murderers stand before thee on the Day of Judgment,

remember the fruit of the Spirit by which they have enriched our lives.

And Forgive...



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A NEW BEGINNING



**CHRISTIAN TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE OF RAIWIND
&
COMPUTER TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN**

ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN NOW

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