



**The Church of South India**

**Department of Ecological Concerns**

**DIGITAL BULLETIN**

**ECO ACTIVITIES 2021**





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# Climate Justice Campaign on COP 26

Organized by Church of South India, Department of Ecological Concerns

**W**e are at a critical moment in history. The clock is ticking on climate action. Temperatures are soaring. Storms are raging. Furthermore, crops are failing. Moreover, if we do not take this chance, every single one of us will be affected. The Church has a part to play along with the Governments to work for net-zero emissions. For a brighter future for our children and grandchildren, we have to act now.

## **Aim**

The CSI is campaigning for Climate Resilient Schools and Communities. The COP26 shall be an inspiration for the project.

## **Background**

The Church of South India, having a membership of 4.3 million, has been actively engaging in Climate Justice Ministry since 2011. Since 1992, the CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns seeks to create awareness among all people about environmental and ecological concerns and thereby to care for God's Creation. The CSI endeavours to encourage people to refrain from the abuse of nature's resources and to strive to keep the Earth a habitable place for all, by encouraging parishes to incorporate ecological concerns in their order of worship and include both advocacy and direct action

for social justice and the integrity of Creation in missional activities. We encourage the active participation of all people of goodwill through Prayer, partnership, and involvement, which will help humanity to return to an eco-friendly lifestyle.

The Church of South India, Department of Ecological Concerns is empowering congregations to take a prophetic stand against Climate injustice. We support any development that fulfils the requirement of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The CSI Department of Ecological Concerns focuses on educating various sustainable development goals of the UN, through Eco-Ministry, campaigns for Climate Justice ministry, Green Protocol and Green School Programme.

## **The Church of South India**

As a church community, we believe that God creates all life on Earth. As a part of our Christian faith and discipleship, we have to ensure the protection of the environment, and the sustainable and equitable use of resources. The injustices of the climate crisis, including vast global inequalities and the threat to future generations, offer an imperative to action to seek justice for those suffering and the threat posed to God's Creation.



## About the Project

We have arranged a series of lectures through Zoom for the members of 23 Dioceses in five states of South India since May 2021. We anticipate that the Climate Justice campaign on COP 26 will help us implement 23 model Climate Resilient Schools or communities in 23 centres in South India in 2022.

## What is Resilience

Resilience is strengthening human and non-human systems' ability to withstand and respond to changes in the Earth's climate. It can be seen as a way to bridge the conceptual divide between mitigation approaches to climate change on the one hand and adaptation approaches on the other.

Mitigation is to address climate change by cutting down greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to avoid the gravest effects of a changing climate, humanity needs to limit the average global surface temperature to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, but preferably 1.5°C. In order to do that, we need to cut our greenhouse gas emissions above 50 percent by 2050, lest we face serious risks, including more intense storms, droughts, and heat waves, all of which pose looming threats to human civilization and the environment.

On the other hand, adaptation acknowledges that, even if we immediately cut our carbon emissions altogether, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases would remain well above normal levels for decades to come. In short, we need to adapt to a changing climate, or else we risk severe damage.

Adaptation approaches vary based on geography, time, funding resources, levels of political support, and dozens of other factors. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to adaptation.

Resilience recognizes that mitigation and adaptation are two sides of the same coin.

We will need both mitigation and adaptation to surmount the enormous challenges of climate change.

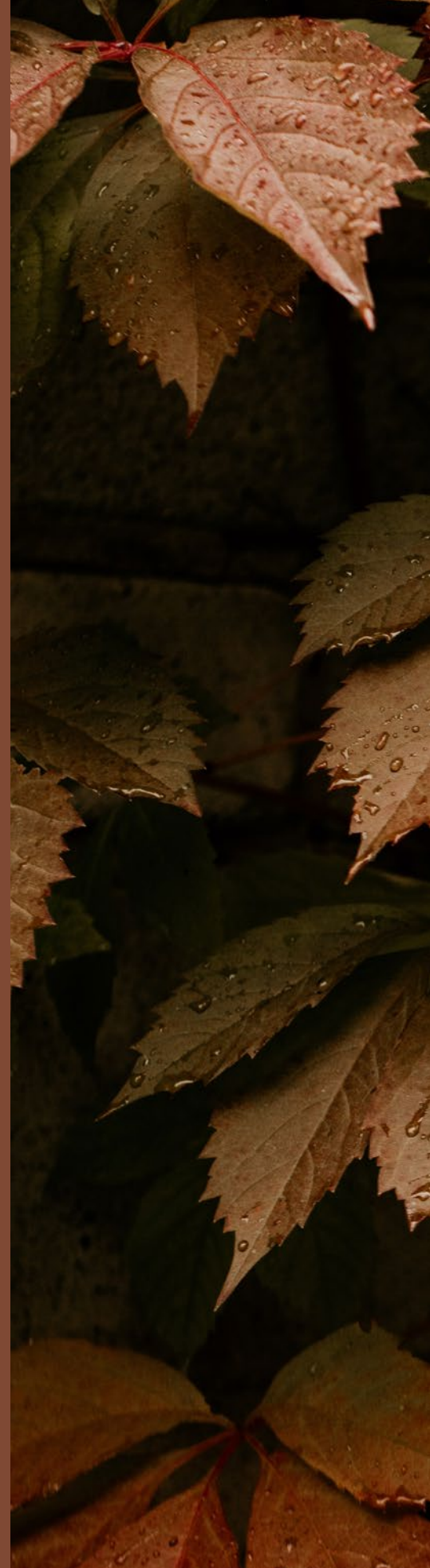
The CSI Synod has taken up Climate Justice Ministry as a project by giving training to Clergy and teachers.

Then we have taken up the Green Protocol Campaign. Though environmental damage and degradation were considered as among the worst elements within a vision of the future, sustainability was still not considered as a factor for progress. Hence, the benefits of integrated environmental, economic, and social development need to be better communicated, particularly in terms of how they relate to sustainability within one's lifestyle. Implementation of Green Protocol provides a unique opportunity to inform and empower young people—and all people—to create their sustainable lifestyles and communities. In the life and ministry of the Church, the CSI would like to promote sustainable development practices and to build power for change.

We are planning to take up Climate Resilient Schools and Communities, which is different from the Green School Programme. In the Green School programme, students are doing auditing on air, water, waste, energy, land and food. They are relating it with their curriculum and preparing their School for Green rating. We have already converted five hundred schools of CSI into green schools.

In climate Resilient Schools and Communities, the students of the School are practising the Green Protocol of CSI, Carbon neutrality, mitigation and adaptation. These Children will have to transform their houses in the same way they do in schools—a community transformation through students. We are planning to create some community resilient model schools and model communities by 2022.

**Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad**  
*Honorary Director, CSI Synod,  
Department of Ecological Concerns.*



## WEBINAR 1, 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

### Good News for the Earth

*Rev. Dr Chilkuri Vasanth Rao*

In the Garden Eden, there was peaceful coexistence. By going to the wilderness, Jesus was reconciling with nature. Jesus ministry was good news to the Earth, said Vasantha Rao in his Bible study on Mark 1:1-15. Rt Rev. Dr Reuban Mark, Deputy Moderator, inaugurated the Webinar. YouTube link is given below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiirzUzGLdU>



## WEBINAR 2, 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

### The Earth has Music for Those Who Listen

*Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismail*

Please leave behind a healthy environment for all the children yet to be born. For that, you have to manage yourself and then manage others, said Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismayil, famous Indian soil biologist and ecologist. Rev. Davidson Solanki, Asia Manager of USPG, London inaugurated the Programme. Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismayil delivered the keynote address. 320 Teachers attended the Zoom Webinar.

<https://youtu.be/TEzXZoDGo2E>



## WEBINAR 3, 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

### Seek Knowledge from the Cradle to the Grave

*Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismail*

Air, Water and Soil are considered nonliving organisms. Without them, you cannot live in this world. Hence they are living things. We breathe 550 litres of oxygen per day. When we take the cost of an oxygen cylinder, we breathe oxygen worth Rs. 13 lakhs per day. A tree is giving oxygen worth Rs. 24 crore per year. People look at a tree, how much money we get when we cut it. Seven hundred students attended the class of Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismayil. Mr Johny Tom Varghese, IAS Tamilnadu



cadre, inaugurated the Programme.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxVf-zqojjY>



## WEBINAR 4, 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

### Lord's Prayer Emphasizes on Our, Us, We. Protest Against the Individualistic Cult

*Rev. Dr Daniel Rathanakara Sadananda*

**C**ontext of teaching the Model prayer. Galilee was under imperial rule. Peasant and fishing communities face pressures from imperial structures and tax systems... The interpretive background. The wilderness experience of learning to live as an eco just community... A war against the powers that subdue the Earth. Dr Sadananda gave an excellent insight into the Clergy in his dynamic interpretation. The Rt Rev. Sharma Nithyanandham, Bishop



of CSI Vellore Diocese, inaugurated the Programme.

<https://youtu.be/q211HL4lKKI>

## WEBINAR 5, 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

### Biodiversity and Climate Change

*Dr Ranjit Daniels*

**P**rotect wetlands and rivers, Stop polluting the sea, Reduce burning fossil fuels, Shift to less energy and intensive lifestyles, Reduce intensive farming of livestock, Plant trees wherever appropriate, create awareness in future generations and build capacity for climate resilience in rural areas are some steps mentioned by Dr Ranjit Daniels, Managing Trustee of care earth, for mitigating the Climate Change. The Rt Rev. Dr D. Chandrasekharan, Bishop of Trichy



Diocese inaugurated the Programme.

<https://youtu.be/o8JOkWHDT3w>

## WEBINAR 6, 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

### Energy and Climate Change

*Mr C. Jayaraman*

**F**or ecosystem restoration, we have to understand the energy, environment, climate, water, ecosystem, Ocean, river, rain, humidity and human beings. Mr C. Jayaraman, Chief executive director, Equinoct said during his class. The Rt Rev. Dr A. R. Chelliah, Bishop of Kanyakumari Diocese, inaugurated the Programme.



<https://youtu.be/PwbhgFssSKo>





## WEBINAR 7, 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

### Reconnecting with Waters John 9: 1-11

*Rev. Dr David Joy*

In John's Gospel living water is a symbol. In our context it is a political symbol. Connect water with the Creation of Earth. Anything related to water demonstrates the beauty of Creation. Preserve water for the future. Rev. Dr David Joy delivered the keynote address. The Rt Rev. Dr A. C. Solomon Raj, Bishop CSI Medak Diocese inaugurated the Programme.



<https://youtu.be/coWkaekbbAg>

## WEBINAR 8, 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2021

### Landslides are Nature's Safety Valve

*Mr C. Jayaraman*

We should understand the difference between Science and Pseudoscience. No animals other than human beings can convert energy from one form to another to increase their living comfort. Hurricanes help keep the Earth's temperature stable by moving heat energy from the equator to the pole. The Rt Rev. Dr Prasannakumar Samuel, Bishop of CSI Central Karnataka inaugurated the Programme.



<https://youtu.be/I7ew4ss2CYg>

## WEBINAR 9, 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

### Our Vulnerability is Much Higher than Any Other Country

*Dr Madhusoodan C. G*

Water resources in India - One of the world's largest human-modified systems. A very small change in monsoon will affect us badly, said Dr Madhusoodan, chief executive officer of Equinoct. The Rt Rev. Isaac Veraprasad, Bishop of CSI Rayalseema Diocese, inaugurated the Programme.



[https://youtu.be/q6\\_AU2kBZVA](https://youtu.be/q6_AU2kBZVA)



## WEBINAR 10, 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

### Eco Justice Reading of Groaning of Creation

*Rev. Dr Alfred Stephen*

We live in a time where pandemic spread all over the world. People are living in uncertainty. Death is not a distant reality. Ecological hermeneutics is highly relevant to the biblical text on Groaning of Creation. Ecological reading of Paul's letter in a wider context is relevant today. The Ecojustice principle of interconnectedness is applicable here. The passage calls attention to non-human beings. Rev Dr Alfred Stephen, Vice Principal of TTS, Madurai, delivered the keynote address. The Rt Rev. Timothy Ravinder,



Bishop of CSI Coimbatore Diocese, inaugurated the Programme.

<https://youtu.be/pBBeWjzIy-w>

## WEBINAR 11, 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

### Ocean and Climate Change

*Dr Sreeja K. G*

We always talk about forests and their role in reducing Carbon dioxide. Ocean and Climate change is a serious issue that has to be adequately understood. Dr Sreeja K. G presented the topic on Ocean and Climate Change. Dr Sreeja has a PhD in Agricultural Systems Management from the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore and a three-year post-doctoral fellowship in climate change impact assessment at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India. She is a scientist and actively working with Equinoct. Warming of ocean waters



increase the number of occurrence of severe cyclones and increase in their intensity. Bishop T. George Cornelious the Bishop in CSI Krishna Godavari Diocese, inaugurated the Programme. The participants appreciated the class.

<https://youtu.be/vg4oA68Ohd8>

## WEBINAR 12, 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

### Water and Climate Change

*Dr Madhusudan C. G*

The whole history of the Earth, humans, came last. Human involvement in the last hundred years made a tremendous change in the temperature of the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are responsible for the increase in temperature. Dr Madhusoodhanan C. G, a Scientist, presented a paper on Water and Climate







Change. Rt Rev. S. E. C. Devasahayam, Bishop of CSI Diocese of Thoothukudy-Nazareth, inaugurated the Programme.

<https://youtu.be/tw4M9pdX8SU>

## WEBINAR 13, 27<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

### Earth Story in Genesis

*Rev. Dr John Samuel Ponnuswamy*

**H**uman beings cannot exist without Earth. But, Earth can exist without human beings. Human beings are dependent on the Earth. The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr John Samuel Ponnusamy. The theme of the talk was Earth Story in Genesis. The Webinar was inaugurated by Rt Rev. Dr Royce Manoj Kumar Victor, Bishop of CSI Malabar diocese.



<https://youtu.be/u8g1pKNwBcU>

## WEBINAR 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2021

### Mind Setting for Ecology Education

*Dr Sankaranarayanan Paleeri*

**T**he mindset with ecocentrism is the unconditional love to the eco process and nature. Silent Spring comprised a view of nature comprised by synthetic pesticides... Dr Sankaranarayanan Paleeri, the Educational trainer, delivered the keynote address. Rt Rev. Dr M. Joseph, Bishop of Madurai diocese, inaugurated the Webinar.



[https://youtu.be/\\_H8WZuoCcc](https://youtu.be/_H8WZuoCcc)

## WEBINAR 15, 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021

### Greenhouse Gases End Up in Ocean

*Dr Sreeja K. G*

**T**he largest Ocean on the Earth is the Pacific Ocean covering 30% of the Earth's surface. Only 7% of the heat being trapped by Greenhouse gases is sticking on the surface of the planet's atmosphere. The other 93% ends up in the Ocean. Indian Ocean has become





increasingly important in modulating global climate variability. Dr Sreeja K. G. presented a paper on Ocean and Climate Change. Mr Dinesh Suna, the Coordinator of the Ecumenical Water Network of World Council of

Churches (WCC), Geneva inaugurated the Webinar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3B17LYdV4>

## WEBINAR 16, 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021

### An Earth Story in Luke 12: 13-34

*Rev. Dr Packiam Samuel*

Jesus words spell out the evil motive behind the man's request: greed. They also suggest that greed, like so many other sins, has a variety of forms, each appealing to a specific segment of men. The rich fool was foolish in failing to recognize from where his wealth had come. Rev. Dr Packiam Samuel, Director, Henry Martin Institute, delivered the keynote address. Rt Rev. Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian, Bishop CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, inaugurated the Webinar.



<https://youtu.be/k3B17LYdV4>

## WEBINAR 17, 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020

### Climate and Environment

*Dr Ranjit Daniels*

Scientists have predicted that catastrophic effects like hurricanes, typhoons and storms are likely to get more frequent and intense due to Global warming. High energy consumption puts further pressure on the environment. The keynote speaker was Dr Ranjit Daniels, Managing Trustee of Care Earth. The CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns conducted the Seventeenth (altogether) orientation class for the Climate Resilience on 24<sup>th</sup> August, and it was inaugurated by Bishop Padmarao Kodireka, Bishop of



Dornakal diocese. The keynote speaker was Dr Ranjit Daniels, Managing Trustee of Care Earth.

<https://youtu.be/n3vT6STl7IQ>

## WEBINAR 18, 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2021

### Reading Revelation 21:1-22:5 on the Perspective of Earth

*Rev. Dr Mothy Varkey*

Reinterpretation of and demythologization of Heaven are important. It is created beyond our







understanding. The dissent of New Jerusalem and the reality of new Heaven and new Earth signifies the mutual permeability of Heaven and Earth. Rev. Dr Mothy Varkey, a Clergy of Marthomite Church and teaching the new testament

in the Marthoma Theological Seminary delivered the keynote address. Bishop John Perumbalath, Bishop in the Church of England, inaugurated the Webinar.

<https://youtu.be/IcfzajHaGIw>

## WEBINAR 19, 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### Biodiversity Conservation Challenges

*Dr P. S. Esau*

**E**cotourism should not be at the cost of the environment. It should be beneficial to the local community. The visitor should return with more knowledge of nature. Should Promote coexistence between Wildlife and human activity with due recognition of the local people's livelihood, developmental, social, and cultural rights. Dr P. S. Esau, an expert in Wildlife, delivered the lecture. Rt Rev. Oommen George, Bishop of Kollam Kottarakara Diocese,



inaugurated the meeting.

<https://youtu.be/KWEHn3IHovI>

## WEBINAR 20, 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### The Richness and Carbon Footprint

*Dr T. V. Sajeev*

**T**he planet is not affected by the poor people but by the rich people. When rich people take more than their share from natural resources, they increase their footprint. Only being poor you can understand the whole world. We have to take concrete measures to bring down the carbon footprint. What is the notion of success for our people? When I sell my bicycle and purchase a motorcycle, I will be acclaimed as a successful person. When I purchase a Motor car, I will be a successful person. When I build a big house, I will be looked upon as a successful person. I remain the same, but I increase the carbon emission every time. Dr T. V. Sajeev,



the registrar of Kerala Forest Research Institute, delivered the keynote address. Rev. Dr Canon Rachel Mash, Convener of Anglican Communion environmental network inaugurated a Webinar.

[https://youtu.be/coMo\\_38\\_ZQo](https://youtu.be/coMo_38_ZQo)

## WEBINAR 21, 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### Earth Story in Jeremiah 12

*Rev. Dr John Samuel Ponnuswamy*

**J**eremiah complains to God about the prosperity of the wicked. It begins with the suffering of good people and suddenly moves to the suffering of the





land and non human beings. Rev. Dr John Samuel Ponnuswamy delivered the keynote address. Rt Rev. V. S. Francis, Bishop of the east Kerala Diocese

inaugurated the Webinar.

<https://youtu.be/VH6d9Irx1tI>

## WEBINAR 22, 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### An Eco Justice Reading of Ecclesiastics 3:16-22

*Rev. Dr Chilkuri Vasanth Rao*

I also said to myself, “As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath[a]; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless. All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust, all return. Human beings are claiming superiority and going to disaster. Rev. Dr Chilkuri Vasanth Rao delivered the keynote address Rt Rev. Joseph Mar Dionysius



Metropolitan, Bishop of Calcutta Diocese of Orthodox Church, inaugurated the Webinar.

[https://youtu.be/nbvcO\\_A3CCo](https://youtu.be/nbvcO_A3CCo)

## WEBINAR 23, 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021

### India is the 13<sup>th</sup> Most Vulnerable Country to Climate Change

*Dr A. Bijukumar*

Climate Change is no longer some far off problem; it is happening here, it is happening now. Many of the changes due to climate change are irreversible. 60% of India’s agriculture is rainfed hosts 33% of world’s poor. Dr A. Bijukumar, Head of the Department of Aquatic Biology of the University of Kerala, delivered the keynote address on IPCC’s environmental warning to India. Bishop Samuel Mar Irenios Kattukallil



Metropolitan of Malankara Catholic Church inaugurated the Webinar.

<https://youtu.be/mGaOuldfC8A>

## WEBINAR 24, 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021

### Ecology and Eschatology

*Rev. Dr David Reichardt*

How shall we then live at a time in which, regardless of religious and scientific beliefs, we humans are having a greater effect on the planet in which we live than ever before? What does this have to do with Christian







faith and Christian theology? To the great, worldwide ecological discussion, Christians can contribute renewed theologies of Creation and of Hope, stimulated by the conviction that a good God never intended this good Creation to be expunged. Rather, it will be transformed into God's New Creation.

Rev. Dr David Reichardt, eco theologian from Australia, delivered the keynote address on ecology and eschatology. Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilose, Bishop of Malankara Catholic Church inaugurated the Webinar.

<https://youtu.be/BqrucHe2OPA>

## WEBINAR 25, 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021

### Respect-Food, Nature and the People Who Make Food System a Reality

*Dr Manoj Kurian WCC*

**F**orty-one million people are currently at risk of starvation, and around half of them are children. One in five deaths is associated with a poor diet. Twelve million hectares of land are lost each year due to desertification. 95% of food comes from the soil, and 25% of all known species live there. Respect food, nature and the people who make the food system a reality. It is a gift of God.



Dr Manoj Kurian, WCC, delivered the keynote address.

<https://youtu.be/MugoLY-Hc7Y>

## WEBINAR 26, 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021

### Ecological Reformation and Peace on Earth

*Rev. Dr D. R. Sadananda*

**W**hat we can do as a community of faith. Vision and discernment we get through this small parable. For this talk I would like to concentrate on Priestly and Prophetic tasks. Priestly task of the Christianity in bringing together the eco-theology alive in liturgical vision of the church and the world. To see the world in God's eyes. Prophetic task is about discernment. Another world is possible. Another world is already there. It is spoken in different ways. Reformed will say it is only a restoration of the creation. Roman Catholic will say it is an elevation of the creation. Orthodox theology emphasis on divinization of the creation. Rev. Dr Daniel Rathnakara Sadananda, new testament theologian and former General Secretary of CSI Synod delivered an ecological reading of Parable of the rich fool. The Most Rev. Dr Theodosius Marthoma Metropolitan inaugurated the Webinar.



<https://youtu.be/aFMTRvHoVDw>



## WEBINAR 27, 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

### Theological Engagements in Ecological Justice

*Rev. Dr Peniel Jesudason Rufus*

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. If we do not change the direction, we will end up where we are heading. Rev. Dr Peniel Jesudason Rufus, USPG Global Theologian, UK delivered the keynote address. Mr P. Prasad. Honorable Minister for agriculture in Kerala,



inaugurated the meeting.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtXiDh\\_pEbw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtXiDh_pEbw)

## WEBINAR 28, 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

### Who Can Survive COVID-19 with Christ: the Fittest or Friendliest

*Rev. Dr Mothy Varkey*

Rev. Dr Mothy Varkey, New Testament professor of Marthoma Theological Seminary is giving a new interpretation to the parable of sower in Mathew 13: 3-9. How can we blame rock or thorns or road sides. We know the characters of these three. The sower is responsible for this and not rock or thorns. Bishop Joshua Mar Ignatiose, Bishop of Malankara Catholic Church inaugurated the Webinar.



<https://youtu.be/SFDMhzmP5Ls>

## WEBINAR 29, 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

### Ecological Reading of Revelation

*Dr M. P. Joseph*

Huge majority of the population in the world have no ability to destroy the ecosystem. To destroy one needs tools and power. Therefore, we need a new approach. Present discourse on alternatives is also based on these assumptions proposed by the same dominant logic, thinking that the problem could be fixed by planting trees, changing light bulbs, or finding alternatives to fossil fuels. This fixing approach is to save the present logic of



the exploitative economic order. And that is where we need to read the book of Revelation to gain new insights.







John, the political prisoner caged in the island of Patmos was not satisfied with this fixing approach. He offers instead a clash of kingdoms: The kingdom of the world and the kingdom of the Slaughtered Lamb. This is the choice we have; either the rule of capital or

the rule of love and justice. Dr M. P Joseph, delivered the keynote address. Rt Rev. Thomas Mar Theethos. Bishop of Marthoma Church inaugurated the Webinar.

<https://youtu.be/nzwPNJvV12g>

## Aswathy Alex, a School Teacher, Wins Kerala State Award for Agriculture

**M**s Aswathy Alex, a school teacher from Kattanam CMS High School under the Madhya Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India (CSI), bagged third place in the Kerala State for institutional cultivation. In collaboration with the State Agricultural Department and the Students Police Cadets (SPC), the school set up a farm inside the



school compound to promote organic farming. The years that followed saw this in-house farm meeting the needs of the school. While the organic vegetable garden has brought several laurels to the school, its main objective is to create awareness of farming. Ms Aswathy Alex is a member of the Green School Programme initiated by the Ecological Concerns Department of the CSI Synod. She attended the training programme of the CSI Synod held at Chennai on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Adv. C. Fernandes Rathina Raja, the General Secretary of the CSI Synod, congratulated her on this achievement by making a phone call to her and conveyed the greetings from Most Rev.

Dharmaraj Rasalam; the Moderator of the CSI, Rt. Rev. Dr Reuben Mark; the Deputy Moderator and Prof. Dr Vimal Sukumar; the Hon. Treasurer.

### How to Conquer Exams

**W**e conducted a class for the students on the topic 'How to Conquer Exams'. Management expert Commander Tharian Koshy took one hour class for the students. 200 students participated in the zoom class on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021.



# World Water Day Celebrations

## “Water Warrior 2021” Video/Photo/Story Writing Competition Organized by CSI Synod Ecology Department

**W**orld Water Day is held annually on 22<sup>nd</sup> March to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. This Day is an opportunity to learn more about water-related issues, be inspired to tell others and take action to make a difference

The Department of the Ecological Concerns of the Church of South India (CSI) Synod, in collaboration with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network (WCC- EWN) solicited the videos of innovative water conservation programmes.

### Documentary on Water

- 1) First Prize: Noyce Matric Hr. Secondary School, Madurai
- 2) Second Prize: CMS Higher Secondary School Kottayam
- 3) Third Prize: BH Higher Secondary School Mavelikara

### Photography on Water

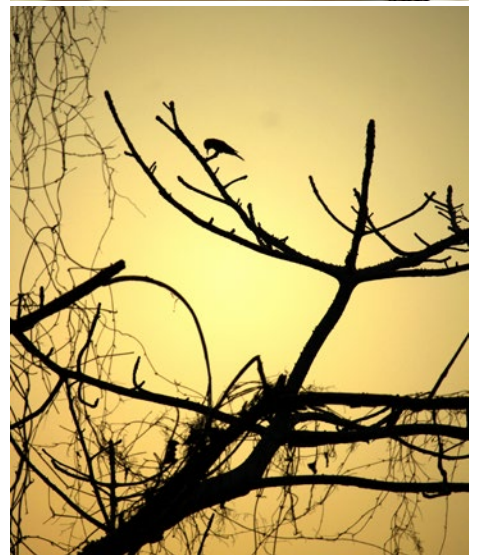
- 1) First Prize -I. Praveen Jose  
Place Name: Manapadu, Thuthukudi (Dist.), Water Pollution, ,
- 2) Second Prize: Z RICHARDS, Nandyal Diocese.
- 3) Third Prize. MEZIOLAZ C. S. – CMS High School Trichur MEZIOLAZ .C.S -1

### 4. Special Prizes

1. Shashir, Madhya Kerala Diocese  
Story about survival and showing how important is Water
2. Shruthy K J St. Francis LP School, Kochi
3. Goldenstar Thongni <golden2394@gmail.com>

### Stories on Water

1. First Prize: J. Dharan, Std IX, CSI St Hilda's & St Hugh's Matriculation Hr Sec. School Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu 603001
2. Second Prize: N. Padmalakshmi, IX, Capron Hall Higher Secondary School, Madurai
3. Second Prize R. Esakkiammal, Std XI, Capron Hall Higher Secondary School, Madurai
4. Second Prize: Ezra Kenneth Std 10, St John's Vestry Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy
5. Third: Smiaya, Capron Hall Higher Secondary School, Madurai
6. Third: Aarthika, SJVAIHSS. St John's Vestry Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy
7. Third: NITHYASHREE .S., Std V, St John's Vestry Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy





## CSI School Student Addressed USPG Lent Study Webinar

Ms Lakshika, a student from St Hildas School, Ooty, addressed the gathering organized by the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. She explained

a second language, is a sign of maturity and confidence that will serve her well in her life's work. Hopefully, creation care will remain a priority for her in line with her opening call to love nature, study nature, and work with nature.

practical activities such as tree planting and reducing consumption of plastics and electricity.

Ecological awareness is spiritual awareness, as Lakshika said, and it was clear that she is in a strong position to communicate her own awareness to others. The feedback from our group was overwhelmingly positive. Well done, Lakshika, and long live the Green Schools programme.

*~Trisha Shannon,  
Executive Assistant, USPG*

Lakshika provided a very detailed, engaging, insightfully presentation as part of our Lent course that was well received by many. Her style of presentation was relaxed and easy to understand and she articulated what she wanted to get across with great clarity. Lakshika showed just how important it is to encourage more young people to participate in this work to promote ecological justice.

*~Rámond Mitchell,  
Volunteer and Education Coordinator,  
USPG*



Lakshika talked about the value of learning practically and analytically, which gives tangible benefits and greater understanding than “textbook” learning. She provided a wealth of photographs to illustrate the

the Green School Programme(GSP) of CSI and the Green Auditing of CSE. It was testimony of a student who participated in GSP.

### Feedback from webinar participants:

Lakshika demonstrated passion, enthusiasm and detailed knowledge in her presentation to USPG supporters about the Green School Initiative. To do so in a virtual environment to a large group of much older strangers, in

surroundings and activities of the school. She also quantified the improvements made since the students began assessing their school's environmental impact in clear percentage terms, demonstrating that the programme is genuinely working.

It was inspirational to see the students working together and working with the disabled in the community. It was also very impressive to see the understanding of technology such as biogas, and harvesting rainwater, along with

## Earth Day Celebration

The department of Ecological Concerns conducted online Earthday celebrations. Rev. Dr Rachel Mash, Anglican Communion, inaugurated the seminar. Mr. Jayaraman C. presented a paper. There were 120 participants.

## CSI Department of Ecological Concerns Leadership Training Institute (Rice leadership Training)

The CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns conducted a leadership training class for the students during May and June 2021 through Zoom arrangement. Mr Joseph Martin, Manager of Aramco, Saudi Arabia, was the trainer. We selected 25 students out of 120 students who applied for this course through an online test. Following is the testimony of a student during the graduation of the programme held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

I'm Dharshini from CSI Girls Matric Hr Sec. School, Tirupattur (Tamilnadu). First of all, I am delighted that I am

studying in CSI school, Christian management... Because of this school, only I got an opportunity to participate in this program, and I thank everyone who gave me the chance to participate in this beautiful and helpful program, I thank them all whole heartily...

I did not expect that I will be selected for this program. I have been selected from the applicants from three states. Moreover, I have to thank God and everyone for selecting me. I was excited to participate in this program.

I have learnt many, many new things



and good things from this program. I did not expect that zoom classes would be much easier to interact and zoom classes gave the effect that offline classes have... This RICE leadership program raised me, I learnt so many things like how to speak in public, how to behave in public, how to observe others speech and so on...

Not only these things I have learned. Furthermore, I realized that the zoom has many facilities like breakout rooms, vote pole etc.. The other main thing which I want to mention at this moment is... Because of this program, only I had a chance to speak English; other than this program, I cannot speak English anywhere. This program gave me a big ample opportunity to speak in English and improve my English. I can't speak English anywhere other than this class, even in school (our campus language is English). Sometimes when we ask doubts to the teacher in English, they may reply to us in Tamil, so we did not get a chance to speak English.

These classes helped me to improve my English... When I speak in English during these classes, my parents were amazed and listened to me. Moreover, they feel very, very happy when I speak or interact in English. Even though I am not speaking proper or good English... They will hear me with enthusiasm, and they feel pleased and proud that "my daughter is speaking in English very fluently"... I am saying this because they said this to me and at that moment, I felt thrilled and proud. Those happy and proud moments happened only because of this class.

I do not know how to express all my thanks because there is no similar word to thank you. Moreover, next, I'd like to thank our trainer, Joseph Martin sir, who spent his own time taking the class for us, and he taught us so many new things. We will not forget all those things in our life ever. Moreover, we will use all those things in real life. I enjoyed this program very much, and I will never forget anyone from this class; I also got so many new friends from this class.

### Inaugurated the School Twinning Programme with UK Schools

We initiated a twinning programme with the UK schools. We have selected ten lower primary schools of CSI, and the Oxford diocese selected ten schools. Even we launched the programme, due to the lockdown, it has not materialized so far.

### Conducted many programmes during the Pandemic period with a very low Carbon footprint

Around 400 clergy and 400 teachers benefitted from our programmes every year. During the lockdown 2021 through zoom, we conducted the same training programme every week. Every month around 500 Clergy, 600 teachers, 1000 students attend the training classes. After each class, we conducted a quiz programme to test how much they had grasped from the lecture. We gave cash awards to the quiz winners. The total expense for these programmes is very meagre in comparison with the physical meetings. We have saved expenses related to travelling, electricity, room rent, food etc. The most important thing is that the carbon footprint is minimal. More than that, we are reaching out to an average of 400 Clergy, 600 teachers, 1000 students every month.

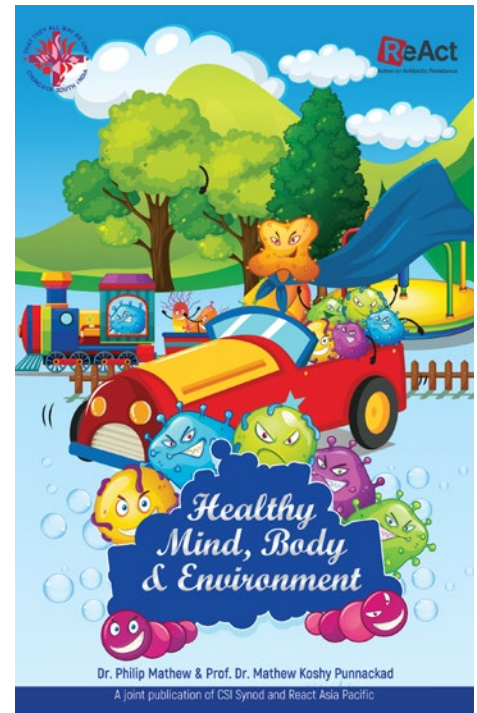
### Rev EBS Nath

Rev. Nath, who served as the eco director of Krishna Godavari since 2014, left us to eternal glory during this pandemic period. The CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns acknowledges his valuable services as the eco director of Krishna Godavari Diocese. Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackadu participated in the funeral service and the memorial service.



### Release of the Cartoon book, Healthy Mind, body, and Environment

The cartoon book authored by Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackadu and Dr. Philip Mathew was released The Most Rev. Dharmaraj Rasalam during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of CSI Synod held on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The cartoon book was published in five languages, English, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada and Tamil.

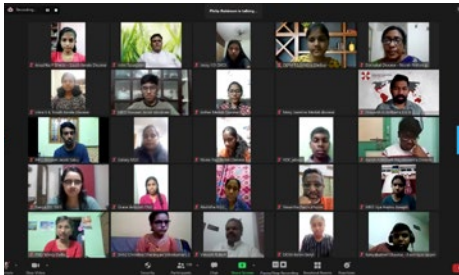
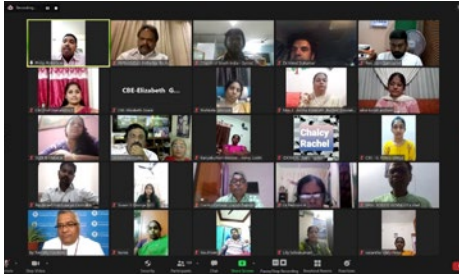


### Leadership Training Course for CSI Students

The CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns conducted a short term Diploma Course for the CSI Students of classes 9, 10, 11 & 12 from August to October 2021. Topics taught were Communicative English, Study techniques, Facing exams, Facing interviews, Sustainable development, Body language, Self-empowerment, Principles of Ecojustice, Developing Positive Attitude, Media literacy. The ten students from the Dioceses were selected through a screening test. One hundred fifty students participated in the programme. Twentyfive teachers (were) worked as mentors for the students. First batch concluded . As per



the advice of the General Secretary, we have decided to give high level coaching to the first batch. The second batch will start at 6.30 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.



### CSI Students Leadership Training Programme

Valedictory Function - YouTube Link:  
<https://youtu.be/OvIFAudTrbs>

The YouTube link of the concluding address  
<https://youtu.be/flmaLxmAJDc>

The YouTube of the scientific explanation of the Eco-Justice Principle  
<https://youtu.be/adhR1xIEh1o>

### Department of Pastoral Concerns and the Department of Ecological Concerns jointly conducted

Regional Webinars on Ecology and Eschatology.

- 23/11/2021 - Telugu:**  
Rev. Dr Chilkuri Vasantha Rao
- 26/11/2021 - Tamil:**  
Rev. Dr John Samuel Ponnuswamy
- 29/11/2021 - Kannada:**  
Rev. Dr Rhan Gideon
- 30/11/2021 - Malayalam:**  
Rev. Dr Mothy Varkey

### Green Initiative of CSI

Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackadu Honorary Director of ecological Concerns addressed the German Church leaders on CSI initiative on Children and climate change including green protocol, green school, green teacher's green children, green church, including Twinning experiences on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 through zoom.

Rt Rev. Dr E. Pushpa Lalitha, Bishop of CSI Nandyal Diocese Congratulating Mr. Z. Richards, who won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for the 'Water Warrior 2021' Photography contest conducted by the Department of Ecological Concerns, CSI Synod.



Water Warriors of Madhya Kerala Diocese with Bishop Sabu K Cherian



### 'Water Warrior 2021' Photography Competition







**ReAct**

ಸಿಂಧು ಸಮುದ್ರದ ಅಲೆಗಳು, ಅರಣ್ಯದ ಕಾಡುಗಳಿಲ್ಲದ ಕಾಡುಗಳು

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ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್, ಹಾಸೀನಿ, ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿದ ಅನುವಾದ

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ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕರವಾದ ಮನುಷ್ಯ, ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಸ್ವಾದ

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