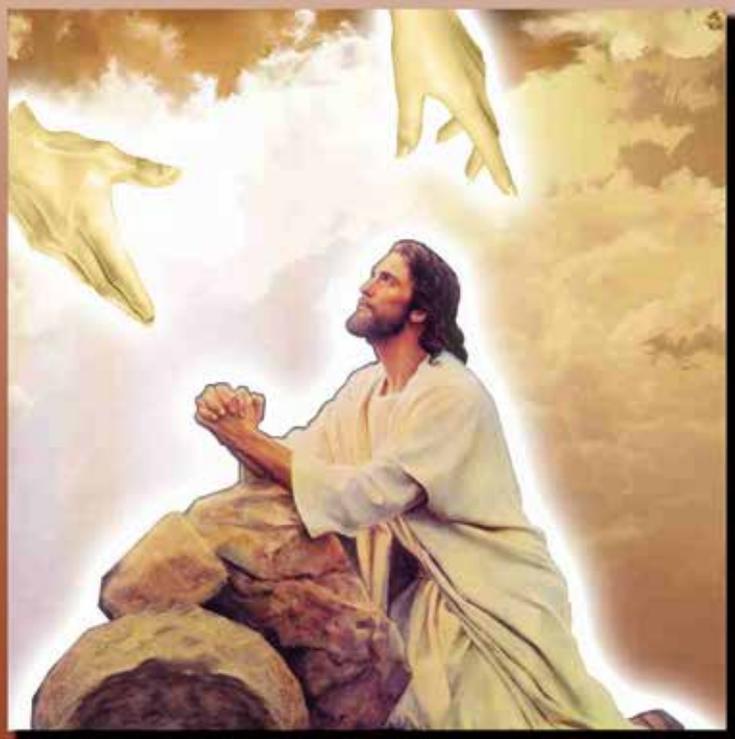


Feast of the Holy Spirit 2019

"ABBA FATHER! ABBA MOTHER!"
(MATHEW 6:9, ISAIAH 66:13)



Feast of the Holy Spirit
From 6.00 pm on Saturday 01st June 2019
to dawn of
Sunday 02nd June at Sri Prasansaramaya

FORWARD

Since God is love personified, He naturally works for the good of the people who claim His love. This love of His flows down to us through space and time, that is, from moment to moment, hour to hour, day to day, week to week, month to month and from year to year. Even though this love flows down to us constantly in different situations and incidents, most of the time we are not conscious of these grace filled moments. It is simply because we take things for granted. For example let us be mindful of our breath. We come to treasure the air we breathe in when we find it lacking or when we are unable to breathe. Similar consideration could be given to water that we drink and the food we eat.

This amazing love of God is common to everybody, freely given to all His creatures with no distinction. Yet, the man, His highest creation has a vocation to be mindful of the love of the Creator of our Universe. People of the Kithu Dana Pubuduwa who call themselves renewed Christians call this awareness, prayer, which means being conscious of the love of God Almighty.

Kithu Dana Pubuduwa persistently lead people to prayer. What is considered as ‘My hour’ of the day is the time we personally become aware of the love of God. Daily prayer of the family, weekly praise gathering, once a month night vigil and the family community day are occasions for us to awaken ourselves and experience the love of God. Similarly, the sacramental life and the Eucharistic celebration, gifts offered to us through the Church are powerful moments of encountering God who is Love.

For the people of the Kithu Dana Pubuduwa, a significant moment to receive the love of God during the course of a year is the word of love received at the annual celebration of Pentecost. We receive that word as the theme we follow throughout that particular year. The new year of Kithu Dana Pubuduwa actually starts with the feast of Pentecost. On this day, throughout the whole night people listen to the Word of God delivered to them. The main sermon given on the Theme helps grasp its contents and analysis. It is sung through the theme song. By claiming the outpouring of the Holy Spirit they receive the grace needed to live it out throughout the year.

According to the Scriptures the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit was when the hundred and twenty disciples were gathered together in the upper room along with our Blessed Mother. It was after a preparation of nine days that the disciples, hundred and twenty in number and the Blessed Mother, received this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This nine day preparation was the first novena in history.

The theme we receive from God for the New Year starting with the feast of Pentecost, 2019 is “Abba Father! Abba Mother!” Through this wonderful theme God is gifting us with an invitation to experience and enjoy His perfect love in a very intimate relationship that we are most accustomed to. What is in your hands is an aid to prepare yourselves for the feast of Pentecost by meditating on the theme, “Abba Father! Abba Mother!” from different angles. Our warm invitation to you is to participate in this novena, in this nine day preparation, and to join in the celebrations held at Sri Prasansaramaya on the occasion of the feast of Pentecost, 2019.

May God Bless You!

GUIDE LINES

- ❖ In these preparations, especially in presenting the maternal characteristics of God we have focused on the teachings of the Church as well as on the Greek terms found in the original translations. Though they can be interpreted theologically bringing out the deeper meaning, our attempt here is to highlight the maternal characteristic of God's love with reference to these words. Therefore the speaker should take precautions to prepare well for the sharing of the Word.
- ❖ Limit the preparatory session to a maximum of 1 ½ - 2 hours.
- ❖ For those unable to attend preparatory sessions due to various reasons, please organize an alternative at community or village level.
- ❖ The Third Preparatory Session on 24th May should be a semi night-vigil session of deep prayer gathered as a community of disciples.
- ❖ Encourage Sacramental Confession during the days allocated for preparatory sessions. (As discipleship communities or praise communities)
- ❖ Please conduct the Preparations in the format given below:
 - ❖ Initial Praise
 - ❖ Review
 - ❖ Good News for the day
 - ❖ Gaze at our experience
 - ❖ Practice throughout the day
 - ❖ Final Praise

1st Preparatory Session

“YOUR WORD, YOUR WILL, A FIRE AND A BLESSING” (Adapted from Luke 11:28; 12:49)

Pubudu Gee No. 2

01. INITIAL PRAISE

Through the theme we received for the past year we experienced the presence of the Triune God in our lives. (Your – God the Father, Word – God the Son, Fire – God the Holy Spirit)

In our Christian journey of life we constantly adore and worship The One God in Three Persons, for the simple reason that we in our life existence as Christians experience through the Trinity the Blessing of God that enlivens us. Let us enter into initial praise falling down in humble adoration before the Trinity for the blessings we have come to experience throughout the year personally and as a community.

Pubudu Gee. No. 190

02. GAZE AT THE SONSHIP OF JESUS

- * the Son who fully accomplished the Will of God and received the blessing of God through His total adherence to the Will of the Father, rather than keeping it for Himself bestowed it on the entire Universe thus exalting the whole world to a new order. – Matthew 3:13-4:1
- * Lord Jesus who let the blessings of God flow down to others through His life started this journey with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at the river Jordan.
- * As the Evangelists recount the humility of the Son of God (Matthew 3:13, 14), His inner longing to fully accomplish the Will of God (Matthew 3:15), the thirst to seek and conform to the Will of the Father (Matthew 4:1-2) was the secret of channeling this great blessing onto the rest of humanity.

- * Through this way of fulfilling the Will of God, Lord Jesus powerfully experienced the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In total reliance on the Father, whilst abandoning His parents as well as His relatives, He entered into a life journey of total submission to God. Thus throughout this journey He was able to be conscious of the subtle action of the devil, to defeat him and to be fully engrossed in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

03. OUR SONSHIP

With the Theme Talk at the Pentecost Rally last year Swami thaththa made us aware of the thirst he had in his life for fulfilling God's Word and Will. (Here the servant of the Word is requested to share his experience of this event.)

- * As a result of the youth uprising in 1971 many youth had to pay with their life in a most cruel manner. In the 1960s Swami thaththa with his appointment as the chaplain of youth affairs had undergone a painful experience with regard to several youth who had connections with the youth movement. He realized that they also had secret connections with the youth uprising. With this experience he fell into despair with which he approached his superior the late Cardinal Thomas Cooray. The result was the Cardinal persuading him to go for a retreat in Rome under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Valerian Godette. Even though he passed through the allocated time period as scheduled, he was still in pain and distress, which prompted Fr. Valerian directing him to spend a few days with a friend of his living with his family in Surrey, England.
- * It was a unique experience that he was faced during his stay there. One day Mr. Bob Balkan while engaged in conversation with Swami thaththa started opening his mail and there was a wedding invitation. Opening this letter what Mr. Balkan told his wife was if it is God's Will we shall go for this wedding, otherwise no. In one of his documents Swami thaththa recounts this incident as follows:

“I was amazed at the response. I should admit that till then I had never discerned God's Will in deciding on a journey. Yet, this layman did it.”

Do we seek and discern the Will of God in making decisions in life? Swami thaththa says, the attitude, the discerning attitude of Mr. Balkan threw “a great challenge and a beam of light on my life.”

04. **Sharing**

- * Throughout the past year how have we oriented ourselves towards discerning the Will of God?
 - i. In my personal life
 - ii. As a family
 - iii. As a community

- * On his return to Sri Lanka Swami thaththa was summoned to the 4th Floor, of the Criminal Investigation Department for an inquiry concerning the youth uprising going on at the time. It was a terrifying experience that any human being could ever face. On his way to this particular place, the Holy Spirit delivered to the inner being of Swami thaththa a marvelous message.

Luke 21: 14-15

“I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.”

Swami thatha believed in this word and held on to it. After a five hour time period of questioning the officers declared that ‘we are ready to support your movement in whatever way possible.’

Even today we could see how Swami thaththa incessantly experiences the power, the fire and the blessing of the Word of God. We see this power operating in and through Kithu Dana Pubuduwa flowing down to the entire Church. It is he who built up the Kithu Dana Pubuduwa, the Charismatic Movement with 8 Initial Talks, Penitential Service, and the Commitment (passover service) later declared that it was a sovereign act of the Lord. We too have been experiencing the journey led by the Holy Spirit for a period of 48 years. And at present we are preparing ourselves to celebrate our Golden Jubilee.

How much do we allow the Word received through this preparatory session to bear fruit in our lives? Share your ideas.

1. Repentance
2. Engaging in “Operation St. Joseph Vaz”
3. In keeping with the directives of the Encyclical ‘Laudato si’ let us show our love and care for the environment.
4. To be a sign of contradiction

05. **Final Praise**

- Entering into repentance Pubudu Gee No. 291
- Recalling moments and events in which we did not adhere to the Will of God, as well as failed to live in accord with the word received, let us repent and enter into prayer.

06. **Throughout the day**

1. Seek the Will of God from moment to moment. murmur the words of Pubudu Gee No. 314 often.
2. Read the Word of God. Throughout tomorrow keep to and live by a promise of God.
3. Takes steps to go in search of a person who did not attend the preparatory session and share with him/her the Word of God.

Final Hymn: Theme song for last year

2nd Preparatory Session

"ABBA FATHER"

01. INITIAL PRAISE

Introduction:

Let us enter into praise allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through us from deep within our hearts to God the Father for His persistent love bestowed on us since the beginning of the Universe.

Opening Hymn: Pubudu Gee No. 01.

02. REVIEW:

Today we step on to the theme of the year we are about to start.

Prior to reflecting on the present theme share your experiences of the previous year based on that particular theme.

Also share

- Your experience in living out the promises of God reflecting on the word given throughout yesterday and
- Occasions in which you discerned the Will of God.

03. GOOD NEWS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ “Abba” is an Aramaic word and an intimate way of addressing their fathers that the Jewish children were accustomed to.
- ❖ Christ with no reservation whatsoever addressed God as “Abba.” ‘**My own loving father**’ is the interpretation or the translation given by John Myre, the Scripture Scholar for the word ‘Abba.’
- ❖ This manifests the deep intimacy and spiritual experience of Jesus Christ with God.
- ❖ Not only did Jesus speak of God as His Father but also addressed Him as Abba in prayer. (Luke 10:21, Mark 14:36, Luke 23:46)
- ❖ It was a significant characteristic of His relationship with God.

- ❖ The word “Abba,” cannot be found either in the traditional Jewish prayer or Liturgy.
- ❖ The Old Testament proclaims God as Father. Isaiah 63:16, Isaiah 64:8. Still for all they did not address God thus in their prayer. Although they considered Him as a Father, they feared to enter into dialogue with Him in such intimacy and love. According to their understanding God was Holy, terrible and totally the Other who is beyond our reach.
- ❖ Christ’s vision of God was that He is “Abba,” a loving father. Thus through the word “Abba,” Christ demonstrated the attitude of a faithful son totally dependent on an all powerful and loving father.

04. **Towards us:**

- ❖ Matthew 6:8
- ❖ In teaching the disciples to pray Christ referred to God as ‘Our Father.’
- ❖ When He spoke of Him He used the term “My Father.”(John 20:17). While there is some distinction between His Son-ship and our son-ship, now, His Father is also the Father of His disciples.
- ❖ Rom.8:14-17
With the inheritance of baptism of the Holy Spirit bestowed on us through the sacrificial life of Christ we too have been made co-heirs of His divine son-ship.
- ❖ To the extent we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will be endowed with the ability of enjoying the inherited divine son-ship and experiencing God as our loving Abba, Father.

05. **Sharing:**

1. Share your experience on divine son-ship.
2. How far have you claimed the qualities of divine son-ship in your life?
 - Dignity – Security – Communion

3. “My frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth” (Psalm 139:15).

❖ Almighty God is my Father who saw me even before my birth. The all powerful God who knows us right well beheld us with His eyes even before we were formed in our mother’s womb. In His book is written the days intended for my life (Psalm 139:16). He who knows us so well has a great dream, an immense hope on our account. How disposed am I to allow this dream to be realized in my life?

4. A human father punishes his son out of love, to discipline him. You who believe that God is your loving Father, how ready are you to start your life under His authority? (2 Samuel 7:14). How ready am I to accept when my plans come crumbling down and when I am made to walk along paths that I do not like?

06. Throughout tomorrow:

❖ At every moment be filled with the Holy Spirit to address God as Abba Father.

❖ Whisper throughout the day the hymn, “Sudath Balayen Pirem mum....” – I shall be filled with the power of the Spirit.

❖ Throughout the day pray to God calling Him “Abba Father.”

❖ Make a review of your life. In reflecting on your life experience, see how much you have allowed the Will of God to be accomplished in your life. Acknowledge the shortcomings within you that hinder experiencing the Will of God. Enter into prayer with repentance. (This can be done even as a family.)

07. Final Praise:

Pubudu Gee No. 140

3rd Preparatory Session (For the night vigil)

“ABBA MOTHER”

01. Initial Praise:

- ❖ People of God in the Old Testament enjoyed the love of God in varied ways. Yet, due to respect and fear of God they never called Him by name. Instead, they addressed Him as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.
- ❖ In the New Testament Jesus Christ introduced God as our loving “Abba,” Father. Especially along with His experience of being called the beloved Son at baptism in the river Jordan, and together with His experience of God as mother and father in the wilderness He experienced the perfect love of God. The Lord’s desire was that we also come to experience the perfect love of God Almighty as Abba Father and Mother.
- ❖ Pubudu Gee No. 146. (Before singing the hymn, discuss the contents of the first line as to bring to awareness its meaning.)

02. Review:

- ❖ What was your experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit?
- ❖ Were you able to pray the whole day addressing God as Abba Father?
- ❖ Was it possible to reflect on instances where you acted according to your own plans thwarting the plan of God? If I am to accomplish the Will of God constantly I should have a discerning mind. Before coming to decisions in different life situations do you consult God so as to know His Will?

03. Good News for the day:

- ❖ From the beginning of the world there has been the manifestation of the paternal and maternal love of God:
- ❖ In the beginning, God made man in His own image and likeness and as male and female (Gen. 1:26, 27). God bestowed on man

His nature of love. This loving image of God exists in both man and woman equally. Thus, from the very beginning there manifested the paternal and maternal qualities of God. God bestowed on man, the male power and order, the qualities of His paternal love. And He gifted the woman with mystery and beauty, qualities of His maternal love. As such in marriage, man and woman receives the vocation to become one flesh as husband and wife in order to manifest this perfect image of God.

- ❖ “RACHAMIM” and the maternal love of God:
- ❖ In a Papal document of Pope Benedict XVI on the mercy of God it is given that in Hebrew language they used the same word “Rachamim” for the loving mercy of God as well as the womb. As such to attribute the same word used for the mother’s womb even to God’s kind mercy, how much the authors of the Old Testament would have been open to the divine revelation of the love of God? By way of equating the love of God to a mother’s womb, it proclaims that God suffers as a mother and also loves us human beings with a deep love as that of a mother.
- ❖ Further expounding on the meaning of the word ‘womb’ and ‘Rahamim’, Holy Father presents it as living with another, bearing another, being united with another and as having strength for all of the above. Then what is the purpose of ‘Rahamim’? It is to take another to oneself. For what? To suffer for him or her. What is the objective of such suffering? During the long period of time that particular person dwells in you, to subject him/her to sensitivity in a process of maturity through pain and joy in order to transform him into a person ready to face the outer world. Through that suffering man is given life and breath. A woman or a mother is gifted with a womb for the task of giving life to a child, to sustain him in her womb, to nourish him and to give him birth.
- ❖ Thus, in the Old Testament, it is by means of this word that the merciful and maternal love of God is revealed in the manner in which He provides us with protection sustaining us within Him.

04. Towards us:

In small communities share the following facts clearly.

- (a) In the human world since the beginning man is en-wrapped in pain and suffering. Through it all God taking the form of a mother acts as the womb that sustains us. This Abba mother acting as the womb works his way out to give us birth, protection, life, security and love in face of pain and suffering.
 - i. How much have you experienced the maternal love of God in your life?
 - ii. Have you experienced and being aware of the way He bore you patiently accepting you as you were till the moment of your conversion?
 - (b) Lord Jesus, the visible image of the invisible God constantly experienced the perfect love of God both maternal and paternal. He does allow the natural flow of this love to be channeled to others. In this endeavour, His eyes were constantly on the weak and the vulnerable. As such breaking down the barriers of social norms He shared the love He experienced with everybody else.
 - i. Even through the Christian community there should manifest the perfect love of God, both paternal and maternal. The community being the mystical body of Christ, have you experienced through it the love, protection and security of the Abba Mother, the God Almighty in face of varied life situations and painful experiences?
 - ii. The community is a gathering of different people who experience unity in diversity. Am I in relationship with everybody in my community of poor and rich, high and low, and full of frailty and shortcomings? Does my community, the Mystical Body of Christ display the quality of a mother who loves all her children equally and without any distinction?
- ❖ Share in common the experience you shared in small communities.

- ❖ Let us enter into a short session of praise singing the hymn No. 158.

05. **A narrative shared by Swami thaththa on the paternal and maternal love of God:**

- ❖ Once a father on the day his son was born wrote him a nice letter. 'Dear son, during the period of 9-10 months when you were in that treasured womb of your mother how eagerly we awaited your birth? With how much love did we welcome you into this world? Starting thus he ended the letter with this instruction. You will only be permitted to read this letter on your 18th birthday. You will read this at the age of 18 and most probably you will leave us soon after. '(Usually in America children distance themselves from parents at the age of 18). So it was something to be expected. Then the father says, 'You will enter into a new phase of life and face many problems and hardships in life. Throughout these 18 years your precious mother would have loved you a lot. I would have made a lot of mistakes with regard to you. Yet I know whatever wrongs done you will forgive me. Here I wish to remind you of one thing. I like to recall some of the words in the parable of the prodigal son by Jesus Christ.' With those particular words he ended the letter. You might remember some of the words of Jesus in that parable. The elder brother of the prodigal son was rather displeased with the way the younger brother was welcomed. And the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.' He closed the letter with these words but the son didn't get the chance to read the letter. Before he was 18 he died of an accident. On the 18th birthday of their son, father and mother read the letter. 'Son, you are dead but both of us are with you.' These parents dreamt a lot about the son and this letter was written with many dreams and hopes.
- ❖ Here is a great revelation! God your Abba Father and Mother has written you a letter. It was not written on the day you were born, it was written even before your birth and from all eternity (Jeremiah 1:4-5). Have you read that letter? Have you tried to read it daily?

- ❖ Similar to the above mentioned parents, the Almighty God, your Abba Mother and Father has a dream on your account. Even though the human parents couldn't see their dream realized the dream of our Abba Mother and Father for each one of us will surely be fulfilled. He will never forget nor forsake us. He awaits our return (Isaiah 49:15).
- ❖ St. Augustine says, "Sin is defying the loving, wise plan of God for us". Share your ideas in small communities.

06. Throughout tomorrow:

- ❖ Experiencing the maternal love of the Almighty God, I shall live and move and have my being in his womb (Acts 17:28). Be mindful of this always during the day.
- ❖ Share your experience in this regard with those whom you meet and others of your own.
- ❖ Share your experience at least with one other person who could not participate in today's preparatory session.

07. Final Praise:

- ❖ Take the Psalm 139:1-18 and 23-24. Replace the words "Lord" and "Thou" with "Abba mother, Thou" and sing it as a prayer.
- ❖ Pubudu Gee. No. 160.

4th Preparatory Session

EXPERIENCE OF PATERNAL AND MATERNAL LOVE OF GOD AS FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

01. Initial Praise: Romans 8:15-17

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, “Abba! Father!...and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.” Accordingly, we have been made fellow heirs with Christ and thus received the same inheritance of calling God, Abba, an inheritance reserved only for Christ. As receptors of such a blessed inheritance, let us enter into prayer and praise addressing God ‘Abba Father’, ‘Abba Mother’ with a deep inner freedom and joy. Pubudu Gee. No. 150

02. Review:

Let us share with another close by.

- ❖ Previous day, did I get the opportunity to be conscious of the fact that God the Almighty is my ‘Abba, Mother?’
- ❖ Share your understanding and insight on ‘Rahmim.’
- ❖ Were you able to converse with those who couldn’t participate at the previous preparatory sessions?

03. Good News for the day:

Marvelous is the manner in which the paternal and maternal love of God revealed from the beginning of the world unfolds throughout the Old Testament. The initial step taken by God to bring to birth the first man chosen on earth was an expression of paternal and maternal love. We call the mother who gave birth to the first man on earth Father. When we say that God is the Being who created us, the same person is also the One who bore us. Therefore we could come to the conclusion that the paternal and maternal love of God has been and is being revealed to us from the beginning of creation.

(a) Genesis 1:27-28

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God's paternal and maternal nature is revealed by way of gifting the male with His own power and order to be highlighted in man and bestowing on the female the beauty and mysteriousness of God to be made visible in and through the woman. God's merciful love – maternal love – the creation of man, making two people one in flesh - the marvelous act performed in the womb of a mother is in itself a manifestation of His paternal and maternal love.

(b) Exodus 3:5, 1 Chronicles 13:9-10

As a result of the broken relationship between God and man in consequence of the sin of our first parents, the ancient Israelites feared God. They experienced God as a sacred, different, unique and dangerous Being. They even feared to address God by name. They presumed that whoever pronounces His name should be sentenced to death. Therefore when asked who their God was they merely made it known by writing the four letters “YHWH” for the simple reason that this word could be neither read nor pronounced in any language. In spite of this, throughout their exodus journey and every life event they passed through (loneliness, pain, helplessness and oppression) they experienced God who loved them with a paternal love as Abba Father and Abba Mother.

(c) Firstly, share the following scripture passages in small communities or groups. Later we could come to recognize the maternal and paternal qualities of God with the affirmation given by the servant of the Word.

E.g. i. Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, I loved him,...

I took them in my arms; ...

and I bent down to them and fed them.

We are convinced through the proclamation of Hosea how the love of a mother is being expressed through God who is Abba Mother.

ii. Isaiah 66:7-13

When His chosen people turned away denying Him, God was the Abba Mother – Abba Father who pursued them in love, forgiving them paternally and maternally and loved the Israelites with a compassionate heart still showing mercy.

“As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you.”

iii. Isaiah 40:11

God as a father similar to a shepherd who feeds and tends his sheep leads Israel His flock to green pastures and like a mother shepherdess who gives birth and suckles her children nourishes them, will carry them in His bosom offering them a mother’s love.

iv. Isaiah 49:15

Can a woman forget her sucking child? Even if these forget I will not forget you. With this pronouncement prophet Isaiah points out the immensity of the love of God who is Abba Mother.

04. Towards us:

- Believing in the love of God, opening ourselves for reception, let us learn to respond to this love. Experiencing the warm, heartfelt love of a mother let us call God, ‘Mother’ throughout the year. Similarly, experiencing the mature qualities of love, let us whisper from the depth of our hearts ‘Father’. Undoubtedly, God will be much pleased with this loving address of His children.

For discussion:

- We who have been called to divine son-ship through our baptismal vocation, through Christ have received the grace of calling God, Abba Father, Abba Mother. Do we experience in our life this blessed state that is our inheritance.

- In my family, community and in life circumstances, how conscious am I of witnessing to Abba God as my father and mother?
- “I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How hast thou loved us?” (Malachi 1:2).

Like Israelites, do we also question God in our daily life events?

05. Throughout the day:

- In the events of our daily life, let us experience the unconditional love of God who is Abba Father and Abba Mother loving us with an unchanging and unfailing love even though a mother could forget the son of her womb.
- Let us praise God throughout the day experiencing that our Abba Father and Abba Mother is really God although we have been born to this world of a human father and a mother.

06. Final Praise:

Pubudu Gee No. 158

5th Preparatory Session

PATERNAL AND MATERNAL LOVE OF GOD THAT CHRIST EXPERIENCED

01. Initial Praise:

- ❖ God is the being that loves us unendingly for ‘God is love’ (1 John 4:8). While He loves all of His creation, great is His love for man created in His image. However much man distances himself from God denying Him, He pursues man in love for He can never stop loving.
- ❖ It is based on His sheer love for man and not because of any goodness or worthiness that man possesses. However much the man turns away from God, He goes in search of him and takes man to Himself since God is unique and distinguished in nature.
- ❖ The God of the Old Testament or the God whom the people of the Old Testament experienced was one whom they could not approach, harmful even to call Him by name, terrifying and wrathful. Yet, whom we encounter in the New Testament is a God who loves us even more than a mother loves the child she bore in her womb, whom we could meet even through our brother and a loving God who lives with us and amongst us.
- ❖ What we can do in return for such love is only offer praise and worship to the God who is love.

Pubudu Gee. No. 160

02. Review:

- Were you awake to experience intimately the love of Abba Father who protects and nourishes us in paternal love, the love of Abba Mother who comforts and consoles us in mercy in maternal love?
- Were you able to experience the healing touch of God’s love that frees you when stuck in varied painful conditions due to lack and loss of love?

03. Good News for the day:

- ❖ Lord Jesus was enticed by the identity of divine Son-ship received at Baptism in river Jordan. With this He came to experience, through everything that happened in and around Him, as the work and majesty of God the Almighty, His paternal and maternal love and deep security. Thus He experienced the perfect love of the Father.
 - ❖ Holy Spirit led Him to the wilderness. Although it was a long period of time (40 days), struggling with the devil in prayer and fasting, conquering the devil with the loving voice of the Abba Father calling Him repeatedly “My Beloved Son,” He owned and inherited for Himself the sacred and pure love of Abba Father.
 - ❖ Thereon initiating the mission of salvation, He turns upside down the image of God which till then was the norm in the Jewish society. Rather than the identity attributed to Him by the world ‘the carpenter’s son,’ He unhesitatingly introduces Himself as the ‘Beloved Son of God’. He taught the people that God is not a terrifying and wrathful Person but an Abba Father Abba Mother who is with us day and night constantly providing love and protection. He shared with the people afraid of seeing God’s face and calling Him by name, the heavenly inheritance that was His to call God Abba Father, Abba Mother (Matthew 6:9-13).
 - ❖ Let us orient ourselves to recognize today the qualities of paternal and maternal love of the Father revealed through the life of Christ. Share your ideas on the following gospel passages that reflect the paternal and maternal love of Christ during His life on earth.
- i. Matthew 20:1-15 – First share in small communities. Later allow the servant of the word to expound on it. (He or she should come prepared in prayer and ready for the task.)
- ❖ In that society, people were distinguished based on different categories such as their capabilities and skills, social acceptance and status, physical disability and sickness.

- ❖ Any land owner would take in as his labourer early in the day, the best person equipped with and skilled for work.
- ❖ The labourer who remains standing in the market place till evening is not noticed by anybody for his meager capabilities and skills or due to some physical ailment.
- ❖ The landowner mentioned in the parable, the ruler in the kingdom of God, from dawn till 5.00 O'clock in the evening sends the labourers at the market place to work in his vineyard and that with much love and compassion.
- ❖ Similarly, he decides to pay everybody equally a denarius each as their wages for the day, just as parents love all of their children without any distinction.
- ❖ Lord Jesus who constantly experienced the perfect love of the Father, loves all alike with the same paternal and motherly love of His. "I choose to give to this last as I give to you. ...do you grudge my generosity?" He replied (Matthew 20:15).

ii. **Mark 6:30-44 (Feeding the five thousand)**

- ❖ Seeing that the disciples were feeling tired and exhausted He calls them to rest, moved with fatherly and motherly love. Forgetting the faithful for a moment out of love for His disciples.
- ❖ He changes His own decision when people come in search of Him and we find Mark referring to this incident, "As he went ashore he saw a great throng, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things" (Mark 6:34).
- ❖ Though the word used here is compassion the original word used in Greek is *Splagchnizomai* which means the lower belly.
- ❖ Yet the Bible scholars are of the opinion that in Hebrew, the word for mercy and compassion is "Rahamim" which also gives the meaning 'womb.'
- ❖ Accordingly Mark's account depicts the idea that Christ was so moved seeing the crowd similar to lambs crying out without

milk that He, just like a mother nursing an infant crying for milk, fed them with spiritual food. As such God does not provide grass but milk for the sheep with love born out of His motherly heart.

- ❖ Thus we could perceive the maternal love demonstrated through this incident.

iii. **John 10:1-5, 7-15**

- ❖ The good shepherd is thus called because he is able to think and act not only as a shepherd but also as a shepherdess.
- ❖ Although a father could say I am the shepherd, only a mother could say ‘I am the door’ for it is the mother who opens the door for her child to enter the world by giving him birth. She is the door of life since there is no other alternative for the generational river to flow down.
- ❖ When we say that God created us it also means that God is the one who bore us. The pain of heart the mother has for the child of her womb is also evident in the words of Christ.
- ❖ All those who come before me are robbers and thieves. “...**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly**” says the Lord because He feels the labour pains of redemptive birth of the children born by the Father.
- ❖ The image of a mother shepherdess birthing her lambs and nursing them at her breast rather than that of a shepherd father leading his flock to green pastures promotes a broader vision of this parable.

04. **Our Son-ship:**

Jesus Christ constantly experienced in His life and channeled to others the Father’s perfect love (Both paternal and maternal). In confronting the challenges that come across our life, what can we say about the faith we have in the Father?

05. Sharing:

1. In my life events how much do I experience the fatherly and motherly love of God? (Share your faith experiences in which you experienced God as your father/mother.)
2. If you are a mother or a daughter, have others experienced through you the love of a father?
3. If you are a father or a son, have others come to experience through you the love of a mother?

06. Throughout tomorrow:

1. Search for other teachings, parables, miracles and life incidents of Jesus in the Scriptures through which others experienced his paternal and maternal love.
2. Whisper or chant the following hymn throughout the day.
Abba, Abba, Father....Abba my Father
Abba, Abba, Mother...Abba my Mother
3. Throughout the day experience the paternal and maternal love of God the Father.

6th Preparatory Session

Paternal and maternal love manifested through Christ on the cross

01. Initial Praise:

- ❖ The experience of divine son-ship received by Jesus Christ through the baptism of the Spirit along with the baptism of John the Baptist at river Jordan was accomplished by way of sacrificing Himself on the cross.
- ❖ While it was through the precious blood of Christ shed on the cross that the paternal and maternal love of God to man was fully manifested, for the Holy Church born out of this, God will remain for all eternity her Abba Mother and Abba Father.
- ❖ Let us praise and thank God with joyful hearts for this unique love demonstrated by Lord Jesus through His sacrifice on the cross.

Pubudu Gee. No. 42

02. Review:

1. During the day, were the others able to experience the paternal and maternal love of God through you?
2. Have you recognized the frailties within your life that hinder the flow of God's love to others?

Especially the capital sins we speak of; inner wounds, compulsions, bitter memories, habits and addictions hinder this flow of love to others. How conscious are you of them?

03. Good News for the day:

- (a) Suffering labour pains, usually a mother waits for the moment of the birth of her child. May be she is thinking in her heart how long am I to suffer this pain. Yet the eager longing and hope of seeing the child in her womb reduces the pain for a moment but to rise up again with more intensity. When it becomes simply unbearable she cries out, "If it were possible, this cup might pass from me." Yet, as soon as she feels

the heart beat of the new life trying to be born, with a love filled heart she would again cry out, “Through this cup may your name be glorified.”

How hard it is to give birth to a new life? How painful it is to be a mother? Her physical strength alone would not suffice in enduring this pain. Yet she is encouraged and strengthened for the task through the overflowing love of the new life to be born.

What she physically experiences is a pain most unbearable as if her life is going to end. From close beside her she hears a voice saying, “Only a few minutes then everything will be over.” In an instant she is able to stop crying out as the pain subsides and wait with a mixture of hope and love. What she hears at this moment is “the cry of the child.” What she feels now is physical release, joy at heart and spiritual comfort (John 16:21). When there is no more pain, not only the mother but also all those who love her, relatives and friends in close association with her along with everybody who sees the child come to enjoy the fruit of her labour.

God gifting us with His only begotten Son is as a result of bearing labour pains. Therefore what is revealed through the painful experience of Christ in His suffering on the cross is the suffering of God on our behalf through Christ on the cross. To make us new men, Christ undergoes terrific labour pains on the cross. Along with the offering of Christ on the cross it is God Himself, our Abba Mother who suffers for us. It is a pain that supersedes labour pains. And the birth covers a broader realm than that of a normal child birth.

- (b) Jesus Christ experienced the paternal and maternal love of God very deeply on the cross. Christ as the true Son of Man subjecting Himself to a bitter passion faced death on the cross. Human words do not suffice to express the suffering He bore on the cross. Facing a terrific experience mingled with deep loneliness, abandonment, shame, rejection and unbearable physical pain He proclaims that the hour in which the Father is to be glorified has finally arrived.

Even though He cried out seeing the unendurable terrific pain and agony He was to undergo on the cross, “**Remove this cup from me**” (Mark 14:36), and on the cross “**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**” (Matthew 27:46), in an instant, again He resorted to the words, “**Yet not what I will, but what thou wilt**” (Mark 14:37b) and “**Father into thy hands I commit my spirit!**” (Luke 23:46), simply because He experienced within this painful hour the heart beat of the new life to be born of Him.

Exclaiming on the cross “Into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46), and “It is finished” (John 19:30) what Christ meant was that He has accomplished the mission expected of Him by His Abba Father. These words came out of Him as well since the dream of God the Father has been realized and in consequence of the labour pains experienced even by the Father, new men equipped with the experience of divine son-ship have already been born.

- (c) Just as a mother bears immense pain and suffering for the sake of the child in her womb, Jesus Christ hanging on the cross, bore immense pain and suffering for the sake of the child, the Holy Church that was in His womb. He gave birth to this child, the Holy Church suffering intense labour pains. Holy Church was given life and made present in and through Christ. “He opened for us a new and living way through the curtain, that is, through his flesh” (Hebrew 10:20). It was an experience expressed in His own words, “When a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for the joy that a child is born into the world” (John 16:21).

04. Towards us:

- ❖ What the Lord Jesus experienced on the cross was immense labour pains that far surpassed the labour pains of a human mother. The birth through this is of a much broader sphere than that of a normal child birth. The entire human race can have its impact only to the extent that we experience the new humanity in Christ or the divine son-ship and witness to it.

- (a)
 - i. How much do I experience the new humanity of divine son-ship won for us by Christ?
 - ii. What really flows down naturally through a life experiencing divine son-ship are Kingdom values. Is your life channeling the values of the Kingdom to others?

- (b)
 - i. The whole world will be exalted to the state of divine son-ship through His Second Coming (Revelation 21:1-2 – new heavens and a new earth). Till this day dawns the entire Universe groans in travail. No doubt it is also the Will of God (Rom. 8:21-22). For the entire Universe to experience being a new creation we too have to undergo labour pains that surpass the pains at normal child birth. Do we hear the entire universe groaning in travail?

 - ii. How about your expectations when in travail as a renewed Christian in seeing social and structural sin, injustice due to the prevailing social system and environmental destruction? (2 Peter 3:13)

05. For discussion:

- ❖ Lord Jesus Who was open to the paternal and maternal love of God responded by sacrificing His entire life for the Kingdom of God.

What is our response to the paternal and maternal love of God channeled to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross?

- ❖ In my divine son-ship, how awake am I to suffer willingly for the Kingdom, and to enter into the experience at the foot of cross remaining with Christ?

06. Throughout tomorrow:

- ❖ Let us orient ourselves to experience the power of His precious blood that manifests paternal and maternal love of Christ through which we are born anew as a people and a church.

- ❖ Let us open ourselves to the paternal and maternal love of God who loves us, admires and accepts us even when we are in deepest pain, loneliness, shame and rejection.
- ❖ Read Ephesians 1:4. Pubudu Gee No. 364 (old edition), No. 376 (new edition). Murmur the words throughout the day.

07. **Final Praise:**

Abba father – My son, I hear your loving voice and I feel your thirst.

Abba mother – My son, I hear your loving voice and I feel your thirst

My son, your pain and suffering on the cross has been mine, and I feel it piercing my heart.

Pubudu Gee. No. 53

7th Preparatory Novena

Mother of God experienced love both as “Abba Mother and Abba Father.”

01. Initial Praise:

The thirst of faith the Blessed Mother expressed towards Abba Father Almighty is perfect, steadfast and precious. The thirst she had during her life until her Assumption into heaven was a gift from God. Let us praise the thirst she possessed and pray that we too may be graced with the same.

Pubudu Gee. No. 365

02. Review:

- ❖ In your pain and loneliness, were you able to enter into the experience that Christ had of the paternal and maternal love of God the Father in His deepest pain and in His hour of abandonment on the cross?
- ❖ Since the Holy Church is the child born out of Christ’s immense suffering on the cross, were you mindful of committing yourself for the Kingdom acting in accordance with that divine son-ship?

03. Good News for the day:

- ❖ God’s maternal love is made visible in human form through the Blessed Mother. Gazing at the Blessed Mother we come to realize how she fully responded to the divine calling given to humanity.
- ❖ A woman becomes a mother by way of opening oneself to a male, receiving the seed, bearing and developing it and giving birth.
- ❖ From the time of her Annunciation till Pentecost, she was a woman fully open to the Will of God.
- ❖ She is the Mother of the author of faith, who allowed for the

Word of God and allowed it to be incarnated. Womb of the Mother of God is the fertile soil that the Word of God fell on. She allowed the Word “Jesus, the fruit of her womb” to develop in her the most powerful faith of His.

- ❖ She bears within her womb the experience of the Word of Abba Mother, Abba Father.
- ❖ While she experiences that Abba Father is the Father of her Son growing within her womb from moment to moment and for a period of nine months and when motherly changes are taking place in her body for the birth of her child, breasts filling up with milk, and her blood being turned into milk, she also experiences that the nature and form given to her for the reception of motherhood is by Abba Mother. She is engulfed in the mystery of His Name being the Most Holy. With great concentration let us fix our hearts and minds on her.

(b) Mother of God is a gift from Christ

Let us read John 19:26-27

- ❖ We reflected earlier what Jesus did before accomplishing the task entrusted to Him by the Father.
- ❖ In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis declares that the words, “This is your mother,” and “This is your son” are specific words of revelation that express the mystery of the most significant work of salvation.
- ❖ In the sublime hour that the birth of new creation was taking place Christ handed us over to the Mother of God.
- ❖ He brought us to her because He didn’t want us to make our onward journey alone without a mother.
- ❖ He set before the people the motherly image of God contained in the Gospel mysteries.
- ❖ Holy Father tells us that it is not the desire of Christ for the Church to experience the lack of this sublime female image.
- ❖ As Catholics, how blessed are we? She is the Mother who opens

our hearts to faith with motherly love letting us experience the maternal love of God.

- ❖ Just as Our Lady told St. Juan Diego, displaying her motherly comfort and love she whispers into our ears as follows:
“Let nothing discourage you, nothing depress you. Am I not here who is your Mother?”
- ❖ Pronouncing thus, Mother of God makes herself present among us along with the Holy Spirit as she was with the community of disciples gathered in prayer awaiting the advent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14).

04. Towards us: (Sharing)

- ❖ Similar to our Blessed Mother, have you experienced God as Abba Father and Abba Mother in your life situations. What are they? What are the instances that you missed this experience?
- ❖ Have you been conscious of the fact that you do experience the motherly love of God through our Blessed Mother?

05. Final Praise:

Pubudu Gee. No. 229

06. Throughout the day:

- ❖ As a family recite a Rosary in honour of our Blessed Mother, the visible expression of the maternal love of God.
- ❖ Recite the Hail Mary whenever possible during the day.
- ❖ Sing the hymn to Mary – Mary my good mother, protect me from all sin today.

8TH Preparatory Novena

Paternal and Maternal love of God in the Eucharist

01. Initial Praise:

Man was so proud as to claim equality with God and due to this sin he was destined for destruction. Yet, God humbled Himself and became flesh in order to save man from this disaster. So immense was the love of God for man that He further humbled Himself so as to hide Himself in a small white host. As such, God nourishes His people through the Eucharist like a mother. Like a father He dwells in her children providing them security. As an innocent victim He remains in solitude inside a tabernacle. With His loving desire to feed us He comes into our hearts to dwell there in. Taking into account this great love of the Almighty God for man, His children, the new creation let us enter into praise.

Pubudu Gee. No. 129

02. Review:

We reflected on several instances where our Blessed Mother praising God as “Most Holy is His Name” experienced the God Almighty as her Abba Father and Mother. Following her life example let us also thirst to experience the God Almighty as Abba Father and Mother even in our life.

03. Good News for the day:

- (a) Eucharist is the sacrament that constantly renews and enlivens the redemption won for us by Jesus Christ. Our Savior Jesus Christ at the Last Supper with His own words instituted the Holy Eucharist (Matthew 26:26-28).

Last Supper was the significant moment of Christ that was spent in the deepest possible intimacy with His disciples.

In that hour of love instituting the Holy Eucharist the most precious gift of love, He chose to become a victim of love in order to remain with us till the end of the world without leaving us as orphans because He loved us and treasured us

even more than His own life. His words to St Gertrude are as follows: “My only joy is to be at the disposal of my children. Eucharist has been instituted for this purpose.” (Courtesy Messenger)

Eucharist is the sacramental expression of the tangible presence of God’s love. This is confirmed by way of His eternal existence with His child, the Church. Eucharist is the mother who gazes on her children day and night and the father who secures them.

(b) Let us read John 6:48-56.

When we focus on the Greek terms in this passage, the verb “Phagein” is used for ‘to eat’ flesh Yet, in St. John’s gospel from verse 6:54 onwards the author uses the word “Trogein” which literally means to gnaw, munch, crunch.

The meaning hidden behind Trogein is the way an infant receives milk from her mother thoroughly enjoying his nourishment. The child who sucks bone marrow from the mother when he is in his mother’s womb, in coming out suckles her breasts.

According to St. John, the words of Christ, ‘Take and eat this is my body, take and drink this is my blood,’ do express the fact that He is being presented as a mother who suckles and nurtures her child with her life blood turned to milk.

This makes it clear that from the early stages the apostles had been able to envision the Eucharist as ‘the mother Christ.’

(c) From the ancient times the desire of feeding His people was in God as affirmed by providing ‘Manna’ in Exodus (Exod. 16:31-36) and by the miracle of feeding the five thousand in the New Testament (John 6:4-13). Both food and drink are set apart for the benefit of man. When consumed their nature undergoes a total change thus becoming part and parcel of man himself.

Similarly even the life of Christ was offered up for us. And as the life giving bread His nature became ours. Thus, since the beginning God has been suffering with His motherly love for the task of feeding us. And finally, He expressed His love for us by way of making His Son become our food.

- (d) A father, a mother, in loving their children give them priority giving their own life the second place. They are never hesitant to be broken, crushed and be spent out on behalf of the child. In the same manner it is made evident through the Eucharist, how God, the Creator of the Universe chose to make Himself very small for the sake of His child, His own creation. He allows Himself to be eaten, broken and crushed in our mouth (Luke 22:19). He loses Himself in us to give us life. Thus the Eucharist is the perfect expression of Christ's love, His loving existence. He dwells in and occupies the full sphere of the host. He makes Himself small to such an extent that He dwells even in a very small particle of the host. Only a father and a mother could care to become so small.

04. **Towards us:**

- ❖ Today we see through the Eucharist the life that St. John saw with his own eyes and touched with his own hands (1 John 1:1-2). Let us share a life experience in which we received the special touch or the great impact of the Eucharist.
- ❖ A pelican in order to satisfy the hunger of its chicks breaks his heart and sacrifices its life for them. A mother turns her blood into milk to satisfy the hunger of her child and such is a mother's love. Christ who becomes our spiritual food by offering His own Body and Blood with a similar love is the Eucharist, the maternal Christ. Are you mindful of Christ's maternal love that flows down to us through the Eucharist? Discuss.
- ❖ A mother or a father never hesitates to be broken, crushed and to be spent out for their child. Superseding even the love of the parents, the Almighty God transforming Himself as a small host allows to be broken crushed and disappears within them. The

invitation extended to us, the blessed people called to partake in the same meal is to be filled with that same paternal and maternal love in order to be broken, crushed and lose oneself for the sake of their brother. Are you awake to this calling? Discuss.

05. Throughout tomorrow:

- ❖ Participating at the Eucharist let us taste the paternal and maternal love of God flowed down through the Eucharist.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus who comes to me out of sheer love wishing to receive the weak love of mine is the beggar who is pleading for my love. During the short time that we are alone with Him after receiving communion let us tell Him “Jesus I love You.”
- ❖ Whenever possible let us make it a point to visit the Blessed Sacrament and spend some time alone with Him.

06. Final Praise: Pubudu Gee. No. 234

9th Preparatory Novena

My Sonship

01. Initial Praise

Lead the group to gaze into the depths of Christ in singing the hymn, Pubudu Gee No. 366.

Explain the meaning of the lyrics.

Let us enter into praise claiming for ourselves the fact that Christ is filling our hearts with perfect love of God at this moment just as He experiences it as the maternal and paternal love of God. Let the words, ‘the maternal and paternal love of God the Almighty that you experience’ be our main focus.

Let us come to a close singing Abba my Father, Abba my mother.

02. Review:

- ❖ Were you able to pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and spend some time alone with Him?
- ❖ Were you able to participate at the Eucharist and receive Communion to experience the maternal and paternal love of God anew?
- ❖ What decisions did you take in order to remain in the Eucharistic love of the Lord?

03. Good News for the day:

Thirst for perfect love

- ❖ In one of the steps suggested for helping one another for the sake of the Kingdom, Swami Thaththa has stated that the grace to call the Almighty God, Mother is a thirst or a longing for perfect love.

(a) Gazing at Christ

- ❖ Matthew 5:44-45, 48
- ❖ John 13:1
- ❖ Christ presents God the Father as the criteria through which the man should measure his perfection (Matthew 5:48).
- ❖ Christ shows forth the nature of the Father by way of loving His friends till the end.
- ❖ Christ Himself is this love that He fully revealed through His life.
- ❖ Therefore He is the perfect Son.
- ❖ Also He calls us to become sons and daughters of God based on His own criteria (Matthew 5:43-45).
- ❖ The relationship between God and Christ is fully affirmed by
- ❖ His way of guiding us to attain perfection in the love of God through loving our enemies that gives us a glimpse of the nature of God in order to become His children.
- ❖ We get to know who God is, simply through Christ, God's own reflection or the mirror that reflects God's own image to us.
- ❖ God relates to the entire universe the way the parents relate to a child. In short, He is Abba Father Abba Mother for everybody.
- ❖ God Almighty who is Abba Mother and Father does not wish to see His children become victims of Him or anybody else to that matter. He doesn't want to see us being enslaved or manipulated.

(b) Be united with Christ

- ❖ Christ as the True Man incarnated totally belongs to God thus claiming divine son-ship which means Christ has His total belonging in God whom He reveals. As such, He intends drawing all of us into Himself.

- ❖ We receive divine inheritance by way of moving into a deep union with Christ.
- ❖ Our divine inheritance depends on the measure we come to follow Him.
- ❖ Accordingly, addressing God as Abba Mother and Father is a vocation that we receive.
- ❖ This vocation is to live as a son or daughter of God.
- ❖ It simply means to be open to receive the perfect love of God.
- ❖ That is, not only to depend on God as a child of His but to live, move and have our being in the love relationship that fulfills human existence as well as give it meaning and dignity.

04. **Towards us:**

- ❖ A child is born out of the union of a father and a mother. The child will grow up to the extent he receives the love of both the father and the mother. The measure of this love greatly affects the external as well as internal growth of a person.
- ❖ Since man is made in the image of God we belong to Him.
- ❖ Therefore man will never find fulfillment by way of receiving only the limited love of humans and experiencing comfort and satisfaction in that level. Man can never be satiated or saturated with human love and what is material because of this inner image of God in him, the soul or the depth.
- ❖ That is why St. Augustine said, “O God, man finds no rest until he rests in you.”
- ❖ God is the source and origin of the love of a mother and a father. Man born with the image of God, grows and develops but to achieve fulfillment or to attain divine son-ship it is necessary to allow and stay open for the experience of perfect love of God as Abba Mother and Father.

- (c) We get stuck in many life situations based on the amount of love we receive. Lack of love has had a great impact on our lives. A person who has not received enough human love may find it difficult to experience the love of God which means the limited human being is not capable of offering unlimited or unconditional love to another. Yet, the love of God superseding human love fills us with unlimited, unconditional, maternal and paternal love.
- ❖ Lapses that I experience in love can only be filled by God. Therefore God the Father who filled Christ with His paternal and maternal love invites us too, to experience Him as Abba Mother and Father.

05. For discussion:

- (a) Within the family, community, society and personally, we are called not only to love others with our meager human love but to receive the love of Christ (Maternal and Paternal love of God) and to love others with this self same love divine. How far and how much do you experience the perfect love of God or the fatherly and motherly love of God? How much of divine love do we give to others?
- (b) Do you make use of the blessed moments received through Pubuduwa to experience the paternal and maternal love of God?
- My hour - Making the Word of God my daily bread
 - Constant awareness - Sharing of experiences and being in communion
 - Praise and worship

06. **Final Praise:**

Orientation: Sing the hymn 374 concentrating on the words. Let us awake and develop a thirst for:

- ❖ The paternal and maternal love of God
- ❖ The guidance of the Holy Spirit who is love
- ❖ Like the Son, to allow, to entrust, to be lost, to gain and to be aware of our vocation

Let us pray, “Abba Mother, Abba Father bestow on me the gift of consciousness.”

PRAISE:

Let us be conscious of the dark areas that distance us from the love of God. Without falling into despair let us surrender ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the lover of our souls. And let us trust in the love of God that is most perfect. Luke 1:13 gives the account that the gift given through Christ to those who ask is the Holy Spirit. The gift of God is God Himself. He Himself is the good things bestowed on us. Through the sacrifice of Christ what was given to us on the day of Pentecost is He Himself, His life and His perfect love. Let us enter into praise and pray that on this Pentecost too we may be empowered with the anointing received at baptism and was renewed by revival. Believing in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the lover of our souls within our hearts, let us enter into a session of praise where we experience the gifts of the Spirit.

07. **Throughout tomorrow:**

- ❖ Tomorrow will be the day that we, the people of Pubuduwa celebrate the feast of Pentecost.
- ❖ Let us have faith that it would be a night during which we experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the maternal and paternal love of God.

- ❖ Let us trust that it would not be another rally only but a day of transformation in our lives.
- ❖ Let us participate at the Pentecostal Rally with a deep openness, in communion with others as well as with great longing to hear the Word.
- ❖ God is not only the source of fatherly love but also of motherly love. Therefore in His love rests the qualities of a fatherly love as well as that of a mother. Therefore throughout this rally let us call the Almighty Creator, the source of paternal and maternal love with our whole hearts and minds Abba Father, Abba Mother.
