

Welcome to St. John's, Rev. Navin K. John

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Spotlight

Rev. Navin John comes to St. John's Church, from St. Barnabas Church, Murugeshpalya, HAL Bangalore. We welcome him, his wife Niveditha and son Nischal, and wish them a blessed and harmonious ministry at our church.

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:7. It was the instruction in this verse that motivated Rev. Navin John to join the pastoral ministry. "It was mainly due to the exemplary pastors that I had seen in my Church as a young person. As a member of the youth fellowship of my mother Church, St. Andrew's Church, Bangalore, and during my student days, I was drawn towards the Church ministry so that I could contribute to preserving and strengthening the faith of the Church."

For St. John's Church it is noteworthy that Rev. John is an alumni of St. John's School, having passed out in 1995. "My school life, from LKG to standard 10th, has had a significant influence in my life. I am what I am because of my teachers. My teachers moulded me. They stood by me in difficult times. They gave me the courage to face the world. If not for my teachers, I would not have hope in anything good in this world." He then did his Pre-University (Commerce) in 1997 at St. Aloysius College, Cox Town, Bangalore, and secured a BA degree in 2000 from St. Joseph's Evening College, Bangalore.

Rev. John was born on September 15, 1978, and is the eldest of three children. His father S. John retired from the Accounts Department, UTC in 2008, his mother Stella John was a nursery teacher at UTC. His wife Niveditha, accountant at Bishop Cotton Girls' School, enjoys singing and being in the choir, wherever they are posted. She has completed her BBM and MBA in Finance at the Bangalore University. Their six-year-old son, Nischal is in Std. I



Rev. Navin John with wife Niveditha and son Nischal

at Bishop Cotton Boys' School. Says Rev. John, "He likes to play a lot, and talk a lot. He has already taken a liking to St. John's Church and the campus life."

Ministerial experience

Rev. John began his work, as a 20-year-old, in the Youth Ministry. He worked as a local staff in the Youth For Christ Ministry (part of the SCM unit at United Theological College-UTC), between 1998 to 2000, under Samuel Balachander. In 2000, he was recruited as a ministerial candidate in the Karnataka Central Diocese (KCD).

Between 2001 and 2005, Rev. John trained at the Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, Chennai and completed his Bachelor of Divinity (B.D). His thesis was titled: 'The Concept of Reconciliation from the Book of Jonah: A model for interfaith Relations'. He went on to secure a Master of Theology (M.Th.) in Systematic Theology at UTC, Bangalore. The topic of his thesis was 'The Lordship of Christ: Implications from the writings of Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer'.

Church ministry

In 2000, Rev. John was recruited to the Diocesan pastoral ministry as a ministerial candidate and was

ordained in 2005 as a Deacon, and served at churches at Tumkur, Bangalore and the Ramlingpura mission field. Since his ordination as Presbyter in 2007, he has served at churches at Jalahalli, Kengeri, Basavanagudi, Dodballapur, Ramamurthy Nagar, Kothanur, Cox Town, and Electronic City, and, before St. John's, was at St. Barnabas Church, Murugeshpalya.

Convictions and journey in faith

After his recruitment to the Pastoral ministry of the Diocese, Rev. John's found the B.D. training in Gururkul Lutheran Theological College a time of struggle in terms of understanding his faith. "I had been through a process of learning and unlearning many things about my faith. The four years of training helped me to sharpen my faith and my responsibility to translate it to others in the right way."

After eight years of pastoral ministry, for his M.Th. he chose systematic theology because he was always

interested in the teachings of the Church. "Those two years of study enabled me to understand the dogmatics of the Church and the historicity of the teachings of our Church. It led me to undertake a research work on the "Lordship" of Christ:

Rev John was particularly inspired by the title 'Lord' given to Jesus in the Gospels and in the Epistles because he felt that it expressed the authority of Christ over the Church. Although my general areas of study are Christian theology and Church dogmatics, he continues to read about the historicity and of the title "Lord" attributed to Jesus Christ.

"I am fascinated by the title 'Lord' as it is a confessional statement of the early Christians in the context of emperor worship. The early Christians accepted and declared Jesus as Lord and refused to accept the emperor as Lord. I find it meaningful to us today in the life of the Church, because the Church is the body of Christ. and Christ is our Head. It is my conviction that Christ should be the Lord of the Church and not principalities or power."

The Eleven Commandments of Church Etiquette

1. Prepare your heart for Sunday on Saturday. Put your clock and calendar to rest on Sunday. Don't schedule your Sundays so that you are holding God to the clock. Give your spouse a break unless she / he absolutely loves to cook. Make Sundays a day of rest.
2. Plan Saturday night to leave on time on Sunday morning. Don't be in a mad rush cursing your children, frothing at your spouse. Punctuality is consideration of somebody's schedule. Besides, if you leave home early for church, you will not be tempted to speed, and you and your family will arrive safely. Even though we start on time, those who come late can create a distraction.
3. Your dress reflects your heart. Be neat and properly attired.
4. Take off your shoes if you want the kneeler to be a footrest.
5. Our morning services last about an hour and half to two hours. Leaving early, especially in the middle of the service, takes the edge off of the finality of a service. Staying brings closure to all of the time together.
6. Do help out in the church - distributing books, especially to senior members of the church.
7. God may be calling you! But probably not on your cell phone. So please turn off your phone during services. In fact, don't even bring the cell phone into the church building. Sunday is for God. All else can wait.
8. Texting is distracting to those around you. As also allowing your children to use the phone, especially to play games. God is to be honored above all others with reverence in the beauty of holy worship; our gathering is to be as such.
9. Our children receive chocolates at communion. Please dispose the wrappers in the trash cans outside the church, and don't litter the pews or the campus with them. During the service, if your children are hungry, do allow them to enjoy the biscuits, but go outside the church for all snacks.
10. Respect the building. As you leave the church, ensure that you have kept the prayer and hymn book and the Bible in the places designed for it. Better still, if you can stay back and help to arrange the books, it would be a wonderful service to your church.
11. After service, is a wonderful time to fellowship with other members of the church.

Adapted from <http://dentonbible.org/notes/church-etiquette>