

## **GROUP PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST.CHAVARA**

Father son and Holy spirit, coming before your majestic and divine presence we adore you, praise you and worship you. Along with the angelic choirs and heavenly court let us sing to the Lord, the creator of us all. Retiring from the cares and worries of our daily toil let us be here in this holy ground at the eve of the feast of our dear saint and bless the name of the Almighty through a bhajan.

### **Bhajan...**

St.Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a luminous star of the church, a man of God and prayer. As we celebrate the feast of St.Chavara let us have a glimpse of his life. Kuriakose Elias Chavara was born in 1805 of God fearing parents in the parish of Kainakary. When he was a little boy everybody admired him on account of his unusual piety and good character. He had a great devotion to Mother Mary which acquired from his mother, who always inspired him to lead a faithful life. Fr.Thomas Palackal, happened to meet our little Kuriakose, when he was eleven years old. He was impressed by the character and piety of the boy. He was taken to Pallipuram seminary in 1818. His Abba experience, Devotion to Blessed sacrament, docility to the will of God made him a great spiritual man. In 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1829, his Excellency Bishop Aurelius stabilini, the vicar apostolic ordained him as priest. His first solemn Mass was celebrated in his own parish,Arthumkal. His extraordinary faith vision and divine inspirations as a young Priest forced him to start the first religious congregation for men on 11<sup>th</sup> may 1831 in Mannam. His farsighted vision and dedication made him start a Sanskrit school in Mannam in 1846. And first catholic Printing press was started by him in Mannam. In 1859 Leopold Beccaro- an Italian missionary arrived in kerala and joined with him. They realised the need for spiritual realisation of women and both collaborated together and founded a congregation for women on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1866 known as CMC. In the loving providence of God, with 18Rs, they began their work. The pathetic situation of women in Kerala who were deprived of education and who were forced to do the household works, opened his eyes and he had taken special step for the upliftment of women & children,establishing many schools and giving training in handicrafts.He reformed liturgy and liturgical books. Moreover he was

a great revolutionary who acted with farsighted vision, made a great impact in the church as he had started many renewal programs and devotional practices. On January 3, 1871 at Koonamavu he died, accepting the pangs of his last illness patiently. Thus the great man of God kept his Baptismal sanctity till his death. He is remembered by all as his great contributions still stand in his memory. Let us sing the praises of the the Almighty for this man of God.

### **Hymn...**

'Lord is my cup and portion' – With this deep insight and conviction St. Chavara lived and moved with his loving father and made a tremendous impact in the church and the society as a whole. His exemplary life and unfailing faith made him a man of God and a man of prayer. O Lord we lift up our hearts in love and thanks for sending amidst us your dear son as our founder father whose spirit filled and God fearing life , and farsighted vision enhanced him to have a religious congregation for men and women. We are greatly privileged to be the member of this first indigenous congregation in the soil of India thus to inherit the true heritage of Carmel. We rejoice with the heavenly choirs for the great wonders you have done to our congregation and the manifold blessings we have received through his powerful intercession . O dear Saint your ceaseless efforts and hard toil gave colour and shape to CMC, though it had a simple beginning. "Great things happen when God mixes with us". It is truly reflected in your entire life. As you were lost in rapt attention before the Eucharistic Lord, You could act far ahead of your time with apostolic zeal within the 65 years of your earthly life. God's intervention in your life made you a man of multifaceted personality, a man of vision and mission and a great educationist and reformer. Your life was characterized by holiness, Simplicity, Spirit of prayer, detachment unquestionable obedience, God fearing habits and charitable disposition that raised you to the maximum height of sanctity. O dear Saint intercede for your loving daughters, so that we may imbibe your values and spirit in our lives. Let us strive hard to discern god's will and surrender our life at the feet of the Lord, Imparting God's love and light to the people around us through our witnessing life. May your undying sense of mission and unquenchable determination urge us to become firm in our conviction. Lord grant us the grace to face the challenges, withstanding power to

accept the hardships and move forward to you in contemplation and consecrated to you in action like the saint. O Lord as your Persevered your Son's Baptismal sanctity till death keep us pure and holy till our death. O dear saint, intercede for each member of our congregation so that we may be able to prove that we are your true daughters, render our service to God and his people specially for the upliftment of women, children and downtrodden.

Lord, Make us effective instruments in your mighty hands to extend our helping hands for the least and lost one.

### **Reading Jn: 15:11-17**

#### **Intercessions:**

How thrilling it is to love the Lord. Let us remember the saint who loved God and whom God loved. Along with the yearnings of saint joining with the psalmist let us also raise our hearts to the Lord and say as response,

“The Lord is my cup and portion”

\*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. I have a goodly heritage. So let us praise the Lord saying

**Response:** The Lord is my cup and portion.

\*I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. So let us praise the Lord, saying

**Response:** The Lord .....

\*Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

**Response:** The Lord...

\*You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy. In your right hand are pleasures for evermore. So let us praise the Lord

**Response:** The Lord.....

\*For you do not give me up to sheol, or let your faithful one see the pit. So let us praise the Lord saying.

**Response:** The Lord.....

Let us raise our voices harmoniously to praise and glorify our Lord with our beloved saint singing a hymn.

### **Hymn of St.Chavara**

St. Kuriakose says ,”O my Lord, here is my heart opened for you, and I have placed the Holy lap of your Beloved mother which is the dearest throne for you. Oh! My king come be seated in it”. Let it be our prayer too at the last moments of this holy hour and the rest of our life. Enkindle in us the burning zeal for our Beloved Lord. Make us persons of prayer and enable us to radiate your rays of love mercy to everyone whom we come into contact with. Thank you Lord for the manifold blessings you have bestowed on us through our dear saint. Lord we offer our entire congregation and all the superiors. Let the mediation of our dear saint rejuvenate them and make them your liable instruments. Let us praise our Lord singing with the heavenly chorus.

### **Hymn(Thanks and Praise)**