

THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE EPHREMITÉ

Bulletin of the Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki – Pune



VOL I | NO.3 | AUGUST 2015

Exarchate of St. Ephrem
51 BhauPatil Road
Bopodi -411020
Pune, Maharashtra

PATRON

H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC
The Exarch

CIRCULATION

Local Parish Priests

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Mr. Arvind Gawde

TYPESETTING

Mr. Jose Varghese

CORRESPONDENTS

Jeevan, Angel, Sojisha, Stella, Binu, Merin,
Lijo, Bincy, Libin, Rex, Shibu, Beena, Jacob, Vitty, Anish & John

PRINTING

Ganraj Arts, Kasarwadi, Pune

PUBLISHED BY THE CHANCELLOR

from the Exarchate of St. Ephrem,
51 BhauPatil Road, Bopodi-Pune
Maharashtra, India

© **Copyright** With Exarchate of St. Ephrem

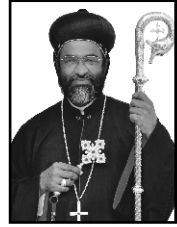
For private circulation only

CONTENTS

1. The Voice of the Exarch
2. Common Circular Letter - Sunday School Day
3. Circulars
 - Exarchial Commissions
 - Exarchial Suvisesha Sangham
4. Exarchial News
 - Mar Ivanios Day Celebration
 - Release of Book Authored by the Exarch
 - St. Thomas Ecumenical Association Inauguration
 - Trust Formation Meet
 - Exarchate of St Ephrem - A Registered Religious Trust
 - Exarchial Consultors Meet
 - Suvisesha Sangham Second Batch Commissioned
 - Bon Voyage to the Exarch
 - Seminary Updates
 - A Leap towards Mission in Goa
 - Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
5. Ecclesial District News
 - Mumbai
 - Hyderabad
 - Chennai
 - Pune
 - Bangalore

The Voice of the Exarch

**I call you for a participatory
commitment for our mission!**



Dear All,

The month of July is a blessing for us Malankarites. It is the time that we pilgrimage to the tombs of our Fathers-in-faith, our beloved Aboon Mar Theophilos and the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios. The *Padayatris* who obtain blessing are witnesses of a spiritual experience and blessing for the world. It is a spiritual enrichment for all of us to see the swelling crowd that throngs the tombs of our beloved Prelates.

I very specially convey prayerful greetings and blessings to the youth and the elders who participated in the *Padayatra* to the tomb of the Servant of God Mar Ivanios. There were about hundred and fifty of them from the Exarchate. About twenty of them participated in the entire *Padayatra* for five days. I thank God that I could also join them for five days, the third consecutive year. We were all praying for the intentions of the Exarchate – the families, the elders, the youth and children – for its spiritual and material prosperity and for our personal intentions too, through the intercession of Mar Ivanios. His sanctity and charism sanctify us; his intercession is a stronghold for u! Let us pray incessantly: “Lord be pleased to give your Servant Mar Ivanios as a saint in the Church!”

I invoke God's blessings on all the *padayatras* that are organized in the districts of our Exarchate to celebrate the Feast of Commemoration of the Servant of God and to obtain his intercessory blessings.

We are at the threshold of the month of August. On 2 August we celebrate Sunday School Day. I urge the students, parents, teachers, parish priests and all concerned to observe this day to instill in us the message of the day. We also commemorate three important events in this month – the Assumption of Mary into heaven, the founding of Bethany Ashram by the Servant of God Mar Ivanios and the Indian Independence Day – all on 15 August. Greetings of the blessed day to all!

Dear Friends! In the last two months, I have been travelling through our Exarchate spread over South India. I could meet most of our communities; but I have to personally reach out to a few more. I have been very much impressed by the commitment of my brothers and sisters, our Faithful, to their faith-life and ecclesial-life. There is an exuberance of a renewed hope to build up our mission according to our vision. We are formulating new ways and means to achieve our mission. As you know, the Church is not for herself. She is for the world. She reaches out to everyone. It is our aim that we too, as a Church, reach out to humanity with our limited resources.

It is for this purpose that we plan the formation of “trusts and societies” according to the civil law of our land. The purpose of “trusts or societies” is to do something good to humanity by pooling financial resources of those who can contribute to their goals. It is not a profit oriented endeavor but a philanthropic service. We are trying to build up participatory charitable ecclesial institutions to serve the poor and needy by pooling our resources. It is a means to reach out to the periphery of the society, to the marginalized and the less fortunate, as our beloved Pope Francis always encourages us. We will see to it that the participants are able to contribute without having to part with their hard-earned mite. I call everyone to be part of this movement, each according to one's ability.

One of the primary aims of our ecclesial life is the deepening of our faith-living. For this we are planning to organize all our associations – *Suviseshasangham*, MCA, *Mathrusangham*, *Pithrusangham*, MCYM and MCCL at the parish, district and Exarchial levels. Rev. Fr Varghese Valikodath, the Coordinator of the Exarchial Commissions of our apostolate is meticulously planning to work out an action plan for this. I urge the Parish Priests and Protospresbyters to do the needful in collaboration with him.

Dear brothers and sisters! I write you these few lines from Zürich in Switzerland where I have come to meet our friends and well-wishers. As you know, our Church in communion with the Holy Catholic Church is always in partnership with our brethren everywhere. Their solidarity and prayers are a great help to us. Please do pray for all our benefactors.

In my absence, Rt Rev. Msgr Varghese Mattamana, our Protosyncellus, is in-charge of the affairs of our Exarchate. His commitment to our new-born Exarchate is laudable.

Many have shared with me that THE EPHREMITE is a good communicator for the Exarchate. Thank you for the support. Our Chancellor, Rev. Fr George Mathew OIC and his collaborators are doing a good job!

While I invoke God's blessings on our families, parents, the youth and the children of our Exarchate, I know that your prayers strengthen me.

Yours in Our Lord

+ *Mar Antonios*

Bishop Thomas Mar Antonios OIC
Apostolic Exarch



THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday School Day - 2015

Message from the Chairman of the Synodal Commission for Faith Formation

Greetings to all in the name of the Triune God!

The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church celebrates Sunday School Day on 2 August 2015. The catechism, the platform for the transmission of faith, is the most important ministry in the Church. It is the right and duty of the Church to transmit meaningfully the dogmas, the liturgical traditions, the Word of God, the sacraments, the moral values, the spiritual traditions and the social vision. The Sunday School Day is an occasion to share the message of this divine mission.

The modern age, in which change is fast and complex, the divine call to transmit our faith is so challenging. This mission should be actualized through a common activity which includes the teachers, parents, priests and religious who are zealous in faith and have deep knowledge and commitment. Hence, all our parishes should undertake all the activities of faith formation, the Sunday school, as an important responsibility. The whole Church is urged to partake in this ministry with great enthusiasm and divine grace.

We should continuously awaken and enlighten in all the students, teachers and parents the importance of faith formation. The divine faith and the character formation that goes with it are the greatest gifts and riches that can be handed over to our coming generation. Let us try to inculcate this mission and awareness. May the Sunday School Day of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church become an inspiring occasion to think and live as the children of God against the world moved by the slavery and domination of materialism! As at the apostolic times, the divine call for and duty of transmitting the faith shall be kept up in our hearts as a prayer intention. May the various celebrations of the Sunday School Day in the different Eparchies be a blessing!

It is a matter of joy that the departments of faith formation in all our Eparchies are functioning effectively. I place on record the gratitude and appreciation of the Church to all those who engage in this divine mission. I urge all wholeheartedly to carry out the activities of faith formation more fruitfully. Rev. Dr George Thomas Kochuvilayil, a priest from the Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum is appointed the Secretary to the Synodal Commission for Faith Formation of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. The activities of the Malankara Catholic Children's League (MCCL), the practical platform and the official association of the Sunday School shall be made active in all our parishes. Rev. Fr Saji Arrackal, a priest from the Eparchy of Muvattupuzha, is working as the Director of the MCCL.

This year also, at the anniversary celebrations of the Reunion, the 'Sunday School Students' Sanghamam' will be held at Tiruvalla. The students and teachers should participate in the MCCL Sanghamam which begins at 9 am on Sunday, 20 September 2015.

I am happy to inform you that the office for the Synodal Commission for Faith Formation has started to function in our Major Archiepiscopal Curia at the Catholicate Centre. The text books of catechism are available in the Catholicate Centre.

I request all, your active participation, co-operation, encouragement and prayer for the work of Sunday School and MCCL. Let us remember all who taught us, especially the Servant of God Mar Ivanios, to be the children of God. Let us pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit, the source of all divine wisdom.

May God bless you abundantly!



✠ Philipose Mar Stephanos

Chairman, Synodal Commission for Faith Formation
25.07.2015 Catholicate Centre, Pattom
Thiruvananthapuram

NB: This circular is to be read in all our churches, mission centers and centers of worship on Sunday School Day on 2 August during the Holy Qurbano.



മലങ്കര സുറിയാനി കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭ

സഭാസംഗ്രഹം - 2015

വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനത്തിന് വേണ്ടിയുള്ള സുന്നഹദോസ് കമ്മീഷൻ ചെയർമാന്റെ സന്ദേശം

ബഹു, വൈദികരേ, സന്യാസ്തരേ, അധ്യാപകരേ, മാതാപിതാക്കളേ, പ്രിയ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളേ,

ഏവർക്കും ത്രിയേകദൈവനാമത്തിൽ വന്ദനം!

2015 ആഗസ്റ്റ് മാസം 2-ാം തീയതി മലങ്കര സുറിയാനി കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭ സഭാസംഗ്രഹം ദിനമായി ആചരിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ. സഭയിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള ശുശ്രൂഷയാണ് വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ കൈമാറ്റ വേദിയായ സഭാസംഗ്രഹം. നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ വിശ്വാസസത്യങ്ങളും ആരാധനാ പാരമ്പര്യങ്ങളും തിരുവചനവും കുദാശകളും ധർമ്മികമൂല്യങ്ങളും ആത്മീയതയും സാമൂഹിക കാഴ്ചപ്പാടുകളും സഭാമക്കൾക്ക് അർത്ഥവത്തായി കൈമാറ്റം ചെയ്യപ്പെടേണ്ടത് സഭയുടെ കടമയും അവകാശവുമാണ്. ഈ ദൈവികദൗത്യത്തിന്റെ സന്ദേശം പങ്കുവയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ള സന്ദർഭമാണ് സഭാസംഗ്രഹം ദിനം.

അതിവേഗം മാറ്റങ്ങൾക്ക് വിധേയമായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതും ഏറെ സങ്കീർണ്ണവുമായ ഈ ആധുനികകാലത്ത് നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസകൈമാറ്റം വളരെ വെല്ലുവിളികൾ നിറഞ്ഞ ദൈവവിളിയാണ്. വിശ്വാസ തീക്ഷ്ണതയും അറിവും പ്രതിബദ്ധതയും ഉള്ള അധ്യാപകരും മാതാപിതാക്കളും വൈദികരും സന്യാസ്തരും എല്ലാം ഉൾച്ചേർന്ന ഒരു കൂട്ടായ്മയുടെ സംഘാതകമായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിലൂടെ ഈ ദൗത്യം നിർവ്വഹിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ആയതിനാൽ നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ ഇടവകകളും വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനവേദിയായ

സണ്ടേസ്കൂൾ പ്രവർത്തനം ഏറ്റം പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള ദൗത്യമായി ഏറ്റെടുക്കണം. സഭ മുഴുവനും അതീവജാഗ്രതയിലും സമർപ്പണബോധത്തിലും ദൈവകൃപയുടെ നിറവിലും ഈ ശുശ്രൂഷയിൽ പങ്കുചേരുവാൻ ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്യുന്നു.

വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനത്തിന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യം നമ്മുടെ സഭയിലെ കുട്ടികളെയും അധ്യാപകരെയും മാതാപിതാക്കന്മാരെയും നിരന്തരമായി ഉണർത്തുകയും ജ്വലിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. നമ്മുടെ വരും തലമുറയ്ക്ക് നൽകാവുന്ന ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ദാനവും സമ്പത്തും ദൈവവിശ്വാസവും അതോടുചേർന്ന സ്വഭാവരൂപീകരണവുമാണ്. ഈ ദൗത്യവും അവബോധവും കൂടുതലായി വളർത്തുവാൻ നമുക്ക് ശ്രമിക്കാം. ഭൗതികതയുടെ അടിമത്തത്തിലും ആധിപത്യത്തിലും ചലിക്കുന്ന ഈ ലോകചിന്തകൾക്ക് വിപരീതമായി ദൈവമക്കൾക്കടുത്ത രീതിയിൽ ചിന്തിക്കുവാനും ജീവിക്കുവാനും സഹായിക്കുന്ന പ്രചോദനവേദിയായി മലങ്കര സുറിയാനികത്തോലിക്കാസഭ സണ്ടേസ്കൂൾ ദിനം തീരട്ടെ. വിശുദ്ധ അപ്പസ്തോലന്മാരുടെ അരുപിയിൽ വിശ്വാസകൈമാറ്റമെന്ന ദൗത്യം ഒരു ദൈവികവിളിയും ദൗത്യമെന്ന നിലയിൽ നമുക്കും ഹൃദയത്തോട് ചേർത്ത് പ്രാർത്ഥനാനിയോഗമായി സമർപ്പിക്കാം. വിവിധ ഭദ്രാസനങ്ങളിൽ വിവിധ രീതിയിൽ നടത്തപ്പെടുന്ന സണ്ടേസ്കൂൾ ദിനാഘോഷം അനുഗ്രഹപ്രദമായി തീരട്ടെ.

നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ ഭദ്രാസനങ്ങളിലും വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനവിഭാഗം വളരെ കാര്യക്ഷമമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നു എന്നതിൽ ഏറെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. ഈ ദൈവികദൗത്യത്തിൽ പങ്കുചേരുന്ന എല്ലാവർക്കും സഭയുടെ നാമത്തിൽ നന്ദിയും അനുഭോദനങ്ങളും അറിയിക്കുന്നു. കൂടുതൽ ഫലപ്രദമായി വിശ്വാസപരിശീലന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ഏറ്റെടുത്ത് നടത്തുവാൻ ഏവരെയും സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. മലങ്കര കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയുടെ വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനത്തിന്റെ സിനഡൽ കമ്മീഷൻ സെക്രട്ടറിയായി തിരുവനന്തപുരം മേജർ അതിഭദ്രാസനത്തിലെ റവ. ഡോ. ജോർജ്ജ് തോമസ് കൊച്ചുവിളയിൽ നിയമിതനായി. സണ്ടേസ്കൂളിന്റെ പ്രായോഗികപ്രവർത്തനവേദിയും സംഘടനാസംവിധാനവുമായ മലങ്കര കാത്തലിക് ചിൽഡ്രൻസ് ലീഗ് നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ ഇടവകകളിലും കൂടുതൽ പ്രവർത്തനോന്മുഖമാക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കേണമെ. മുവാറ്റുപുഴ ഭദ്രാസനാംഗമായ റവ. ഫാ. സജി അറയ്ക്കൽ എം.സി.സി.എൽ-ന്റെ സഭാതല ഡയറക്ടറായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ വർഷവും പുനരൈക്യവാർഷികത്തോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് സഭാസംഗമം കൂട്ടിക്കൂടെ സംഗമം തിരുവല്ലായിൽ വെച്ച് നടത്തുന്നു. സെപ്റ്റംബർ മാസം 20-ാം തീയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച രാവിലെ 9.00 മണി മുതൽ ആരംഭിക്കുന്ന എം.സി.സി.എൽ സംഗമത്തിൽ സഭാസംഗമം കൂട്ടിക്കൂടെയും അധ്യാപകരും പങ്കുചേരണമേ.

നമ്മുടെ സഭാകേന്ദ്രകാര്യമായ കാര്യങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് സെന്ററിൽ വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനത്തിനുള്ള ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ഓഫീസ് സജ്ജമായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നറിയിക്കുവാൻ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. സഭാസംഗമം പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ കാര്യങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് സെന്ററിൽനിന്നും ലഭ്യമാണ്.

നമ്മുടെ സഭാസംഗമത്തിന്റെയും എം.സി.സി.എൽ. ന്റെയും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ എല്ലാവരുടെയും സജീവമായ പങ്കാളിത്തവും സഹകരണവും പ്രോത്സാഹനവും പ്രാർത്ഥനയും അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. നാം ദൈവമക്കളായി തീരുവാൻ നമ്മെ പഠിപ്പിച്ച ഏവരെയും വിശിഷ്ട്യാ ദൈവദാസൻ മാർ ഈവാനിയോസ് തിരുമേനിയെയും അനുസ്മരിക്കാം. എല്ലാ ദൈവിക അറിവുകളുടെയും ഉറവിടമായ പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെ കൃപാദാനങ്ങൾ നമുക്ക് അപേക്ഷിക്കാം.

ദൈവം നിങ്ങളെ അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ,

✠ഫിലിപ്പോസ് മാർ സതോദാനോസ്

മലങ്കര സുറിയാനി കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയുടെ വിശ്വാസ പരിശീലന സുന്നഹദോസ് കമ്മീഷൻ ചെയർമാൻ

20.07.2015
കാതോലിക്കേറ്റ് സെന്റർ
പട്ടം, തിരുവനന്തപുരം

N.B. ഈ സർക്കുലർ സഭാസംഗമം ദിനമായ ആഗസ്റ്റ് 2-ാം തീയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച വി. കുർബാന മദ്ധ്യേ നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ പള്ളികളിലും മിഷൻ കേന്ദ്രങ്ങളിലും വായിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.



Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune Directorate of Exarchial Commissions

☎ 70307 33990 : ✉ commissions.exarchate@gmail.com

DEC / 2015 / 01

21 July 2015

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Members of MCCL, MCYM, MCA, Pithruvedi and Mathrusangham,

Prayerful Greetings from the Exarchial Commissions – Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune!

By the grace of God and the appointment of the new Apostolic Exarch, I have taken up the responsibility of the Co-ordinator of Exarchial Commissions, Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune from 11 June 2015 onwards. As the Co-ordinator of Exarchial Commissions, I am entrusted with the wide-ranging task of co-ordinating the various activities of different Exarchial Commissions. Along with this, I am specifically appointed the Director of Catechesis, MCCL, MCYM, *Mathrusangham*, *Pithruvedi*, MCA, *Suvisheshasangam*, Family Apostolate, Bible Apostolate and Vocations. Even though this seems to be a Herculean task, I do believe in the providence of God and will try my best to discern the plan of God in the creation of the Exarchate and clubbing of the Exarchial Departments. Let us move ahead with a powerful will and genuine heart to achieve the growth we intend to realize through our pious associations.

An important meeting of the College of Exarchial Consultors with the Apostolic Exarch, convened on 21 July 2015 at Pune Bishop's House, arrived at the following conclusions and entrusted the Co-ordinator of Exarchial Commissions to implement them accordingly:

1. Malankara Catholic Association (MCA) has to be initiated in the Exarchial level.
2. Since the aims and objectives of *Pithruvedi* is almost same as MCA, the present activities of *Pithruvedi* (if any) has to be merged with the MCA.
3. MCYM, Mathrusangham and MCA will have Parish, District and Exarchial level administrative set up. MCCL (Malankara Catholic Children's League) will be initiated till the District level.
4. The Exarchial level Executive of MCYM, *Mathrusangham* and MCA has to be constituted in the month of August itself.
5. The duration of the Exarchial and Zonal level Executive will be two years.
6. The Zonal level Executive of MCYM, *Mathrusangham* and MCA for 2015 – '17 has to be finalized by 15 August. (The existing Committees are free to continue if the concerned association decides so)
7. The Representatives to the Exarchial Syndicate/Council has to be conducted in the Zonal Senate/Assembly according to the manner and proportion given in the Annexure to the By-Laws approved in the Consultors' Meeting.
8. The election to the Secretariat is scheduled to be held in the month of August itself.
9. The Proto-Presbyters are entrusted with the task of election in the Zonal level.
10. Very Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, the Vicar General of the Exarchate will preside over the Oath taking Ceremony of the new Office Bearers.

Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation (Mark 16:15)

According to the decisions taken in the meeting of the Exarchial Consultors and discussions with the Proto-Presbyters of Chennai and Hyderabad, the election to the Exarchial Secretariat of MCYM and to the Exarchial Executive of *Mathrusangham* and MCA is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 22 August 2015. The gathering will begin with the celebrated Holy Qurbano at 8.15 am and conclude with a Thanks-giving Adoration at 5.30 pm. A detailed programme will be sent to you soon. All the elected representatives and the Ex-officio members (By-law Annexure No 1.2) of all the three Associations are requested to be present on-time, as far as possible, for the smooth and orderly functioning of the election process.

Election of the members to the Exarchial Syndicate from the Districts has to be conducted according to the By-law Annexure No 3, as and when required. By-law Annexure No 4 will be applied, as far as possible, for the election to the Exarchial Secretariat/Executive. The Annexure to the By-law is attached with this Circular for your reference and clarification.

Since most of the Districts have not decided on the District Director yet, I have clearly informed the Proto-Presbyters of Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad Districts regarding the process of election to the Exarchial Syndicate from the Districts. So I humbly request the Proto-Presbyters to take initiative in the District Senate to explain the mode of election and need of sending most appropriate candidates to the Exarchial Syndicate. The names of the elected representatives should reach the Directorate on or before 11 August 2015.

After taking the responsibility of the Co-ordinator of Exarchial Commissions, I had direct interactions with the Office Bearers of MCYM, *Mathrusangham*, *Pithruvedi*, MCA, *Suvisheshangham* and Catechesis of Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore Districts (till now Sub-Regions or Zones). The sharing you did, the suggestions you put forward and the aspirations you were challenged at were translated into Proposals to be discussed in the Exarchial Syndicate to be held on 22 August. Based on the proposals, each Association may draw a clear picture of the activities of them for the next two years.

Even though, our Pithavu will be abroad on those days, provision will be made to get His Excellency's assent after the election before the Oath taking Ceremony of the Office Bearers. We have to think of a facility for him to address the common gathering of the Exarchial Syndicate of all the associations.

For suggestions and clarifications, the Presidents of Units and Zones are free to contact me over phone. My number in Pune is 70307 33990. Email ids will be generated for each association once the election is over.

Wish you all the blessings of the Feast of St. Alphonsa!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Varghese Valikkodath

Co-ordinator of Exarchial Commissions

Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation (Mark 16:15)



Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune
Malankara Catholic SUIVISESHASANGHAM

☎ 70307 33990; ✉ suviseshasangham.exarchate@gmail.com

MCSS / 2015 / 01

21 July 2015

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and Members *Suviseshasangham*,

Prayerful Greetings from Suviseshasangham – Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune!

By the grace of God and the appointment of the new Apostolic Exarch, I have taken up the responsibility of the Director of *Suviseshasangham*, Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune from 11 June 2015 onwards. The Department of *Suviseshasangham* will work under the Exarchial Commission for Evangelization of which I am appointed as the Secretary. As proposed in the Pastoral Council held at Pune, the Exarchial Commission for Evangelization will be constituted in our Exarchate in the month of August itself. *Suviseshasangham* in the Exarchate will be the continuation and rejuvenation of the activities in the MCC ETRI pertaining to the *Suviseshasangham* in the Southern Region.

Very Rev Dr Antony Kakkanatt, the Executive Director of Malankara Catholic *Suviseshasangham* carried out the first phase of formation at the ETRI level and the District (Zonal) level. ETRI level formation was conducted in Delhi and the District level formations were concentrated in Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore. Parish level formation of *Suviseshasangham* was inaugurated in October 2014 at Vasai Parish in Mumbai with the able guidance of Fr. Kakkanatt and Sr. Francina DM, the Secretary of Malankara Catholic *Suviseshasangham*. Parish level formations were held at Thane Parish (Mumbai District), Kirkee and Vishrantwadi Parishes (Pune District) and Mathikare Parish (Bangalore District).

The first batch of Church level *Suviseshasangham* was formed by the laying-on-of-hands by Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos on 21 September 2013 with Priests, Sisters and Laypersons chosen from various dioceses and congregations of Malankara Catholic Church. Mr. VA George (Kirkee) and Mrs. Rosamma Rajan (Borivili) are part of this *Suviseshasangham* which had undergone formation programme at Catholicate Centre.

The second batch of Church level *Suviseshasangham* comprising of 54 members have received laying-on-of hands from Bava Thirumeni and other Bishops of our Church on 15 July 2015 during the Solemn Holy Qurbano in Commemoration of the Feast of Servant of God Mar Ivanios. Mr. Thomas Daniel (Kirkee), Mr. Sabu Pappachan (Singasandra), Mr. Napoleon Varkey and Mrs. Mariamma Napoleon (Borivili), Mrs. Jessy Thomas (Warje Malwadi) and Fr. Varghese Valikkodath were part of this Batch.

The formation of the third Batch commenced in January 2015 itself. We have zealous people participating in the 18 months Training Programme from Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad Districts. Let us sincerely thank the providence of God in providing as much missionaries to proclaim the Word of God in different areas of the Exarchate.

Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation (Mark 16:15)

Our *Pithavu* has taken keen interest in the formation and the well being of *Suviseshasangham* in the Exarchate. He has clearly shared his vision of permeating the spirit of *Suviseshasangham* in all our pious associations. For an official revamp of *Suviseshasangham* in the Exarchate, Fr. Antony Kakkanatt himself is visiting all our Districts. As a beginning, he will lead Training Programmes in Pune and Mumbai Districts. The training in Pune is scheduled to be held on 8, 9 August 2015 at Holy Redeemer's Malankara Catholic Church, Kalewadi. Along with this, he will also take the lead role in the formation of Parish level *Suviseshasangham* in St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Kalewadi from 9 - 13 August 2015. The Programme in Mumbai is scheduled to be held on 15, 16 August 2015 at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Sakinaka. The dates for Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad Districts will be decided according to the availability of Kakkanatt Achan.

All the *Suviseshasangham* members who have participated in the ETRI level formation at Delhi and the Zonal level formation at Mumbai or Pune are requested to confirm their participation in the Training Programmes either in Pune or in Mumbai. Henceforth they will be considered as part of Exarchate level *Suviseshasangham*.

A decision has been taken to adopt more members to this group including the youth. The existing *Suviseshasangham* members in the Church level and Exarchate level will be given clear instructions to propose new members with the approval of the concerned Parish Priest.

Suviseshasangham is the new breath of Malankara Catholic Church in this vicious arena of non-spiritualization. A journey with Jesus is imminent in our birth and our call to be a Malankara Catholic. The Malankara Catholic Assembly held three years ago pondered over this basic call and arrived into a resolution to begin a *Suviseshasangham* in the spirit of Mar Ivanios Pithavu for the sanctification of oneself, for the renewal of the Malankara Catholic Church and for the proclamation of the Divine Word to the end of India as he dreamt and strived. Our active participation in the *Suviseshasangham* will make the life of the Church more Christ-centred and human-oriented.

So I request everyone, on behalf of the Apostolic Exarch, to actively participate in the Training Programmes to form ourselves into a new creation and thus becoming the salt and light of the earth to make others' life tastier and luminous.

Wish you all the blessings of the Feast of St. Alphonsa!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Varghese Valikkhadath

Director of Suviseshasangham

Exarchial News

Mar Ivanios Day Celebration

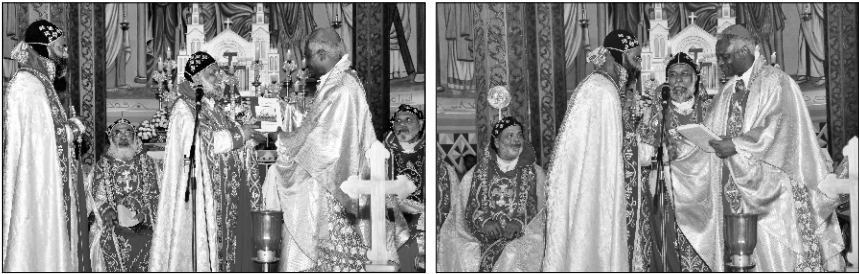
One of the most blessed and energizing events of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church is the commemoration of her founder, Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios. The Church is blessed again, by the commemoration of His 62nd Death Anniversary. This prayerful commemoration extended from 1 – 15 July at St Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Cathedral Church, Trivandrum. Thousands participated in this Spiritual event and received favours, blessings and peace of mind. The padayatra to the Tomb of Mar Ivanios from 10 to 14 July was a blessing and a great witness. Chanting Ivanian and devotional Hymns thousands participated in this pilgrimage, walking around 150 Kms from Ranni-Perunad to the Tomb of Mar Ivanios at Pattam-Trivandrum. Like Moses leading his people to the Promised Land, the guiding presence of His Beatitude Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos and His Excellency Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC along with the other Bishops was really a source of inspiration and blessing.



Around 175 faithful from the six Ecclesial Districts of the Exarchate participated in the Padayatra, on 14 July which includes 75 from Mumbai, more than 30 from Pune, 30 from Chennai along with Rev. Fr. Philip Kaleekal, 10 along with Fr. John Thundiath OIC from Hyderabad, 15 from Nashik-Aurangabad and 10 from Bangalore. Whereas good number of youths and faithful walked five full days. Msgr. Fr. Varghese Mattmana, the Protosyncellus, and Fr. George Mathew OIC also joined the Padayatra for one day and attended the main function on 15 July. The Candle Procession and *Doopa Prarthana* on 14th night was really touching and healing. 15 July was the day of main celebration with Solemn Concelebrated Holy Qurbono, with His Beatitude Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, His Eminence Peter Cardinal Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace, hundreds of priests and religious and thousands of the lay faithful. The Holy Qurbono was followed by *Doopa Prarthana* and Agape.

Book Release – Authored By H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC

The releasing of the book “The Nature of a Sui Iuris Church”, authored by H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, added glow to Mar Ivanios Day celebrations on 15 July 2015 at Pattam-Trivandrum. His Beatitude Basелиos Cardinal Cleemis, Major Archbishop-Catholicos introduced, appreciated and released the book presenting the first copy to His Eminence Peter Cardinal Turkson, the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace - the Chief Guest at the Commemoration Ceremony. Congratulations to His Excellency for the labour involved in this effort. May this comprehensive study on the nature of the Church, help us enter into a better understanding of the Church and to live a blessed life in the Church.



St. Thomas Ecumenical Association Inauguration

5 July 2015, 34 Parishes belonging to seven Episcopal Churches in Pune gathered at Carmel Syro-Malabar Church Auditorium at Vadgoansheri for the inauguration of St Thomas Ecumenical Association by H. E. Thomas Mar Theetos, Bishop of Mar Thoma Syrian Church – Mumbai and H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC – Apostolic Exarch of the Exarchate of St Ephrem – Khadki, Pune. This was a memorable day in the history of Christians in Pune. The community also felicitated, Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, the first



Malayalee bishop residing in the District of Pune. The presence of Rev. Fr. Thomas Jacob-the President, Rev. Fr. Martin Vellyankandathil-the Secretary, Mr. P V Thomas-the Vice-President and Mr. P. G. Koshy, the treasurer and presence of around 1000 faithful from different Churches in Pune added glow to the day. The bishops graced the occasion by the wisdom filled words and assured co-operation and greater unity towards the building up of the Kingdom of God unitedly. This association will function under 5 zones Pune, Khadki, Pimpri, Kalewadi, Akurdi and Dehu Road. It also aims at bringing the 34 Parishes in Pune into one umbrella of Christ's love and mission. The programme concluded with mesmerizing cultural evening.

Trust Formation Meet

Meet 1:

A meeting for the formation of a Trust envisaging; a joint venture of the Exarchate and the lay faithful was held on 7 July 2015 at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Sakinaka, His Excellency Most Rev Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC presided over the meeting in which Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Fr Varghese Kaithon, Fr Mathai Iranathara OIC, Fr John Britto OIC, Fr Philip Pulipra, Sr Arsha SIC, Sr Geena SIC and around 58 lay people from Mumbai and Pune participated. On the basis of decisions taken in first Pastoral Council Meet of Exarchate held on 11 June 2015 and preliminary discussions carried out at unit and parish level; it was thought that the laity has to take up more important participatory role in the service of the church towards the society.

The bishop in His address focused how after the reunion movement in 1930 the Church has grown. What the Church is today, is largely due to the spiritual, physical and financial support of our people. Through the model of successful partnership trusts existing in the Exarchate, it is proposed to incorporate lay leaders who can lead the church from inside and build projects which are financially self-sustaining and which later can support the apostolic activities of the church. It is not to be seen as temporary financial enterprise but the purpose of the trust is to give our might and strength in the building up the Church. A core group comprising of Mr. Zachariah Powath, Mr. V. M. Abraham, Mr. Babu George, Mr. Mani Kuriakose, Mr. John Mathew and Mr. Alex Valavil was formed to work out the legality, viability and bring out feasible projects. The core group will also take initiative to rope in more members in such trusts.

Meet 2:

The second meeting for the formation of Trust; as a joint venture of the Exarchate and the lay faithful was also held at St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Sakinaka on 22 July 2015. H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Fr. Varghese Kaithon and several lay faithful from Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai participated in the meeting. The core committee formulated on 7 July, to study the different possibilities of Trust Formation presented their analysis.

His Excellency envisages the formation of Trust in all the ecclesial districts of the Exarchate for the greater participation of lay faithful and better service to fulfill our commitment towards humanity. Based on the different opinions and analysis, it was decided to proceed with the formation of Trust stage by stage beginning first with Hyderabad followed by Mumbai and gradually to the other ecclesial districts. The meeting concluded with a better vision towards the necessity and purpose of Trust Formation and envisaging to mobilize and conscientize people to come together for the above said purpose and through it spreading the Gospel message of Lord Jesus "to be the light of the world"

Exarchate of St Ephrem - A Registered Religious Trust

A Religious Trust entitled "The Exarchate of St. Ephrem Trust" with H. E. Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, as its Founder and President was formed on 20 July 2015 with its Registered Office at St. Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church, Mathikare, Bangalore. With deep confidence in God Almighty and conviction of our concern and mission towards humanity at large, the Trust aims to cater the religious, spiritual and social needs of the Malankara Syrian Catholic faithful living in the territories of the Exarchate and to extend service to the poor and needy irrespective of caste, creed, community and religion.

The other officials of the trust are:

Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana

Rev. Fr. Varghese Kaithon

Rev. Fr. Varghese Kadakketh

Rev. Fr. George Mathew OIC

Exarchial Consultors Meet

The first meeting of the College of Exarchial Consultors of the Exarchate was held on Tuesday 21 July 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral Church, Khadki - Pune. H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, the President of the College of Consultors presided over the meeting. The exarchial consultors Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Fr. Mathai Iranathara OIC, Fr. Varghese Kaithon, Fr. Varghese Kadakketh, Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, Fr. Mathew Varikkattu and Fr. George Mathew OIC were present. Due to unavoidable reasons Fr. Varghese Maruthoor couldn't attend the meeting.

The meeting took up the following points for discussion

1. The Exarchial Consultors expressed their evaluation and analysis regarding the status and working of the different Exarchial Commissions, Offices, Departments and Parishes. Several suggestions for better functioning were put forward by the fathers.
2. It was discussed and finalized to begin seminary formation for Exarchate seminarians in Pune itself in the coming academic year. This was in view that such an arrangement was necessary for generating deep rooted commitment and understanding of the specific missions and needs of the Exarchate. Fr. Mathew Varikkattu and Fr. Varghese Kaithon were specifically assigned to look for the availability of a villa or building for starting Seminary in Pune from next academic year onwards.
3. H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios along with Mr. Alex Valavil and V A George visited Hinjewadi; looking for availability of property for the Exarchate. After discussion with Mr. Leon, Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and Fr. Varghese Kaithon were delegated to carry forward the possibility of purchasing property at Hinjewadi.
4. The participation of lay faithful from Exarchate for the Padayatra in Trivandrum was well appreciated. The presence of priests is necessary for padayatra while it was also recommended that the faithful take more personal responsibility in arranging and managing such events.
5. To foster better pastoral care, it was decided that Fr. Varghese Kaithon would reside at St Anthony's Malankara Syrian Church, Vishrantwadi. While the Exarchate Procurators office would remain in the Bishop's House at Khadki in Pune.

6. The construction of Churches in Ecclesial Districts of Bangalore and Andhra Pradesh and the matters of property and funds related to them were discussed.
7. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath initiated the discussions on the formation of committees at the central level for Mathruvedi, Pithruvedi, MCYM and MCCL. The procedure and mode of elections were discussed and the following matters were finalized:
 - Malankara Catholic Association (MCA) has to be initiated in the Exarchial level. The aims and objectives of Pithruvedi being almost same as MCA, the present activities of Pithruvedi (if any) has to be merged with the MCA.
 - Malankara Catholic Children's League has to be constituted till the District level this year.
 - The Proto-Presbyters are entrusted with the task of election in the Zonal level.
 - Very Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, the Vicar General of the Exarchate will preside over the Oath taking Ceremony of the new Office Bearers to be held on 23 August 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Khadki-Pune.
8. Fr. Mathew Varikkattu, the General Convenor for the Inauguration of the Exarchate, officially presented the accounts of the inauguration of the Exarchate and handed over the same to Fr. Varghese Kaithon, the Exarchate Procurator.
9. The meet consolidated with the Exarch's wisdom filled suggestions and decisions

Suvisesha Sangham Second Batch Commissioned



It's highly appreciable that Suvisesha Sangham- an evangelizing assembly has inspired a lot many faithful and that more and more priest, religious and lay faithful are becoming its members and undergoing regular classes, retreats etc, leading to their spiritual growth and taking leadership in

the spiritual activities of the Church. 15 July 2015 was a glorious day as 54 faithful comprising 6 priests, 8 nuns, one brother and 39 lay faithful were commissioned by the laying of hands upon them by the bishops at St Mary's Cathedral Church, Pattam. His Beatitude Baselios Cardinal Cleemis has blessed Fr Sebastian Keepallil through the *Kaiveppu shushrusha*. Six other Bishops of Malankara conducted *Kaiveppu shushruhsha* for the rest of the members. It's again a blessing that seven from the above 54 members belong to the Exarchate. Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath (Exarchial Director of Suvisesha sangham), Dr. Thomas Daniel (Khadki-Pune), Mrs. Jessy Thomas (Warje – Pune), Mr. Napoleon Varkey and Mrs. Pennamma Napoleon (Borivili – Mumbai) and Mr. Saju Pappachan (Singasandra – Bangalore) are the seven members from the Exarchate who also have received the *Kaiveppu*. The Exarchate congratulates you and expects you to give spiritual leadership in the Church.

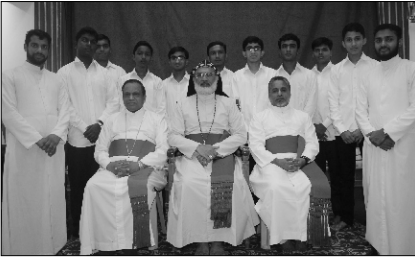
Bon Voyage to the Exarch

The Faithful along with the Priests and Religious of the Exarchate extend their sincere prayers to H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC for the fulfillment of His mission during His visit to Europe and US from 24 July 2015 – 8 September 2015. May God Almighty be with His Excellency and bless His sacred intentions throughout this journey. The exarchate very well understands the need and difficulties of this travel and pray for His Excellency's safe return back home.

Seminary Updates

Academic Year Inaugurated

The Academic Year at Mar Ivanios Minor Seminary was inaugurated on 10 July 2015 at Neb Serai, Delhi. The newly joined seminarians were blessed and officially welcomed by H. E. Jacob Mar Barnabas OIC. God has blessed the diocese of Gurgoan with seven new seminarians and Exarchate of Khadki with three. The academy inauguration celebration began with Holy Qurbano celebrated by H. E. Jacob Mar Barnabas OIC, followed by the inaugural ceremony and cultural programme. Msgr. Daniel Kuzhithadathil, Msgr. John Kochuthundi, Rev. Frs. Aji Thannimootil, Sam, Vishakh, Tojo, Jinto, Biju and Rev. Sisters blessed the occasion by their presence. Prayerful Wishes to you dear brothers and to the formation team.



Rector's Visit to the Seminarians

Fr. George Mathew OIC, the Rector of the Seminarians of the Exarchate visited the seminarians undergoing formation at three different places. He visited the six seminarians studying at Mar Ivanios Minor Seminary – Delhi, three seminarians doing their Philosophical studies at St. Charles Major Seminary – Nagpur and Br. Paul Rajendran doing certificate course in Syriac and Liturgy from SEERI at Kottayam. The concerns of the seminarians were understood and the necessary feedbacks were intimated to the bishop. These visits were a moment of great joy for the Exarchate on realizing that our seminarians are highly appreciated by their rectors of respective places and that they are a true inspiration and model for other seminarians undergoing formation with them.

Another vocation for the Exarchate

The Exarchate is happy to welcome the new seminarian Bro. Tonny Thomas hailing from St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Meenkulam Parish. He will be joining Mar Ivanios Minor Seminary in Neb Serai - Delhi for his first year formation along with the other two seminarians from the Exarchate on 4 August. Prayerful Wishes to you brother.

A Leap Towards Mission in Goa

In view of extending our mission and proclaiming the Gospel to the people of God within the jurisdiction of Exarchate of St Ephrem and the discussions of the First Pastoral Council Meet held at Khadki-Pune; H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios appointed Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath to initiate the possibilities of Mission in Goa. Fr. Varghese along with the interested lay faithful would soon be visiting the place and begin possible mission activities there. Prayerful greetings dear father for your new mission in Goa.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled to be from 20-30 November 2015. It's autumn season, cold but bearable and recommended to carry wollen clothes. Faithful from any Church are welcome to join this group. Those who haven't yet registered are requested to do it with Fr. George Mathew OIC (09545941458) on or before 20 August 2015 and make the initial payment of Rs. 20,000/- by cash. The remaining amount is to be paid by 1st October 2015. You also need to send the copy of passport to exarchkhadki@gmail.com

ECCLESIAL DISTRICT NEWS

Mumbai District

Exarchial Commissions Meet

District level meet of the exarchial commissions was held in the Mumbai District on 28 June 2015 at St Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Sakinaka. The Co-ordinator of the exarchial commissions, Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath and Rev Fr. Mathai Iranathara OIC, the proto presbyter of Mumbai District officiated the meeting. After the evaluation of the present status of the different pious organisations – MCYM, MCCL, Mathru Sangham, Pitruvedi and Suvishesha Sangham, the future programmes and mode of working of these oraganisations were discussed. The scope for extending our mission to non-malayalee people, election of the new committee members and the procedures to be maintained under the Exarchate were discussed and finalized.

Mar Ivanios Day Celebration

Mar Ivanios Day was celebrated with grandeur in all the parishes in Mumbai Ecclesial District on Sunday, 19 July 2015. The celebrations included solemn Holy Qurbano, classes and sharing on the life of Archbishop Mar Ivanios by Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Lay Faithful, Experience

Sharing of those who walked for the Padayatra in Trivandrum, Neercha distribution etc. The blessings through the powerful intercession of Mar Ivanios is witnessed by the faithful. The canonization of Mar Ivanios was one of the main themes during these celebrations. Approximately 100 people from Mumbai District participated in the padayatra on 14 July and around 25 people piously participated in the 5 days padayatra from Perunad to Pattam at Trivandrum.

Mar Ivanios Padayatra

The 62nd commemoration of Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios was also held in the Mumbai District at St Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church at Kharghar, Mumbai. The Holy Qurbano was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Mathai Iranthara OIC, the proto-presbyter, Fr. Jose Mariadas OIC, Fr. John Britto OIC, Fr. Joseph Menakalleckal OIC, Fr. Manoj OIC and Fr. Philip Pullipra. The day began with Holy Qurbano followed by thought provoking reflection on the thoughts of Mar Ivanios by Fr. Jose Mariadas OIC. The padayatra began from Kharghar Church and ended back in the Church. Around 800 faithful including Sisters from Mumbai participated in the padayatra and received blessings.

Festal Celebrations

St. Thomas Day



St. Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Thane celebrated Parish Feast Day from 1 to 5 July. Celebrations began with Holy Qurbano and flag hoisting by Vicar – Rev. Fr. John Britto OIC. H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC blessed the community through His presence and Holy Qurbano and wisdom filled breaking of the word on 3 July. The celebrations concluded with the Eucharistic Adoration on 4 July and Solemn Holy Qurbano by Rev. Fr. George Mathew OIC, Procession, Lowering of flag and Agape on 5 July 2015. St. Thomas Day was celebrated in others parishes in the Mumbai District through Solemn Holy Qurbano, Adoration, Prayer Service and Distribution of Nercha.

Feast of Sts Peter and Paul

St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Sakinaka celebrated the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on 29 June, 2015. Rev. Fr. Varghese Manoj OIC celebrated the Festal Mass.

Farewell and Welcome

The Sakinaka Parish Community on 28 June bid farewell and prayerful wishes to Rev. Fr. Johnson Pallipadinjattethil who was the vicar of Sakinaka and Vikroli parishes for last 2 years and expressed their prayers and support for his mission in Orissa. Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra was extended warm welcome as the new vicar of Sakinaka and Vikroli parishes.

Rev. Fr. Aji Thomas Thannimoottil who rendered his service as vicar of Vasai, Borivili, BARC and Boisar parishes in Mumbai for the last 3 years was extended farewell for being their spiritual leader. All the parishes extended their prayers and good wishes for taking the responsibility of the Rector of Minor Seminarians in Delhi.

On 21 June, Borivili Parish Community also bid farewell and prayerful wishes to Rev. Fr. Aji Thannimoottil. The new Vicar Rev. Fr. Joseph Menakaleckal OIC was extended warm welcome for taking the charge of these parishes from Rev. Fr. Aji.

Pastoral Visit of His Excellency Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios

His Excellency Thomas Mar Anthonios, the Apostolic Exarch of St. Ephrem Exarchate made his first visit to St Thomas Parish Borivli on 5th July 2015. A liturgical reception was given to the Bishop by Vicar Fr Joseph OIC and the parishioners. After the Holy Qurbano His Excellency found time to interact with the parishioners and discussed the future plans of the parish.

Prajolsavam and Father's Day

St Josephs Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Ulhasnagar organized Prajolsavam – a programme for the Sunday School Students of their parish. The day was celebrated with solemn Holy Qurbano followed by which the youths spent time with the catechism students teaching them action songs and biblical skit. They also organized entertaining games for the Sunday School Students.

Similarly a day was set apart to felicitate and show gratitude to their fathers on the occasion of Father's Day. The youth expressed their love and gratitude through felicitation speeches and presentation of gifts.

Hyderabad District

Pastoral Visit of the Exarch

On 28 June 2015, the Malankara Syrian Catholic Community was blessed to receive H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. His Excellency celebrated mass at both the communities in Andhra Pradesh. The two communities extended warm welcome to the Exarch and elaborate discussion was held along with the Parish Committee, Vicar Rev. Fr. Joby Thundiath OIC and Rev. Sisters. The meeting emphasized on how to grow in faith, be united, active participation in MCYM, MCA, MCCL and Mathruvedi. Other important matters like construction of Church at Picket and possibility of establishing a school at Jeedimetla was also discussed elaborately.

Mar Ivanios Day Celebration

The 62nd commemoration of Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios was celebrated on 19 July 2015. The programme began with solemn Holy Qurbano concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Joby Thundiath and Fr. Felix OIC, followed by the Padayatra which began from St Joseph's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church - Jeedimetla to Mother Mary Malankara Syrian Catholic Church - Picket. The faithful comprising of around 150 participated in this Padayatra and interceded the powerful blessings of Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios. A good number of people along with Fr. Joby OIC from Andhra Pradesh Ecclesial District had even participated in the Mar Ivanios Padayatra held at Trivandrum on 14 and 15 July 2015.

Chennai District

Institutional News

Nature Awareness Programme

Mar Gregorios Public School organized a rally on NATURE AWARENESS on 27 July 2015 from our school campus to plant nursery and vegetable market. The rally was



inaugurated by Mar Gregorios College Principal Dr. Mohandoss. Rev. Fr. Sabu. M. George, Rev. Fr. John Peter (HOD of MSW), School Principal and Rev. Sisters, Teachers and Students participated in the rally.

Orientation Programme

A General and Departmental Orientation Programme was conducted for the 1st year UG students to boost up the academic excellence of the students at Mar Gregorios College, Chennai on 1 July 2015. The programme began with



prayer and offertory procession with the blessings of Rev. Fr. Moncy Kaleekal, the principal. Nearly 1600 students and parents belonging to both shifts participated in this event.



Tribute to APJ Abdul Kalam

The Management and Staff of Mar Gregorios College, Chennai paid homage to former President APJ Abdul Kalam. Rev. Fr. Sabu George and principal Dr. K. Mohandoss paid floral tribute to the great visionary while the staff and students lined up in silence praying for the departed soul.

Mar Ivanios Volleyball Tournament

Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai is organizing the 23rd Mar Ivanios Memorial Volleyball Tournament in the school campus. 20 teams from different schools will be participating in this tournament to be held on 6 and 7 August.

Parish News

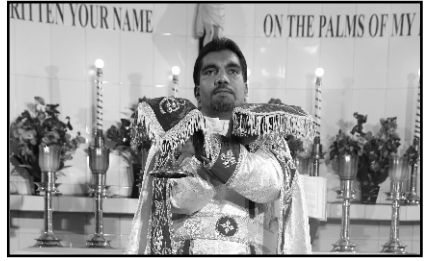
Mar Ivanios Day

The 62nd commemoration of Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios was celebrated with solemn holy Qurbano celebrated by Rev. Fr. Sabu George. Apart from this 30 parishioners from the Ecclesial District of Chennai participated in the padayatra held at Trivandrum along with Rev. Fr. Philip Kaleekal.

Festal Celebration

St. Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Padi celebrated the parish feast of her heavenly patron from 28 June - 5 July 2015. A retreat was held by Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Kizhakkethil, Msgr. Mathew Manakarakavil Cor Episcopo

offered mass on the day of festal procession and anniversary of parish's pious associations. The holy mass on 2 July was celebrated at St Thomas Mount by Rev. Fr. Sabu George, the Vicar.



St Alphonsa Feast was also celebrated with solemnity on 28 July with solemn holy Qurbano celebrated by Rev. Fr. Sabu George, the Vicar.

Award Distribution

Master Jobin P of Std 12 and Ms Sonia Mary Sam of Std 10 from St Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church were awarded "Noble Chacko Memorial Education Endowment" and "T John Memorial Education Endowment" award for their meritorious academic results.

PUNE DISTRICT

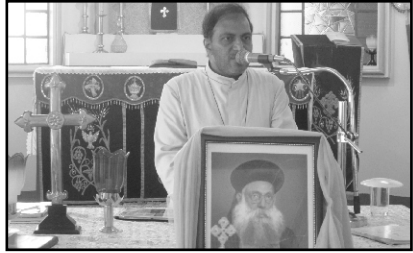
Mar Ivanios Day Celebration

The first Mar Ivanios celebrations after the installation of Exarchate in the District of Pune was held prayerfully. It began with the Adoration on 25 July at 7 PM at the Cathedral Church in Khadki. The main celebration was on 26 July beginning with solemn Holy Qurbano. The main celebrant being Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and concelebrants being Rev. Fr Varghese Kaithon, Rev. Fr Joseph Noble OIC, Rev. Mathew Varikkattu and Rev. George Mathew OIC.

The SSC and HSC students from the Pune District were felicitated by MCYM Pune and the prizes for Youcat examination were distributed. Followed by the *Nercha* was padayatra beginning from Cathedral Church to Bethany Ashram, Ramwadi. The pilgrims of the Padayatra sang Ivanian hymns and recited prayers during this spiritual journey. The pilgrims were welcomed at Bethany Ashram by the acting Rector and Superior, Rev. Fr. Philip Vysanethu OIC. After the *dhoopa prarthana* and *Nercha* the 800 pilgrims kissed the cross and received blessings.

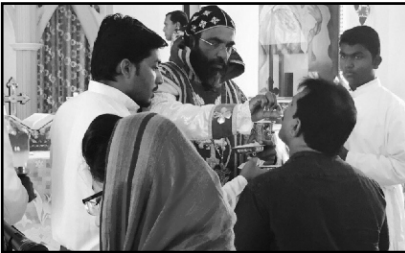
Mar Ivanios Day was celebrated at different parishes in the Ecclesial District of Pune between 10 - 15 July. All the parishes had solemn holy Qurbano, classes on life and vision of Mar Ivanios, intercessory prayers and *Nercha*. St Antony's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Vishrantwadi had a two day programme. On 12 July was solemn Holy Qurbano, celebrated by the Vicar Rev. Fr. Varghese Kaithon and a class on the life of Mar Ivanios conducted

by Rev. Fr. George Ayyaneth OIC. He also described how Mar Ivanios was received at the Eucharistic Congress held in Dublin in June 1932 and slides of photographs and reports of Western News Papers were shown. The MCYM exhibited a slide show "Oriental Lumen" depicting the life and last journey of Mar Ivanios. On 15 July Holy Qurbono was celebrated by the Vicar.



Festal Celebration

The feast of St. Thomas was also celebrated in all the parishes of the Pune District. It was celebrated with grandeur at St. Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Chinchwad on 4 July 2015. H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, the Apostolic Exarch was the main celebrant for the festal mass. The day was celebrated with the liturgical reception to the Bishop, Solemn Holy Qurbono and Cultural Programme.



Election and Inauguration of Parish Committee & Pious Organization

Inauguration of Catechism, MCYM, Mathrusangham and Pitruvedi was conducted after the Holy Qurbono on 5 July 2015 at Holy Redeemer's Church Kalewadi. The Vicar along with other elected members lit the lamp and marked the inauguration of all the activities of the pious organizations.

The parish election at St Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Warje Malwadi was held on 5 July and the Oath taking ceremony and Inauguration on 2 August 2015.



Vidyarambham

Interceding blessings and graces of God Almighty, Vidyarambham was held at various parishes including St. Thomas Church – Chinchwad, St. Anthony's Church – Vishrantwadi, St. Mary's Church – Warje Malwadi.



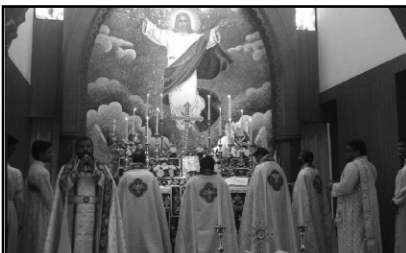
Upcoming Event

St Mary's Malankara Syrian Cathedral Church – Khadki celebrates Parish Feast from 9-16 August 2015 in veneration to the Assumption of Mother Mary. The Cathedral Vicar Rev. Fr. Mathew Varikkattu, welcomes all to the Festal Celebration.

BANGALORE DISTRICT

Mar Ivanios Day Celebration

For the first time in the history of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Community in Bangalore, a “padayatra” was conducted on 26 July 2015 commemorating the 62nd death anniversary of Servant of God, Archbishop Mar Ivanios. Around 400 faithful from the three churches in Bangalore District gathered at Guanella Preethi Nivas convent in Kothannur. Rev. Fr. Varghese Kadakketh, the Proto-Presbyter of Bangalore District inaugurated the padayatra and led the initial prayer following which the community walked to St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Hennur. The Holy Qurbono on this day was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Kadakketh, Fr. Aby OIC, Fr. Varghese Kaithavana, Fr. Justin and Fr. Mathew. Along with faithful Bethany Brothers and Sisters also participated in all the programmes of the day.



St. Joseph's Feast

The Parish Feast was celebrated on 19 July 2015 at St. Joseph's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Matikkare. H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios blessed the faithful celebrating the Festal Holy Qurbano.



Exarchial Commissions Meet

The departmental meeting of the exarchial commissions under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Co-ordinator of Exarchial Commissions was held at St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Hennur. The representative of MCCL, MCYM, MathruSangaham, Pitruvedi, Suvisesha Sangham and MCA for all the three parishes in Bangalore District along with Fr. Varghese Kadakketh, the proto-presbyter of Bangalore participated in this meeting. The purpose of the meeting were

1. To understand the activities of all the unites over the last few years
2. To create readiness to accept and support the fast developing changes for the formation of the Exarchate level body and its functions.

Further all the unites shared their mode of working and later the Co-ordinator explained how to move ahead a united entity in Bangalore District and the Exarchate.

Kindly Note:

The Exarchate Bulletin, "The Ephremite" welcomes advertisements from individuals, families, parishes or Institutions as partial or total sponsor for its monthly publication.