

THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE EPHREMOTE

BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE

VOL I | NO. 6| NOVEMBER 2015



Dedication of the Church - Qudos Eetho

An icon according to the Maronite Syrian Tradition into which an icon of Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios is added



Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune Congratulated on His 70th Birthday



Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation Meet



The Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

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Exarchate of St. Ephrem 51 Bhau Patil Road Bopodi - 411 020 Pune, Maharashtra

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PATRON

H.E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC The Exarch

CIRCULATION

Local Parish Priests

DESIGN LAYOUT

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TYPE SETTING & PROOF

Mr. Jose Varghese, Ms. Joanne & Bro. Peter Paul

CORRESPONDENTS

Jeevan, Angel, Sojisha, Binu, Sijo, Cibi, Nithin, Sara Mani, Jerome, Lijo, Libin, Rex, Shibu, Beena, Jacob, Vitty, Anish, John, Jeffi, Tintu, Bincy, Lijo, Anil & Sijo

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THE VOICE OF THE EXARCH

Greetings and blessings to my brethren in the name of Our Lord and God Jesus Christ!

As usual, I share with you a few thoughts on the spiritual, liturgical and ecclesial events of the coming days.

New Liturgical Year

As I have mentioned in the previous message, the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church begins the Liturgical New Year with the Feast of the Sanctification of the Church (Oudos Itho) on 1 November 2015. For the sake of brevity, without mentioning the historical background of the feast, I recall the Word of God read on this day. Jesus, during his public ministry, established the Church on Peter the Rock after his proclamation that Jesus is the Messiah. He, by the symbol of entrusting the keys of the kingdom of heaven, bestowed on Peter and the other Apostles the authority to bind and loose, both on earth and heaven (Matthew. 16:18, 19). He established the Church as a means to sanctify the world. We commemorate these ecclesial events on the Oudos Itho Sunday. This is followed by Hudos Itho Sunday, on which we celebrate the Feast of the Renewal of the Church. The Gospel passage narrates the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus and the discourse of Jesus about the destruction of the Temple



and its restoration in three days. This is a call to renew our life in the Church. The Church is the communion of the faithful in Christ. We are called to sanctify ourselves, cleansing us from our sins and renewing us through the Holy Spirit as we enter the New Liturgical Year.

Commemoration of Bishop Paulose Mar Philexinos

We commemorate Bishop Paulose Mar Philoxinos on 3 November 2015, the 17th year after his entry into eternal life. He was the last in the line among the reunited Prelates, the Servant of God Mar Ivanios, Mar Theophilos, Mar Severios and Mar Dioscoros. He had served the Thozhiyur Church (Malabar Independent Syrian Church) as its Head for almost 10 years before his reunion with the Catholic Church on 28 August 1977. He served the Catholic Church for more than 21 years. He was convinced that the Catholic Church is holy, one and apostolic fostering communion of Churches. It was his earnest prayer and wish that the Thozhiyur Church comes into the full communion of the Catholic Church. Let us thank the Lord for His wonderful gift of Philoxinos Thirumeni to our Church.

National Eucharistic Congress

The Archdiocese of Bombay is hosting the National Eucharistic Congress from November 12 to 15, 2015 at St Pius X College, Goregaon, Mumbai, in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the 38th International Eucharistic Congress held in the Archdiocese in 1964. Based on the theme, "Eucharist: Nourished by Christ to Nourish Others", the 4-day programme will address the challenge of this message in the Indian context. The Congress will be attended by the Papal Delegate His Eminence Cardinal Albert Malcolm, Archbishop of Colombo. Five representatives from each of the 171 dioceses, archdioceses and exarchate will be the participants. Very Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Rev. Sr. Kiran SIC, Bar Itho Kaseero Mr. PV Thomas, Mrs. Ponnamma Varghese, Dr. Arun Saji and I will be representing the Exarchate in this Congress.

14th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

As I am writing this, the 14th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops discerning on the theme, 'the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World' is coming to a close. It is reflecting and exploring further on the points discussed at the 2014 Third Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in order to formulate appropriate pastoral guidelines for the pastoral care of the person and the family. The Synod of Bishops concludes this Sunday, 25 October 2015 after meeting in Rome since 4 October. The work of the Synod enters its final stretch this week, with the most delicate issues at the centre of the discussion. Once the Synod Fathers present their final report to Pope Francis, the Holy Father will issue a post-synodal exhortation.

25 Days Lent

After a long interval the days of lent are back. The 25 Days Lent in preparation for Christmas begins on 1 December. Christmas is a miracle in which the Son of God became man in order to save us, despite all our unworthiness. We who moved away from God through sins are called to return to His mercy through this lent and

enjoy the fruits of the birth of Jesus. Lent is not merely the abstinence from meat, fish and egg but is a divine call for the transformation of hearts coupled with charity towards humanity and added prayers. I exhort everyone in our Exarchate to follow the prescriptions of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church on the 25 Days Lent with the inner spirit explained above.

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

Celebrating the first Vespers for Divine Mercy Sunday on 12 April 2015, Pope Francis had formally delivered the 'Bull of Indiction' (Misericordiae Vultus The Face of Mercy) or proclamation of the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016. December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council and November 20 is the Feast of the Christ the King in 2016.

A jubilee year is a special year proclaimed by the Church to receive remission of sins and the blessings of God. The Catholic Church proclaims Jubilee Year every 25 or 50 years since the year 1300 and Extraordinary Jubilee Year from time to time. The last Jubilee Year was held in 2000

during the papacy of Pope John Paul II and was known as 'the Great Jubilee'. The last Extraordinary Jubilee Year was in 1983 to celebrate 1950 years since the death and resurrection of Jesus. Holy years feature special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for repentance and conversion, and offer special opportunities to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially the sacrament of penance or confession.

A detailed letter of the Holy Father to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, concerning the way to celebrate this Jubilee Year has been published. Our Exarchate will take sincere initiatives to fulfill the vision of the Holy Father regarding the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Exarchial Apostolate and Commissions

I am very happy to note that MCYM Day was solemnly celebrated in all the Districts of the Exarchate with much enthusiasm and vision. The Yearly Programmes you inaugurated, the seminars you organized, the skits you played, the charity visits you arranged, the financial support you extended; everything add colours to the well prepared canvas of

MCYM. Let the flags you hoisted on the Patron's Day fly higher and higher in the serene horizon of the Exarchate. I congratulate Rev. Fr Varghese Valikodath, the Coordinator of our Exarchial Commissions and Apostolates, the District MCYM Directors, Animators and the Office-Bearers and wish them all blessings.

It is nice to hear that the District Executive Committees of Mathrusangham, MCA, MCYM and MCCL are getting ready to launch their activities with the vision and mission shared from the Exarchial Commission. Let all our efforts be oriented towards the spiritual well being in the Exarchate.

I instruct all our Catechism Teachers to prepare the students adequately for the First Semester Examination to be held on 29 November 2015. Though necessary importance should be given to the academic excellence of the students, effective interventions are expected from the Teachers and the Parish Priests in the faith-living of the children.

The formation of the Suvisesha Sangham in all our Districts and Parishes are in full swing. I am happy to note that all Parish Priests support the initiatives of the Suvisesha Sangham of the Exarchate.

The Finance Officer of the Exarchate Rev. Fr Varghese Kaithon, along with Protosycellus Rt Rev. Msgr Varghese Mattamana, has begun to conduct meetings in the District level for the Vicars. Trustees and Secretaries of the Parishes in order to standardize the way of submitting the Account Statement and transferring various common offerings to the Exarchate. All our future accounting and reporting should be according to the directions given in the abovementioned meeting.

May the Good Lord bless our Priests, Sisters, Seminarians, parents, youth and children abundantly! May I blessed by your prayers for me! May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God intercede for us! May St. Ephrem pray for us! The Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios is our strong fortress!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

▼ Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC

The Apostolic Exarch

Pope Francis' Letter on the 'Year of Mercy'



The Holy See

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
ACCORDING TO WHICH AN INDULGENCE IS GRANTED TO THE FAITHFUL
ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

With the approach of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy I would like to focus on several points which I believe require attention to enable the celebration of the Holy Year to be for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God. It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.

My thought first of all goes to all the faithful who, whether in individual Dioceses or as pilgrims to Rome, will experience the grace of the Jubilee. I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful

are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral or in the churches designated by the Diocesan Bishop, and in the four Papal Basilicas in Rome, as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion. Likewise, I dispose that the Indulgence may be obtained in the Shrines in which the Door of Mercy is open and in the churches which traditionally are identified as Jubilee Churches. It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holv Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.

Additionally, I am thinking of those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, often confined to the home. For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through various means t h e communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence. My thoughts also turn to those incarcerated, whose freedom is limited. The Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty, which is intended to include the many people who, despite deserving punishment, have become conscious of the injustice they worked and sincerely wish to re-enter society and make their honest contribution to it. May they all be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father who wants to be close to those who have the greatest need of his forgiveness. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the

mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one. The Jubilee Indulgence is thus full, the fruit of the very event which is to be celebrated and experienced with faith, hope and charity.

Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.

One of the serious problems of our time is clearly the changed

relationship with respect to life. A widespread and insensitive mentality has led to the loss of the proper personal and social sensitivity to welcome new life. The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails. Many others, on the other hand, although experiencing this moment as a defeat, believe that they have no other option. I think in particular of all the women who have resorted to abortion. I am well aware of the pressure that has led them to this decision. I know that it is an existential and moral ordeal. I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision. What has happened is profoundly unjust; yet only understanding the truth of it can enable one not to lose hope. The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father. For this reason too, I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, concede to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it. May priests

fulfil this great task by expressing words of genuine welcome combined with a reflection that explains the gravity of the sin committed, besides indicating a path of authentic conversion by which to obtain the true and generous forgiveness of the Father who renews all with his presence.

A final consideration concerns those faithful who for various reasons choose to attend churches officiated by priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X. This Jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one. From various quarters, several Brother Bishops have told me of their good faith and sacramental practice, combined however with an uneasy situation from the pastoral standpoint. I trust that in the near future solutions may be found to recover full communion with the priests and superiors of the Fraternity. In the meantime, motivated by the need to respond to the good of these faithful, through my own disposition. I establish that those who during the Holy Year of Mercy approach these priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation shall validly and licitly receive the absolution of their sins.

Trusting in the intercession of the Mother of Mercy, I entrust the preparations for this Extraordinary Jubilee Year to her protection.

EXARCHATE NEWS

1) Reunion Day Celebration - Mumbai District

The district of Mumbai celebrated Reunion Day on 27 September at St. Mary's Convent School, Mulund. It began with concelebrated Holy Eucharist H. E. Joseph Mar Thomas was the chief guest and main celebrant of the day. Public meeting was inaugurated by Him, and presided over by Msgr. Varghese Mattamana. Rev. Fr. Ignatius Thangalathil OIC delivered the memorial speech on late Archbishop H. G. Benedict Mar Gregorios OIC. All the priests of Mumbai District, Rev. Sisters, Fathers & hundreds of faithful participated in it. Felicitations to congratulate those who have attained the age of 65, those celebrating the 25th anniversary of married life, those who obtained laurels in their academics, those who secured ranks in zonal level for Catechism and also those who have three kids or more were part of the celebrations. Mr. Alexander Varghese was felicitated for attaining the age of 65. Mr. Kevin Chacko Jose was awarded the Academic Excellence award for obtaining the highest marks, at zonal level, in 10th Boards exams (CBSE Board) while Mr. Anish John Sabu and Ms. Salomi Mamootil were awarded Academic Excellence Awards for obtaining the highest marks in 12th Boards exams in Science and Arts fields, respectively. Our 4 catechism Students once again made us proud by getting prizes at Zonal levels.

2) Priest's Meet - Mumbai District

All Parish Priests working in the Mumbai District came together for an open session with Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Co-ordinator of Exarchial Commissions at Bethany Ashram Kharghar on 10 October 2015 from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm. Fr. Varghese explained in detail the projected proposals for various departments and associations in the Exarchate. He clarified the doubts of the Priests and whole heartedly accepted the suggestions put forward by them. The meeting which clearly expressed the koinonia of the Priests concluded with prayer and lunch.

3) Social Service Apostolate Meet - Mavelikara

The Social Service Directors of the religious congregations and dioceses and representatives of the laity from the Malankara Catholic Church

participated in the Training programme organized by the Diocese of Mavelikara on 14 October 2015 at the Bishop's House. Rev. Fr. Vincent Kundukulam was the main facilitator of the meeting. Mavelikara Diocese and Synodal Commission for Social Apostolate and Dalits had organized this programme. In addition, the members of the commission also had a special meeting with Bp. Joshua Mar Ignatius who also presided over the meeting. Along with His Excellency, Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Fr. Paul Moonjely, the Assit. Director of Caritas India and Dr. Haridas addressed the group. It is decided to finalize the formation of an apex organization for Malankara Catholic Church to coordinate the social development apostolate. Final decision of which will be taken in the next Holy Synod of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church.

4) Trustees and Secretaries Meet-Pune District

In order to discuss various matters concerning the finance and legalities of the parishes, a meeting of the parish trustees and secretaries along with parish priests of Pune District was held at St. Mary's Cathedral on 3 October 2015. Rev. Fathers Varghese Kaithon, Mathew Varikkattu, George Mathew OIC and Paul Naveen OIC, Trustees and Secretaries of all the parishes attended the meeting, which was presided over by Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, the Vicar General of the Exarchate. Fr. Varghese Kaithon, the Finance Officer of the Exarchate explained about the methods of maintaining the accounts. Problems regarding taxation were discussed and a committee comprising of Mr. P.G. Koshy from Dehuroad and Mr. K Mathew from Kalewadi was formed to locate a good legal advisor for sorting out such matters.

5) Trustees and Secretaries Meet - Mumbai District

A meeting of all the Trustees and Secretaries along with the Vicars in the Mumbai District was held on 11 October 2015 at Thane. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and Fr. Varghese Kaithon initiated the meetings. Several doubts regarding the maintaining of the accounts of the parishes were clarified and a better way of accounting was initiated during this meeting. Representatives from all the parishes in the Mumbai District participated in this meeting.

6) Land Donation - Nagpur

The family of Late Mr. C T Thomas, a member of the Nagpur mission of

Malankara Catholic Church donated around 2500 sqft of land in Nagpur for the purpose of constructing a church for the Malankara faithful in Nagpur. It was a God-given opportunity for them to express their love of God and the commitment to His people. Fr. Varghese Kaithon, the procurator of the Exarchate went in person to Nagpur to officially accept the donation and fulfill the necessary legal formalities. Let us remember in our prayers the family of Mr. Thomas especially his wife Mrs. Ammukutty Thomas and his sons Mr. Simon and Mr. Jacob, through whom his dream was fulfilled.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

1. Suvisesha Sangham

a. Prayer Meet - Pune District

On 2 October 2015, about fifty members of the *Suvisesha Sagham* from various parishes of Pune District gathered at the Holy Redeemer's Malankara Catholic Church, Kalewadi, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchate Director of *Suvisesha Sagham* for the monthly meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a review of the five guiding principles of the *Suvisesha Sagham* adopted for implementation in the previous meeting and to consider implementing five more guidelines. Everyone in the meeting shared his/her experience in practicing the guidelines and made self-appraisal by giving marks to the attempt made to adhere to the guidelines. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, after listening to the experiences of the members suggested guidelines to improve upon the implementation.

b. Monthly Gathering - Mumbai District

The monthly gathering of Suvisesha Sangham in Mumbai District was held on 11 October 2015 from 3 pm to 6 pm at St. Mary's Church, Sakinaka. The members of Suvisesha Sangham in the Mumbai District actively participated in the gathering. The gathering began with the chanting of Psalms according to the Oriental Tradition. All the members present shared their enchanting experience of the House Visiting Ministry in the Sakinaka Church. The members renewed their commitment to live the spirituality of Suvisesha Sangham by taking keen interest in trying their best to follow the 25 principles under-laying it.

c. Monthly Gathering - Bangalore District

Bangalore District level Suvisesha Sangham organized one day class under the leadership of Sr. Francina DM, the Secretary of Malankara Catholic Suvisesha Sanghamon 17 October at St Mary's Church Hennur. Vicar Fr Varghese Kadakketh welcomed all the participants, after which followed the class of Sr Francina DM, who revised the basic principles of suviseshasangham. Fr Varghese Valikkodath took class on how Holy Bible must be interpreted during every Suvisesha Sangham meeting. The gathering concluded with noon prayer and lunch.

d. Suvisesha Sangham Formation - Hyderabad District

Fr. Antony Kakkanatt, the executive secretary of Malankara Catholic Suvisesha Sangham took personal interest and physical strain to come down to Hyderabad for the beginning of the Suvisesha Sangham formation in the Hyderabad District of the Exarchate. The formation programme began at 10 am on 24 October with the Bible Prathishta and concluded at 5.30 pm on 25 October with the Holy Qurbono. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath assisted him in the formation process. The people who attended the programme were enthusiastic about the formation of Suvisesha Sangham in Hyderabad. Fr. John Thundiyath OIC, the Vicar of both the Parishes in Hyderabad took the lead role in arranging the programme in Hyderabad.

2. Malankara Catholic Association (MCA)

Pune District Meet

A meeting of the Office bearers and representatives of the MCA from all the Parishes of the District of Pune was held on 18 October 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Khadki, Pune. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Fr. Varghese Kaithon, the Pune District MCA Director who in his presidential address emphasized on the mission and vision of MCA. Bar IthoKasiro, Mr.P.V.Thomas, spoke on the social relevance of MCA.

During the meeting the following members were elected to District Secretariat:

President - Mr.Alex Valavil
General Secretary - Mr.Raja Francis
Treasurer - Mr.Mathew Manakatt.

Vice President 1 - Mr.C.M.Thomas

Vice President 2 - Mr. Thomas George Secretary 1 - Mr. D. Thomas Secretary 2 - Mr. Jose M Baby

The newly elected President called upon the team and all Pune district MCA members to join hands and contribute to the social, economic and spiritual growth of the MCA. The meeting ended with a prayer by Bar IthoKasiro, Mr. P. V. Thomas.

3. Mathru Sangham

a. Seminar - Pune District

A one day seminar of Mathru Sangam Pune was held on 22 October 2015 at Holy Redeemer's Church, Kalewadi. The seminar was attended by 136 Mathru Sangam members which started at 9.00am with solemn mass concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Varghese Kaithon, Director Mathru Sangam. The speaker for the day was V. Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Vicar General, St. Ephrem Exarchate, Khadki. After the mass was the inaugural session and lighting of the lamp. The Mathru Sangam honored Msgr. Varghese Mattamana who is also celebrating his Silver Jubilee Year of priestly ordination.

The thought provoking session began with Fr. Mattamana addressing various aspects of parents especially the mothers. All mothers, witnesses of tender dedication and moral strength, were appreciated for their challenging lives and duties. The next session was an interactive one focusing on the various challenges a mother faces while bringing up a child and explained the various techniques on how a child should be handled. The session was more like a question and answer one. The seminar concluded at 1.15pm with the vote of thanks rendered by the Secretary, Mrs. Sali Varghese. The program concluded with noon prayers and lunch.

b. District Meet - Bangalore

The first Mathru Sangham District meeting was held on 20 September 2015 at Mathikere St. Joseph's Church. The Director of Bangalore District Mathru Sangham Fr. Varghese Kadakketh presided over the meeting. Major decisions on the programmes of Bangalore District and the new team at the District Level was finalized during this meeting.









Director : Fr. Varghese Kadakketh

Animator : Sr. Marypriya
President : Mrs. Moncy John
Vice President : Mrs. Jessy Joseph

Secretary : Mrs. Leelamma Abraham Joint Secretary : Mrs. Susamma Thomas Treasurer : Mrs. Mercy Babu

4. Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (MCYM)

Patron's Day Celebrations

a. Pune District

The Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (MCYM) of the Pune Ecclesial District of the Exarchate of St Ephrem celebrated MCYM Patron's Day on 4 October 2015 at Holy Redeemer's Malankara Catholic Church-Kalewadi; it being the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Around 150 youth from Pune participated in the event. The event began with concelebrated Holy Qurbono in Hindi at 7:45 in the morning. V. Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana delivered the sermon and inspired the young minds to be emotionally literate. The yearly planner of the MCYM Pune District was inaugurated by the monsignor and handed over to the Pune District Director of MCYM Fr. George Mathew OIC and to the Pune District MCYM President Mr. Libin Oommen. The MCYM flag was hoisted by the MCYM Director followed by which two doves were set free symbolizing the freedom of humanity by Msgr. Mattamana and Fr. Mathew Varikkattu, the District Vicar of Pune. The youth were formed in to two groups with age 16-22 forming one group and those above 22 the second group. The first group was addressed by Rev. Br. Cijo Cennathu CMI and the second by Rev. Sr. Paulina MSMI. The sessions focused on 'The Issues and challenges of adolescence and that of family life'. The forenoon session was the practical side of the morning sessions with an Inter Unit Skit Competition on the theme 'Influence of mobile and internet on young minds, especially the families'. The five units put their best performance. The three judges after long discussion awarded St. Anthony's Malankara Catholic Church, Vishrathwadi the first prize and St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Warje Malwadi second prize. Trophies were awarded to the winning teams and the programme

concluded with thanks expressed by Mr. Libin Samuel, the secretary of Pune District MCYM.

b. Mumbai District

On 4 October 2015, MCYM Mumbai Zone also celebrated Patron's Day at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Sakinaka. The Event started with the Holy Qurbono at 7am followed by flag hoisting by the vicar of Sakinaka Church, Fr. Philip Pulipura and lighting of the lamp. The chief guest of the day were Fr. Philip Pulipura, Mr. Saji Daniel, Sr. Geena SIC, Sr. Jobin SIC, Mr. Vinu Varghese, Mr. Renjit Varghese and Ms. Jinu Cheriyan. Soon after the inaugural session were ice breaking session, games and group activities.

Mr. Saji Daniel from Pune held a motivational and spiritual session where he spoke about the blessing of being a member of MCYM. He also explained partly the role of Resource team and promotors. After the Lunch was the band performance led by Sam Chacko from Vasai and his band members Mr. AnoopSkaria, Jerome Jose, Jeas Jose, Lijo John and Renjit Varghese. It was a fun filled moment and was really appreciated by all. The Yearly Planner with the theme "Renewed Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ" was unveiled. The new Zonal Secretariat felicitated the old team with memento for their tremendous efforts and dedication. The Event was successful with 110 youth member's participation. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Jinu Varghese, the vice president of Mumbai Zone after the award distribution ceremony. The award winners of the year were:

Individual Awards

Best President Stanley Simon Mammootil, Sakinaka Best General Secretary Subin Samuel, Thane and Jobin

Joseph John, Borivali

Best Upcoming Leader (Male) Sobin Thomas, Ulhasnagar

Best Upcoming Leader (Female) Aksa Rajan, Borivali

Unit Awards

Best Unit Mcym Sakinaka
First Runner Up Mcym Thane
Second Runner Up Mcym Ulhasnagar

c. Bangalore District

The Patron's Day celebrations at St. Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church, Mathikere began with offertory by MCYM members during the Holy Qurbono, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Kaithavana and Fr Ulhas Mathew. Then followed flag hoisting, MCYM pledge and the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi. Around 38 youth attended the interactive session by Fr. Ulhas. His focus was 'Knowing oneself and giving up worldly pleasures'. He embedded self-confidence, hope for a better living, strength and courage to think and act different. After the session there were games conducted by Bro. Elias. The programme concluded with the prize distribution.

Patron's Day was also held at St. Mary's Church, Hennur with offertory by MCYM members during the Holy Qurbono, celebrated by Fr Varghese Kadakketh followed by flag hoisting, MCYM Anthem etc. The vicar and Mr. James Varghese addressed the youth who spoke about the importance of prayer in our lives and how youth's play a vital role in the growth of our communities.

d. Chennai District

Patron's day celebration at Chennai began with solemn Holy Mass on 4 October. The Choir, Alter assistance and decorations of the day were all done by the youth themselves. A speech on St. Francis Assisi and importance of MCYM was given by an MCYM representative. The MCYM members also made donations for Church construction. The youth also visited a poor and needy family of the church and contributed them financially. They also promised to continue extending help to this family on a monthly basis for medical treatments.

MCYM day was also celebrated on 4th October at St. George Church, Ayappakam. The Holy Mass began with a candle procession by the youth as per the Tamil Community Culture. The youth themselves took the leadership of the Choir, Alter assistance and decorations. After the Holy Mass there was a seminar on 'Media Education' which was led by Rev. Dr. Christopher. After the seminar they visited an orphanage. The youth themselves prepared food and served the orphanage inmates. Games and other cultural activities were also performed to encourage and make them happy.

e. Hyderabad District

On 4 October Patron's Day at Hyderabad District was celebrated by all the youth attending the Holy Eucharist at St. Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church, Jeedimetla. There was an active participation of 26 youth. After the Eucharist was the hoisting of the MCYM flag by the MCYM Director of Hyderabad Fr. John Thundiyath OIC. There were even cultural programs conducted by the youth.

f. MCYM Senate Meeting - Bangalore District

A special Senate Meeting of the MCYM Bangalore has been convened on 18 October 2015 from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm at Hennur Church in order to discuss and approve the Consolidated Proposals of the MCYM for 2015-16. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchial Director of MCYM explained in detail the proposals and the Senate unanimously accepted and approved the suggested Proposals. A modus operandi will evolve slowly to implement the suggested proposals in detail. A decision to constitute a Resource Team comprising of MCYM members from the three Parishes in Bangalore has been taken to give leadership in the various training programmes in the District. Fr. Varghese Kadakketh (District MCYM Director), Mr. Johnson TM and Mrs. Hema Elizabeth Joseph (District MCYM Animators) and Mr. Tony (District MCYM President) gave leadership to the Senate Meeting.

5. Malankara Catholic Children's League (MCCL)

Commission for Faith Formation - Pune District

The first meeting of the 'Commission for Faith Formation' was held on 3 October at St. Mary's Cathedral Church, Khadki. The inaugural session commenced at 9 AM with the inaugural address and welcome by Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Director for Commission of Faith Formation. V. Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana led the orientation talk. Rev. Frs. Philip Pulipra, Paul Naveen and George Mathew along with Rev. Srs. Gladys and Arsha also attended the meeting. The meeting which discussed on the importance and need of Faith Formation of our young minds and the relevance of catechism teachers concluded at 4 PM in the evening. Representative of Catechism teachers from all the districts of the Exarchate participated in this meeting.



Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune

Commission for Faith Formation

☎ 7030 7339 90; ⊠ catechesis.exarchate@gmail.com; www.catechesis.in.

DoC / 2015 / 03 10 October 2015

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Headmasters, Teachers and Students of Sunday School,

Prayerful Greetings from the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation!

The Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation held an evaluation session, with representatives from all the Parishes of the Exarchate, on the existing system of the Department of Catechesis on 3 October 2015 at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral, Khadki, Pune. The Session was blessed with the Orientation Talk by Very Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, the Vicar General of the Exarchate. The meeting evaluated in detail all the major decisions of the Department of Catechesis till date. The Commission has begun the work of a bylaw for the Department of Catechesis, the draft of which will be presented in the next Commission Meeting.

According to the suggestions in the Meeting, the First Semester Examination 2015-'16 is postponed and will be held on 29 November 2015 from 11 am at respective centres of the Exarchate. The results will be announced by 5 December and the Second Semester will begin on 6 December itself.

Since the First Semester Examination is postponed for more than 3 weeks, one more lesson is added in the Syllabus of all Classes. The Additional Syllabus is attached herewith the Circular. Kindly do the necessary to teach the lessons taking into consideration the added lessons.

The Headmasters who have not yet registered the names of the new students in the required format, are requested to send it latest by 19 October. I am attaching herewith the official format for those who have missed the same.

Class X students who have got only E Grade last year have a chance to appear for the Examination in the concerned Semester to successfully complete the Catechism studies and obtain the Certificate for Class X.

Wish you all the Blessings and Protection of Mother Mary in this month of Holy Rosary!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Secretary Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation

EXARCHIAL DISTRICT NEWS

Pune District

1) St. Anthony's Malankara Catholic Church, Vishrantwadi

a. MCYM Patron's Day

St. Anthony's Malankara Catholic Church, Vishrantwadi celebrated MCYM Patron's day on 11 October 2015 where the youth offered candles which was lighted and placed at the altar before the Holy Eucharist. The Parish specially appreciated Cyril Thomas, John Thomas and Jacob Mathew who went ahead to help in safeguarding and handing over the authorities an ill-fated man's body who had lost his life beneath the tree which was fallen on the middle of the road. These youths showcased humanity rather than watching the sad plight and recording the scene as videos and photos which the gathered crowd was busy with.

b. Commemoration of Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios OIC

The Vishrantwadi Parish on 11 October 2015 meaningfully commemorated the death anniversary of Arch Bishop Benedict Mar Gregorios OIC with Holy Qurbono by Vicar Fr. Varghese Kaithon. Baritho-Kahiro Mr P.V. Thomas delivered the Memorial Talk. In view of the Birth Centenary Year of the Archbishop, it was a genuine tribute. The program concluded with distribution of Nercha.

2) St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church - Chinchwad

On 11 October 2015 St. Thomas Church, Chinchwad felicitated all the mothers of the parish by honoring and dedicating a day as tribute to them. The event started with the Holy Qurbono by Most. Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Vicar General of the exarchate of Khadki Pune, wherein the choir was assisted by the mothers themselves. Ladies Wing of St. Thomas Church, Chinchwad celebrated mother's day in different fashion wherein the children awarded their own mothers with the best mother certificate and spoke about the love and care which the mothers have towards their children. A fruitful session was conducted by Most. Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana for the mothers and the Chinchwad community. The event ended up with a prayer and lunch thereafter. The

event was organized by the MCYM Chinchwad with the able guidance of the Sister animator Rev. Sr. Sheba SIC.

3) St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church - Warje Malwadi

a. Feast day of St Vincent and Vicar's birthday

The parish celebrated the feast of St. Vincent de Paul on 27 September 2015 and specially prayed for the Vincentian Community Fathers for their support for the non-Christian mission in the parish. The birthday of the Vicar - Fr. George Mathew OIC which also was on the same day was celebrated prayerfully with the parishioners presenting the vicar with a Prayer Bouquet.

b. Represented for the Commission for Faith Formation Meet

Ms. Kesiya Chacko was nominated from the parish as one of the member for the Commission for Faith Formation. She represented the parish in the Commission's meeting held on 3 October at Khadki Cathedral. A feedback of the same meeting was presented by Kesiya to all the Catechism teachers.

c. MCYM Patron's Day

The Youth from the parish participated in the Patron's Day celebration held at Kalewadi on 4 October. The parish is proud for the youth bagged the second prize for the inter-church skit competition.

d. St. Mary's Syro Malabar Church Feast

On the occasion of the Feast of Mother Mary of the Rosary and St. Sebastian at St. Mary's Syro Malabar Church at Katraj, Holy Qurbono as per the Malankara Rite was celebrated by Fr. George Mathew OIC on 6 October. All the parishioners from our Church participated in this festal celebration and Holy Qurbono.

e. Suvisesha Sangham Formation

On 2 October the Suvisesha Sangham members visited all the houses of St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Warje Malwadi and on 4 October the formation of Suvisesha Sangham was initiated soon after the Holy Qurbono with classes and orientations led by the Suvisesha

Sangham Team themselves. Majority members of the parish participated in the sessions.

f. Aid to Baliraja Youth Foundation

Baliraja Youth Foundation is an NGO which has come up with a new initiative to help the poor farmers in Maharashtra. Ms. Kesiya Chacko, one the members of St. Mary's church Warje, associated with this NGO took initiative in the parish to collect clothes and other articles to be given to the farmers. Master Alen Salu and Alwin Salu who recently celebrated their birthdays generously contributed clothes for this noble cause which was received by the vicar and Ms. Kesiya Chacko to be given to the farmers.

Mumbai District

1) St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church - Kharghar

a. Matrudinam Celebrations

Honoring all the mothers of the parish, 4 October was celebrated as Matrudinam. After the Holy Qurbono specially offered for the mothers, they sung a group song and one of the members of the Mathru Sangham delivered a motivational speech to commemorate the specialty of the day.

2) St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church - BARC

a. Awards received

Reunion celebration was held at Mulund on 27th September. Most of the BARC members took part in this blessed celebration. Nisha Mariam Thomas and Liny Varghese were a part of the choir. It was a proud moment for BARC when Irene Daniel, Christy Pramod and Angela Pramod got academic prizes for 2014-2015.

b. Birth centenary of late Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios OIC

Birth Centenary celebration of late Arch Bishop Benedict Mar Gregorios began with Holy Qurbono celebrated by Vicar, Rev. Fr. Mathai Iranathara OIC on 18 October. It was followed by meeting presided over by the Vicar. The secretary, Mr. Thomas Mathew welcomed all to the meeting in which Angela Pramod (Sunday school representative),

Ms. Liny Varghese (MCYM representative), Mrs. Binu Rajan (President, Mathru Sangham), Mr. Joseph Koshy (unit trustee), Mr. Daniel Babu (pastoral council secretary) spoke about their close association with Archbishop Mar Gregorios OIC, which was really touching. The meeting concluded with the message by the Vicar, Papal anthem and dinner.

3) St. John the Baptist Church - Vasai

a. Suvisesha Sangham Visit

Suvisesha Sangham House Visits in St. Mary's Church, Sakinaka took place on the 8th, 9th and 10th October. Mr. Thomas Mathew, Mrs. Mary Thomas, Mrs. Valsa Samuel, Mr. Thomas Philip and Mr. Abraham Mathew from Vasai parish were active participants.

b. Malankara Catholic Association (MCA)

A common Program was conducted for MCA members at Thane on 11th October 2015. Around 10 Members attended the Meeting from vasai unit. Mr. Varkey from Vasai unit was elected in the Exarchate committee.

c. Represented for the Commission for Faith Formation Meet

A one day seminar was conducted for catechism teachers from various zones at Pune on 03 October 2015. Representing Vasai unit Mrs Valsa Samuel attended the same.

d. KCA Onam Celebration

The Kerala Catholic Association Onam 2015 was celebrated on 4 October at Mulund. From Vasai unit KCA committee Members Mr. Varghese Chacko, Mr. Thomas Mathew, Mr. Samuel P John and Mrs. Valsa Samuel attended the Event

e. Commemoration of Benedict Mar Gregorios OIC

The *Orma Qurbono* was celebrated in remembrance of Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios on 11 October 2015 by the Vicar Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC. The nercha for the day was sponsored by Mr. Samuel John & Family.

4) St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church - Sakinaka

a. Suvisesha Sangham Formation in Sakinaka Parish

The Suvisesha Sangham formation in the Sakinaka Parish was held from 8 to 11 October 2015. Suvisesha Sangham members of Mumbai District were divided into 11 groups, under the leadership of Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, Sr. Arsha SIC, Sr. Pradeepthi SIC, Sr. Kiran SIC, Sr. Bhavya SIC and Sr. Treesa SIC, in order to visit all the houses of the Parish. The leaders of Prayer Meetings of the Parish led each group into respective houses for hearing, sharing and prayer. The Parish Members assembled in the Church on 11 October from 7.30 am to 1.00 pm for classes on the Spirituality of Mar Ivanios and the life-style of Suvisesha Sangham. Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra, the Vicar and Mr. K Baby, the coordinator of Suvisesha Sangham in Sakinaka made all the required arrangements in the Parish.

Bangalore District

1) St. John's Malankara Catholic Church - Singasandra

a. Suvisesha Sangham Formation

Sr. Francina DM, the Secretary of Malankara Catholic *Suvisesha Sangham* led the *Suvisesha Sangham* Formation in the Singasandra Church on 18 October 2015 from 8.30 am to 1.00 pm. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath initiated the Parish members to the spirit of *Suvisesha Sangham* through a class on the Spirituality of Mar Ivanios. Later on, Sr. Francina guided them through a class to better understand the life-style of *Suvisesha Sangham* and to motivate them to live a life of *Suvisesha Sangham*. The formation programme concluded with the solemn Holy Qurbono.

Chennai District

Parish News

1) St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church - Padi

a. Retreat

On 23 October a retreat and orientation talk was held at Padi Church. Rev. Fr. Anthony Kakkanatt was the main speaker of the day. Almost all

the members of the parish participated in this retreat and orientation programme.

2) St. George Malankara Catholic Church - Ayyapakam

MCA day was celebrated at Ayyapakam with solemn Holy Qurbono followed by a seminar on team work. Around 38 members participated in the seminar.

Institutional News

1) Mar Gregorios College (MGC) - Chennai

a. Founder's Day

As a part of the centenary year celebrations of our founder, His Grace Late Archbishop Most.Rev.Benedict Mar Gregorios OIC, the MGC Students Resource Team (MGC-SRT) was formed and introduced by the College Management on 01 October 2015. The programme started at 10.00 am with a workshop on 'Emotional Intelligence' conducted for students by Ms. Annie Anish, a renowned Soft Skills Trainer and Image Consultant.

b. Students-Staff Retreat

The "Crusaders of MGC" organized Student-Staff Annual Retreat on 02 October, 2015 in Mar Ivanios Hall. The Motto of the retreat was Repent-Revive-Reveal. The Chief Guest of this retreat was Rev. Fr. Stephen Mathar. The program was led by Rev. Fr. John Peter, followed by the Choir by the student's community. The program ended with a Holy Qurbono and refreshment.

c. Eye Camp

Mar Gregorios College organized a free eye camp to the public on 09 October 2015 from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00p.m in the College campus, in association with Sankara Nethralaya and Thiruvallur District Blindness Control Society, to remember the founder on the day of commemoration of His Grace Late Archbishop Most. Rev. Benedict Mar Gregorios OIC, on his birth centenary year. More than 300 people from the neighboring areas of Mogappair West were benefited by this eye camp. Five opticians rendered their service in the campus.

d. MGC Education Fund

Rev. Fr. Sabu. M. George and the Principal Dr. Mohandas distributed the education scholarship fund to the children of all Teaching and Non-Teaching staffs of the College.

2) Mar Gregorios Public School (CBSE)

Mar Gregorios Public School organized, Mar Gregorios Centenary year Inter School Competition 2015 on 09 October. The competition started with the prayer and blessing by Fr. John Peter. Many competitions were held in which nearly 15 schools participated with 150 students. Mar Gregorios College Principal Dr. Mohandas was the chief guest of the event who gave away the prizes. The all-rounder prize goes to D.A.V School, Mogappair, for their best performance.

3) Sacred Heart Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Padi

Sacred Heart Mat. Hr. Sec. School also organized, Mar Gregorios Centenary year Inter School Competition 2015 'Kalasangamam 2015' on 09 October, 2015. The competition started with the prayer by the school Principal Rev. Fr. Moncy Kaleeckal. Many competitions were held in which nearly 10 schools participated. Kumari Sandhya (Classical Dancer, State Level First in Yoga, Black Belt in Karate) was the chief guest of the event who gave away the prizes. The First prize was given to Padma Sarangapani Mat. Hr. Sec. School and the Second prize to Sacred Heart Mat. Hr. Sec. School.

Hyderabad District

a. Divya Vani TV Channel Supported

As part of the of the initiative of Telugu Catholic Bishop Council to start a TV channel with name Divya Vani, the director of the channel Fr. Showry visited Mother Mary Malankara Catholic Church. In solidarity with this cause to promote peace and justice through the TV channel, the parish has expressed their willingness to support the cause.

b BBS Camp - Hyderabad District

The Bethany Bible Studies (BBS) Camp at Hyderabad was held from October 22-25 at St. Mary's Bethany Convent Vidyalaya. The camp was

led by Bros. Monson Kuriakose OIC, Jobi Thomas OIC, Sijo Thomas OIC and Michael Raj OIC from Bethany Ashram, Ramwadi. The camp was inaugurated by Fr. John Thundiyath OIC, the District Vicar of Hyderabad. The camp was attended by 75 students belonging to the two parishes in Hyderabad and also by the students of Bethany Karunalaya. The theme of this year's BBS was "Pardoning Love" based on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year, being the birth centenary of Late Archbishop Mar Gregorios, the camp had special sessions and quiz on His life and activities. The camp was a refreshing and exciting experience for the children and also the youth and the elders as there were meaningful action songs, interactive classes, quizzes and enriching bible games. The camp was visited by Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the director of MCCL of Pune Exarchate on the third day. The camp concluded on 25 October with the celebration of the Holy Qurbono. The concluding ceremony was presided over by Rev. Fr. Antony Kakkanattu.

OBITUARY

Mr. George Mathew, father of Mrs. Jolly Sabu (St. Mary's Church - Sakinaka) and Mrs. Tangamma George (St. Mary's Church - Khadki) passed away on 2nd & 30th October 2015 respectively. The Exarchate expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family. May the Lord Almighty help them to bear the irreplaceable loss.

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 Nov, Sunday 6 PM : Pune District Pastoral Council Meet

13 -15 Nov : BBS Camp - Kalewadi

Kindly Note:

The Exarchate Bulletin, "The Ephremite" welcomes advertisement from individuals, families, parishes or institutions as partial or total sponsorship for its monthly publication.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

1 November : Qudos Eetho (Liturgical Year Begins)

3 November : Commemoration of Bp. Paulose Mar Philexinos

9 November : Hudos Eetho (Renewal of the Church)
 12-15 November : National Eucharistic Congress - Mumbai
 13 November : Feast - Bp. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom

14 November : Feast - St. Philip, the Apostle 16 November : Social Communication Media Day

: Feast - St. Mathew, the Apostle

29 November : Feast - Bp. Mar Divannasios 30 November : Feast - St. Andrew, the Apostle

BISHOP'S DAIRY NOVEMBER

Date : Function / Venue

1 : Kolkata

2 : Trivandrum 3 : Trivandrum 4 : Bangalore

5 : Chennai 6 : Chennai

7 : Marriage at Chinchwad

8 : Ulhasnagar & Pune District Pastoral Council Meet

9 : Pune 10 : Pune

National Charismatic Convention - Pune
 National Eucharistic Congress - Mumbai
 National Eucharistic Congress - Mumbai
 National Eucharistic Congress - Mumbai

15 : National Eucharistic Congress - Mumbai

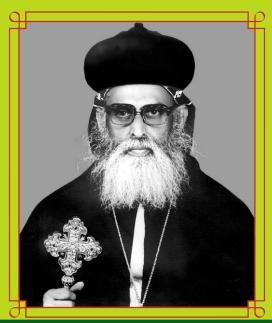
16 : Pune

17 : Girideepam Minor Seminary - Delhi

18 : Trivandrum

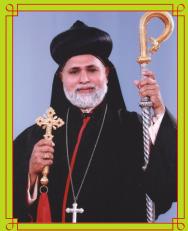
19 : Marriage at Vazhamuttam, Kerala

20-30 : Pilgrimage to Holy Land



Commemoration of Most Rev. Bp. Paulose Mar Philexinos
3 November

Festal Greetings



Most Rev. Bp. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom 13 November



Most Rev. Bp. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios 29 November

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The Chancellor, Exarchate of St Ephrem
51 Bhaupatil Road, Bopodi, Pune - 411 020
Tel.: +91 9145273369. Email : exarchkhadki@gmail.com



MCYM Pimpri bags 2nd Place - Christian Youth Games



Mathru Sangham Seminar - Kalewadi



MCA - St. George Church, Ayyapakam



Thanks to the family of late Mr. C.T. Thomas for Donating Land for Building Church in Nagpur