



THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

# THE EPHREMITES

BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE



VOL I | NO. 8 | JANUARY 2016



Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016

*"Festal Greetings to  
His Beatitude Baselios Cardinal  
Cleemis Catholicos and His Excellency  
Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC"*

01 January



17 January



# The Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

## THE EPHREMITÉ

Bulletin of the Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki - Pune



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

THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE

VOL I | NO. 8 | January 2016

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Apostolic Exarch

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## **CIRCULAR LETTER**

Prot. No. CL2/2015

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Warm Greetings and Blessings of the Christmas-New Year Season from the See of the Exarchate of St Ephrem!

As we advance in the advent season and await the blessed Christmas 2015, I wish you the choicest blessings of the Infant Jesus and a fruitful New Year 2016. This is the first Christmas of our Exarchate; it is an occasion for us to thank God for his abundant blessings showered upon our Exarchate and on our families. We all consider Christmas as a time to glorify God in the highest and to receive the peace that is given to us from the manger of Bethlehem. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son" to share His mercy and love with humankind. Let us receive this mercy and love of the Father from the Son and share it with our brethren and with the world!

We, the people of the Exarchate together with the entire Catholic Church have entered the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy on 8 December 2015. At the Cathedral Church of the Exarchate, we formally opened the door of mercy as a symbol of entering the door of mercy which God, the Father of all mercies, opens to us. We plan to have multiple activities to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy in a meaningful and outstanding way. Details will be communicated to you without much delay. This year is an opportunity for us to reconcile with God, family members - parents, children, brothers, sisters and relatives - colleagues, friends and neighbors. All our programs like prayer meetings, conventions,

retreats, liturgical celebrations of sacraments, pilgrimages, camps and training programs should motivate us for reconciliation with the Almighty and all human beings and with the nature. This should subsequently impel us to serve the underprivileged and to care for the mother earth.

I now want to share with you a pulse of our Exarchate. We are aware that we need a piece of land for the common purposes of our Exarchate. Our Pastoral Council and Finance Council were earnestly on search. By the Grace of God, they identified a piece of land at Khopoli, midway between Pune and Mumbai. It is around 12 Kms from Koppoli municipal headquarters, around 8 Kms from the old Bombay-Pune Road and approximately 2.5 Kms from the Expressway. Once all legal aspects are cleared we have only a maximum of six months to execute the final deed. As you are aware, we started life in our Exarchate without any reserves. With the grace of God and generous contribution from our people we manage the day to day affairs. To realize the project for the common centre, I need your whole hearted prayers and support. As I have communicated at our first Pastoral Council meeting of the Exarchate, there will not be obligatory collections for any project, but I solicit your co-operation and support to realize this project. You can give voluntary donations and loans. Loans will be returned as and when you need it based on a prior understanding. Without the participation of all we cannot realize the project. Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and beloved Faithful, please share this information with as many benevolent people as possible. Details will be further worked out and communicated through the vicars and pastoral council members.

Once again I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2016.

Yours lovingly in Jesus,

+ *Mar Anthonios*

✠ Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC  
Apostolic Exarch



## Report of the Second Pastoral Council Meet of the Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune

### Introduction

The second Pastoral Council Meeting of the Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune was held on 5, December 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral Khadki Pune. The gathering began with morning prayers at 8.45 AM followed by concelebrated Holy Qurbano. Rt Rev. Monsignor Varghese Mattamana who is celebrating his sacerdotal silver jubilee of ordination was the chief celebrant in the presence of the Exarch Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. The Exarch who gave the homily based on Jn 10:1-6 highlighted the priestly ministry as a sharing in the ministry of Jesus the Good Shepherd who knows his flock, who loves and protects them and who lays down his life for the sheep. He invited all to pray for Msgr Mattamana who in his ministry imitates Jesus the Good Shepherd.

The meeting, chaired by His Excellency Most Rev Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, the Exarch of Khadki-Pune, started at 10.45 AM. The following members attended the meeting.

### Priests

Msgr. Varghese Mattamana	Fr Joseph Menakaleeckal OIC
Fr George Mathew OIC	Fr Renjith Madathiparambil
Fr Varghese Kaithon	Fr Joseph Noble OIC
Fr Varghese Valikkodath	Fr Paul Naveen OIC
Fr Mathew Varikkattu	Fr Zacharias Nanthiattu OIC
Fr Mathai Iranathara OIC	Fr Philip Pulipra
Fr Varghese Kadakketh	Fr John Britto OIC
Fr John Thundiyath OIC	Fr Cyril Anand OIC

### Rev Sisters

Sr Pradeepthi SIC	Sr Jeffin SIC
Sr Lincy Maria SIC	Sr Bhavya SIC
Sr Arsha SIC	Sr Rani SIC
Sr Stancy Maria DM	

### Laity

Mr D.David	Mr N C Jose	Mr P K Cherian
Mr Babu George	Mr Xavier Pawath	Mr Mani Kurakose
Mr Alex Valavil	Mr John Mathew	Mr Salu Thomas
Mr V A George	Mr Jose George	Mr Abraham Mathew
Mr Sabu Joseph	Mr T D Mathew	Mr Roy Abraham
Mr P G Koshy	Mr Sijo Joy	Mr John Raj Y
Mr Joy C E	Mr K N Sebastian	Ms Mini Shibu
Mr George Abraham	Mr Kunjumon Thomas	Mr Eapachan Abraham
Mr P V Thomas	Ms Sara Mani	Ms RosammaRajan
Ms Lizzy Koshy	Mr C.M.Varghese	Mr P Varghese
Mr Ninan Jacob	Mr K V John	Mr P G John
Mr T C Joykutty	Mr Jose Alexander	Mr M D Jose
Mr Zachariah Pawath	Mr Daniel Babu	

The following members, due to unavoidable circumstance had taken special permission from the Aboon and were absent. The members from Chennai were absent due the floods.

Fr Varghese Maruthoor	Fr Philip Kaleeckal	Fr Stephen Mathar
Fr John Felix OIC	Sr Vimal SIC	Sr Teresina SIC
Sr Ann Mary DM	Sr Sajeeva DM	Sr Carmel DM
Sr Chinnamma HSS	Mr Baiju S.R	Dr Abraham V.M
Mr Saji P.Jacob	Mr Saji Daniel	Mr S L Samuel
Mr T M Johnson	Mr Joshua K.G	Mr P A Joykutty
Mr Baby Samuel	Mr V Jose	Mr Biju Varghese
Mr NepoleanVarkey	Mr A V George	Mr Roy Augustine
Mr Sam Thomas	Mr K O Abraham	Mr Thomas P George
Mr Thomas Daniel	Mr K C Punnoose	Mr Biju John
Mr V P Thomas	Mr G Raju	Mr M V George
Mr S Lawrance	Mr Saju John	Ms Julie Philip

Rev Fr Mathew Varikkattu, the Vicar of the Cathedral welcomed the gathering and wished that the Exarchate which is an infant now, may grow in spirit like Jesus Christ whose birth we commemorate during the Advent season.



### **Inaugural Address**

In the inaugural address H.E stated that the Exarchate Pastoral Council is the representative body of the Exarchate. Citing the Gospel read during of the Holy Qurbono, Bishop told that each one of the PC is called to participate in the ministry of the Good Shepherd to serve the exarchate through the pastoral council. H.E said it was very appropriate to celebrate the silver jubilee of Msgr Varghese Mattamana and Rev Sr Bhavya SIC in this meeting. The Exarch expressed the gratitude of the Exarchate to the Provincial Superior, Mother Ramya SIC for benevolently gifting a plot of land of St. Joseph Bethany Convent School at Dehu Road to the Exarchate. H.E announced the appointment of Rev Fr Joseph Thomas OIC as the coordinator of the Exarchial Commission for the Religious. New members attending the council Rev. Fr Renjith Madathiparambil, Rev Fr Philip Pulipra, Mr M.D Jose, Jose George, Eapachan Abraham and Mr. Zachariah Pawath were specially welcomed by the Bishop.

H.E then reiterated the three-point programme of the Exarchate which has been taken up, namely,

1. Enhance and deepen our ecclesial life through Word of God and Sacraments.
2. Evangelization and reunion.
3. Building up the Exarchate infrastructure.

H.E said that the order of priorities of the above programme is also very important. Primary objective is to improve upon our spiritual life. Secondly we need to share the joy of the Gospel to all and reunite people with the Catholic Church as per the vision of Servant of God Mar Ivanios. He said that the Suvishesha Sangham has this as its prime responsibility. He specially reminded that participation in the Pastoral Council is a duty before God and the Church. He also reminded the members that Pastoral Council begins with the Holy Qurbono and all members are expected to be present well in time.

The report of the first Pastoral Council meeting held on 11 June 2015 was read by the secretary. Since the approved minutes of the meeting was

published in the Exarchial bulletin only important decisions and instructions by the Exarch were read to set the background for the proceedings of the day.

The Protosyncellus, Very Rev Monsignor Varghese Mattamana, then presented a gist of sharing by the Exarch. Rev. Fr. reminded the council of the process of sanctification, evangelization and reunion which we have embarked upon. He said that in the context of the Exarchate, a programme which does not lead to growth in faith-life and evangelization is of no relevance. At the same time the infrastructure requirements also should be met in a time bound manner. He then gave an overview of the day's programme. He said that the key to effective participation in Pastoral Council is to get involved by asking questions, giving critical inputs which can be positive contributions to the deliberations. In the Year of Mercy we need to adopt a plan of inclusive understanding within the Church. We have social responsibilities too. He also reminded that a major programme needs to be conducted for the centenary celebration of late Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios.

### **Session On Status Review Of The Exarchial Programme**

**Exarchial Commissions:** Rev Fr Varghese Valikkodath, the Coordinator and Secretary of the Exarchial Commissions for Evangelization, Vocation, Faith Formation, Apostolates of Bible, Youth, Family and Laity, then outlined the status of the various apostolates organized in the Exarchate.

**MCYM:** Unit level and District level bodies have been established as per guidelines of the Exarchate. Common meeting of the Exarchial body was held on 21 August and election was held and an Exarchial body has been set up.

**MCA:** Erstwhile Pithruvedi has been transformed into MCA in the Exarchate for convenience. The Exarchial body was setup during a common programme for MCA and mathrusanghom in Pune. District level committees have been formed and formation process is being implemented at unit levels also.

**Mathrusangham:** Exarchial body was setup during a common

programme for MCA and Mathrusangham in Pune. District and unit level committees have been formed and are functioning satisfactorily. Mathrusangham will be a subsidiary of MCA so as to enable it to organize common programmes.

**MCCL:** We have to explore the possibility to organise an Exarchial body. District level bodies have been set up in four districts. BBS camps were held in three districts.

**Catechism:** A common meeting at Exarchate level was held on 3rd October to discuss various programmes and a bye-law is under preparation. From the next academic year classes for Grade XI will start. Certificates will be issued for Grade X and XII. Students of Grades XI and XII will be part of the MCYM.

**Susvishesha Sangham:** A second round of seminar and class was conducted by Rev Fr Antony Kakkanatt in all the five districts. Monthly meetings are held at Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore. House visits have been completed in 22 of our parishes.

**Vocation Promotion:** It is planned to conduct vocation promotion camps in the Exarchate in this year itself. Responding to clarification from members from Aurngabad, Valikkodath Achan mentioned that catechism certificates from ETRI will be made available in one month's time.

**Financial Updates :** Rev Fr Varghese Kaithon then gave an overview of the financial status. We have registered our Exarchate as a new religious trust based in Bangalore with its regional office in Pune. The Malankara Catholic Church Bombay, a Trust registered in the erstwhile ETRI is continuing to operate as a charitable trust. Its FCRA account in Mumbai has been transferred to Pune.

Meetings of Trustees and Secretaries of parishes were held in Mumbai and Pune Districts. Income tax returns of parishes in Mumbai for the last year will be submitted by the Bombay Trust. For all other parishes the Bangalore based trust will take care.

Original deeds of properties at Sakinaka, Warje and Nagpur are

available in the Exarchate Curia. Xerox copies of 18 other properties of the Exarchate have been kept filed in the Curia. The original deeds of the properties should be traced and preserved in the Curia.

During interventions Shri PK Cherian said that the deed copies of Bangalore properties are with Eparchy of Bathery. Also in response to a question regarding the Exarchial support fund Fr Kaithon mentioned that we are continuing with the ETRI system as of now and many units have been sending as per prescribed heads.

**Commission for Liturgy:** Rev Fr Varghese Kaithon, the Secretary of the Exarchial Commission for Liturgy informed the meeting that the liturgy texts in Hindi are given to Rev Fr Jolly Karimpil for improving the language.

The Exarch highlighted that the Exarchial Commission for Liturgy has to oversee the faithful celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Qurbano according to the norms of the Liturgical celebration as prescribed in the Thukkasa. He also asked Fr Kaithon to chalk out a time-bound programme to publish all the texts before June 2016. He was also told that all churches and chapels need to be visited to check whether the liturgy is celebrated as per the Malankara tradition.

Old church articles which are not usable should be disposed off burning them away. The Exarch suggested that a liturgical convention has to be conducted in all parishes, with study classes to teach and learn about the celebration of sacraments, especially the Holy Qurbano keeping up its symbolic richness and mystical nature. Host for the Holy Qurbano is at present made at Sakinaka and Pune and the same (hammira) should be used in all parishes, ashrams and convents.

**Commission for Education:** Msgr. Varghese Mattamana stated that meetings were held in three districts to find out the feasibility of forming trusts to start educational institutions. Based on the deliberations the three priority areas are identified as Hyderabad, a place near Borivli in Mumbai and Nashik.

The Exarch clarified that all institutions run by the religious in the

jurisdiction of the Exarchate of St Ephrem are also under the patronage of the local hierarch as per canon law. There is no intent to interfere in the management of the schools or to make these institutions part of the Exarchate. It will be ensured that all such institutions are run as per the guidelines and principles outlined by the Holy Catholic Church.

A manager's meet of all the institutions need to be called at the earliest under the chairmanship of the Exarch to convey these guidelines and to form the common policies of the institutions in the Exarchate. The good relation of mutual help and understanding that is maintained now between the Exarchate and such institutions shall be strengthened. The local parish priest needs to fulfil the liturgical and sacramental needs of the religious in the convents and institutions situated in the territory of the parish.

**Commission for Social Apostolate:** The plan to register the social service society of the Exarchate is progressing.

**Sunday school exam results:** The results of Catechism Semester I exam held on 29th November 2015 was announced by the Exarch.

**Inauguration** of the “Ephphatha” ticket sale, a mega show for raising funds for the churches of Dehu Road and Warje was conducted when the first ticket of Rs.15,000 was sold to Mr K N Sebastian of Hyderabad.

There followed the noon prayers and lunch. The afternoon session started at 14:00 hrs and the status review of various commissions continued.

**Commission for Religious:** Rev Fr Joseph Thomas OIC, the newly appointed coordinator of the Exarchial Commission for the Religious proposed a one-day seminar for priests and religious, as part of celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life. The Exarchial priests and Laity are invited to this celebration. A prayer for Religious shall be published in the Ephremite so that we can pray in our homes for our religious men and women. Vocation promotion programs are also being planned.

**Commission for Seminary Formation:** Rev Fr George Mathew OIC,

Rector of the Minor Seminary of St. Ephrem Exarchate mentioned that we have 12 seminarians as on date, out of which 8 are in Mar Ivanios Minor Seminary Gurgaon-New Delhi. Three are doing major seminary studies in Nagpur and one brother is in regency in Pune. We are expecting at least ten more children to join seminary in the coming years. We do not have any infrastructure for the seminary. But a suitable location has to be made available soon in Pune.

With respect to a query from P V Thomas Pune, regarding the expenses of the seminary, the rector mentioned that the Exarchate bears the expenses. The President of the Mathrusanghan. Ms Lizzy Koshy, mentioned that from Mumbai there is a commitment to support a seminary in Kerala till the end of the next year, after which it shall take up the support of our seminary from 2016-'17. The Exarch entrusted Mr P V Thomas Pune the resource mobilization for the seminary by way of finding sponsors and benefactors.

### **Discussion**

The next session was the Zero Hour moderated by the Exarch and the Protosyncellus. H.E invited feedback of the members with respect to missions as well as in building up our organizations like the MCYM, MCA, Mathrusanghan.

**Mr Eapachan Abraham, Goa:** He expressed happiness on being part of the Pastoral Council. He mentioned that at present there 15 families in Goa and there are at least 10 more families to be identified. Geographically they are spread across areas of Mapusa, Madgaon, Vasco & Panjim and hence access is difficult. He requested members to inform him or the Secretary of the Pastoral Council, if they have details of Malankara families living in Goa, so that they could be contacted.

**C E Joy, Singsandra:** It is seen that the Malankarites travelling to various cities of the Exarchate do not frequent the Malankara Church services. This is because parents do not insist them to go to the Malankara Church. He said that the native parish priests should inform the local parish priests that our children have migrated to these new places. He also mentioned that Singsandra church is planning to find

resources to build one more church at Carmelaram in Bangalore and about 1.4 crore is being collected for the same.

**Rev Fr Philip Pulipra** mentioned that Vikhroli Church has been contributing Rs.1000 for sponsoring a seminary student since last 10 years. He also stated that Mathrusanghan has the capacity and the responsibility to find financial support for all our seminarians.

**Lizzy Koshy, Sakinaka:** Mathrusanghan Mumbai has been giving Rs. 15000 for the last ten years and there is a commitment for 12 years to fund a seminarian in Aluva. She said that, after this obligation is over, the fund can be given for the support of the Exarchate seminarians.

**V A George, Pune:** He narrated his experience in Orissa and Punjab missions and remarked that there shall be a major thrust of sharing the joy of the Gospel with the people who have not known Jesus Christ. We have such missions in many places now. This is happening in our time and it is remarkable. We need to review and reassess ourselves and ask if we are serious with our mission approach. This question is whether we can commit ourselves to such a goal which our fore-father dreamt?

**Fr Varghese Kadakketh, Bangalore** mentioned that in the present system of Catechism, children are being forced to study and remember Malayalam songs and prayers. Also the assessment of catechism students should include evaluation of kids by catechism teachers and parents. Further he told that we should take initiative to make our children learn by heart Bible verses.

**Rosamma Rajan, Borivli** said that when our children migrate to other cities, vicars should inform priests in the new area about the same.

**M. D Jose:** In Vapi when Malankara catholic service started Manorama advertisement helped to reach out to Malankara people. This can be followed in other cities also.

**P V Thomas, Pune:** With respect to floating population many times the attitude of our people in charging monthly subscriptions, marriage pasaram are hindrances to our children to frequent the church. Many times it may be due to wrong and loose talk regarding the same. In the Exarchate we need to have a special cell to handle the “mission”. And

regarding catechism students, he said that many children have difficulty in writing prayers and songs in Malayalam.

**Rev Fr John Britto OIC:** When youth come in the last minute for sacramental needs, relaxation of general rules is difficult as it sometimes leads to uneasiness in the regularly attending parishioners.

**K V John Borivli:** It is seen that children are seen to join other catholic seminaries and we should take steps to receive them in our seminaries.

**N C Jose:** Xth Board Exam is a hindrance for students to write Class X exam of catechism and hence IXth standard students should be allowed to write Class X exam.

**Zachariah Pawath Kharghar:** Many times we are not able to decide on purchase of land/plot mainly because of the lack of funds in hand. Hence with immediate effect a trust must be formed where people are ready to be park funds and this needs to happen even before site visits for such purposes are made.

### **The Pastoral Guidance by the Exarch**

The Exarch then responded to various interventions. Regarding the issue of migrants not coming to Malankara services, the Exarch stated that the issue has been discussed at various levels including the SMCC synodal level down the years. Pastoral Letters have been written on the matter, and in spite of that the people and the priests have not complied. We cannot do much on the same, except that we patiently and consistently, with a pastoral attitude, try to accommodate such people.

With respect to missions, our people should be able to accept all people and forget our false ego of “Marthoma Christians”. The future of the Exarchate lies in re-evangelization and evangelization, by sharing the joy of Gospel with people who have not received Jesus Christ in their lives. The Exarch complimented the Singsandra church on the initiative of raising funds for a new church at Carmelaram.

In the catechism issue, solution has to be given by the Commission for Faith Formation. At the synodal level it has been decided that catechism students need to be in the same class as of their regular school



and exemption cannot be made for grade X and no class/grade can be skipped. Class XI and XII need to be made integral part of youth catechism. Referring to an age criteria issue raised earlier in Mumbai, the Bishop told that all the regular catechism students have the right to participate in arts or any other competitions taken up for catechism students.

Regarding benefactors for seminary, the Exarch told that at present the Exarchate finds the financial support for all our seminarians. H.E also said that the system of individual benefactors is an option than general seminary funding, as this brings a spiritual relation between the student and the benefactor; but it has its pit falls, as it can happen that a seminarian drops out.

In the issue of bending rules to accommodate people approaching for sacramental needs, Exarch told that we need to accommodate them and use such occasion to bring people back to “the fold”. H.E said that no one should be kept away from the church because of rules.

With respect to expansion of existing infrastructure, it is possible to do the same, if viable options are planned; but generally we have to be content with the existing infrastructure in the Metropolitan cities. We can think of a common place for the common gatherings of the people of an ecclesiastical district. These should be planned in conjunction with some people-oriented outreach institutions. The Exarch mentioned that the private participatory model of building infrastructure is accepted and the finance council needs to implement programmes with due respect to Pastoral Council guidelines. The policy to strengthen the regions will continue. Instead of taxing the common people, we need to find people who can invest amounts as loans in the work of trusts and societies. We will be promoting a participatory model of “society” in which everyone, according to their financial capacity will be able to put in what they can, so that at the end all the faithful of a certain parish is a participant in the mission of that parish. Guarantees will be given for retrieving each one's loans.

### **Announcements**

The Holy year of Mercy is to be officially inaugurated in the Exarchate by liturgical opening of the door of the Cathedral of the Exarchate at Khadki. This ceremony will be on the day of the opening of the door at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican by H.H Pope Francis. Similar function can be held at our churches the next Sunday, 13 December, and the Commission for Liturgy will send the Order of the Liturgical Service for the same.

The Exarch informed that it is planned to declare our Cathedral at Khadki as a pilgrim centre. Units in the exarchate may take up pilgrimage to Khadki in coming years after such an announcement. Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome also has to be organized.

Mar Gregorios centenary celebration is to be taken up at district level and one such program is to be conducted at Mumbai in the presence of H.B Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos.

### **Executive Committee of Pastoral Council**

The Exarch mentioned that in order to implement and follow up decisions taken in the Pastoral Council, an Executive Committee has to be established. Based on discussion the following members were nominated to the executive committee.

1. Pastoral Council Secretary (Ex-officio)
2. Proto Presbyters of all five districts
3. Rev Sr Jeffin SIC (Sister's Representative)
4. Mr. John Mathew (Mumbai)
5. Mr Alex Valavil (Pune)
6. Mr K.N Sebastian (Andhra/Telangana)
7. Mr. P.K Cherian (Bangalore)
8. Chennai (to be nominated later)
9. Ms. Sara Mani Kuriakose (Lady representative)

### **Consolidation & Conclusion**

The Exarch exhorted the faithful to work in close communion with the church just like the Holy Trinity. He explained how the three Persons of the Trinity, though three are one, sharing one nature. We too perform our

role to meet the needs of the Exarchate. A feeling of oneness and communion has to exist in the Church accommodating everyone. He lauded the members of the Pastoral Council and all the members of our Church for their extraordinary dedication and commitment to build up the Exarchate and our Church.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Mr Daniel Babu, the Secretary of the Pastoral Council. His Excellency Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios made the concluding prayers and imparted apostolic blessing to all present and for the entire Exarchate. The Exarch also gave away Rosaries from the Holy Land as mementoes to all who attended the meeting.

### Finance Council Report

A meeting of the Finance Council of the Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki Pune was held on 5 December 2015 at 16.30 hrs at St Mary's MCC Cathedral Pune. The meeting was presided over by the Exarch, Most Rev Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. The following members attended the meeting.

**Priests:**

Msgr Varghese Mattamana	Fr Varghese Kaithon
Fr Mathew Varikkattu	Fr Mathai Iranathara OIC
Fr Varghese Kadakketh	

**Laity:**

Mr NC Jose	Mr PK Cherian	Mr Babu George
Mr Xavier Pawath	Mr Mani Kurakose	Mr Alex Valavil
Mr John Mathew	Mr VA George	Mr Jose George
Mr K N Sebastian		

**Invitees**

Mr Daniel Babu	Mr Zachariah Pawath	Mr PV Thomas
Mr John Raj	Mr MD Jose	

The meeting started with prayer. Rt Rev. Msgr Varghese Mattamana apprised the meeting of the status of the charitable and religious trusts

formation in the Exarchate. He informed that after the visit of the auditor the details of its operation will be finalized.

The discussion that followed was around the theme: Without having assured a minimum fund, how can we go ahead with proposals for the purchase of land for the common project of the Exarchate? As per the feedback from Pastoral Council it was decided to collect a parking fund for the purchase of land. So the Exarch asked the members present at the meeting, to express their own commitments in this matter. This can be followed up with personally approaching other members of our Church. In response to this request the sum promised by the members amounted to two crores approximate. The members agreed that the committed amount will be made available when a purchase token advance is given.

Details of land seen at Pune highway near Hotel Ginger, Khopoli and Hyderabad were presented by Msgr Mattamana and the Exarch. It was decided that the Hyderabad project be speeded up so that a school can be started there by next academic year. The Exarch mentioned that the private participatory model of building infrastructure is accepted and the finance council needs to implement programmes with due respect to Pastoral Council guidelines. The Exarch also stated that small and big contribution from all members are important and welcome for such ventures.

The following were elected to the executive body that was empowered to go ahead with the negotiations of land purchase.

Mr V A George	Mr C M Varghese	Mr Alex Valavil
Mr Babu George	Mr John Mathew	Mr Jose George
Mr Zachariah Pawath	Mr P K Cherian	Mr K N Sebastian

The meeting concluded with a prayer and the blessing imparted by the Exarch.

**-Daniel Babu P**  
**Secretary, Pastoral Council**

**2nd Pastoral Council Meet at Cathedral Church**



**MCA Executive Committee  
Mumbai District**



**St. Thomas Malankara Church, Borivli  
wins Gloria Carol Competition**

**The Exarchate specially thanks  
Mother Remya and the Province of Moovattupuzha  
for donating a plot of land close to Dehu Road Church**





Formation of  
Suvisesha Sangham  
in Bangalore District



Formation of  
Suvisesha Sangham  
in Hennur Parish



Inauguration of the Holy Year  
of Mercy at Vasai Parish



Vasai Parish participates in  
Ecumenical Carols  
Competition



Inauguration of  
Chilamboli - Carol  
Competition,  
Bangalore

MCYM Kharghar stands  
1st Runners Up in  
Ecumenical Football  
Tournament



Mumbai District  
Mathrusangham Seminar





Sr. Jeffin SIC presents memento to H. E. Thomas Mar Antonios on the Annual Day Celebration of St. Joseph's Bethany Convent School, Dehu Road



H. E. Thomas Mar Antonios OIC at St Mary's Church, Warje Malwadi



Inauguration of the Year of Mercy, Warje Malwadi



Inauguration and Orientation talk on the Year of Mercy, Dehu Road





**EXARCHATE NEWS****1. Western Region Bishop's Conference**

H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC the Apostolic Exarch of the Exarchate attended the Western Region Bishop's Conference held on 11 & 12 December in Goregoan. Archbishop Felix Machado welcomed the Exarch to the collegiality of bishops in the Western Region. Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara on behalf of the bishops expressed support and prayers through the presentation of bouquet. The Exarch too expressed His gratitude towards the collegial support and encouragement extended and promised all support for the mission of the Church especially in the Western Region.

**2. St. Joseph's Bethany Convent School Annual Day Celebrations - Dehu Road**

The Annual Day Celebrations at St. Joseph's Bethany Convent School in Dehu Road held on 04 December showcased the talents of Students of the school and the efficiency of Bethany Sisters in organizing and giving quality education. H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC was the chief guest of the day. The Exarch appreciated the management, staff and students for their academic and co-curricular excellence. The Bethany Sisters thanked the Exarch and presented Him with a memento for His presence and words of appreciation.

**3. Little Flower Nursery School Annual Day Celebrations - Chennai**

All the balloons were flying high with charm and beauty, as the little toddlers of Little Flower Nursery Section, Padi, on the annual day celebration on 6 November. His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, the patron and Apostolic Exarch of the Exarchate of St Ephrem was the chief guest of the day. The presence of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Proto Syncellus of the Exarchate, Rev. Fr. Sabu M. George, Local Manager and Secretary, Rev. Fr. MoncyKaleeckal, Principal of Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher Secondary School, and Rev. Fr. Stephen added glow to the programme. The dignitaries present during the function gave valuable and thought provoking messages.

With humility and with a sense of achievement, Rev. Sr. Chethana SIC, the headmistress of nursery section presented the annual report which has followed by the cultural extravaganza of tiny and cute kinder garden performers.

## Updates from the Exarchial Commissions



### **Malankara Syrian Catholic Suvisesha Sangham Parish Level Formation, BARC**

Suvisesha Sangham members of Mumbai District under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, Rev. Srs. Arsha SIC, Kiran SIC and Jeena SIC visited the families of BARC Parish on 21

November 2015 in connection with the Parish Level Formation of Suvisesha Sangham in the Parish, with members from different parishes of Mumbai. The visit was very fruitful with Bible Prathista, motivational sharing about Servant of God Mar Ivanios, invitational explanation of Suvisesha Sangham and special prayers for the family. The members of BARC Church participated in the Parish Level formation Programme together with the members of Kharghar Church conducted on 22 November 2015.

### **Parish Level Formation, Kharghar**

The Parish Level Formation of Suvisesha Sangham in Kharghar Parish was conducted on 22 November 2015 from 8.00 am to 1.30 pm. The formation programme began with the solemn Holy Qurbano celebrated by Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchial Director of Suvisesha Sangham. It was followed by two sessions: the concept and background of Suvisesha Sangham as envisaged by Archbishop Mar Ivanios and the spiritual life style of Suvisesha Sangham as envisioned by the Malankara Catholic Church. More members from the Parish came forward after the Sessions to dedicate their life for the proclamation of the Gospel. The members of Suvisesha Sangham-Mumbai District visited the families of the Parish from 23 to 25 November to pray for the families and to motivate them to live a life of the Gospel and for the Gospel.

### **Monthly Formation Programme, Hyderabad**

The first monthly formation programme of Hyderabad District was conducted on 12 December at St. Mary's Bethany Vidyalaya, Nagaram. The programme began with a prayer and welcome by Fr. Jobi Thundiath OIC, the Director of Suvisesha Sangham. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath led the formation session based on 'How to read, study and meditate the Divine Word'. The session was an enriching and enlivening one for the members of the Hyderabad District Suvisesha Sangham members.

### **Parish Level Formation, Borivli**

Parish level formation of Suvisesha Sangham was conducted in Borivli Parish on 15, 16, 17 and 20 December 2015. The Mumabi District Suvisesha Sangham under the leadership of Fr. Philip Pulipra, Fr. Joseph Menakaleeckal OIC, Srs. Arsha, Treesa, Jeena, Pradeepthi, Kiran, Bro Paul and Mr. V A George visited the families of the Parish to give a bird's eye view of Suvisesha Sangham activities and to provide a glimpse of the spiritual life style of Suvisesha Sangham. The formation sessions were conducted on 20 December under the leadership of Fr. Varghese Valikkodath and Mr. V A George from Pune. The first session was a journey through the life of Mar Ivanios Pithavu in order to place the Suvisesha Sangham in its proper context and the second session dealt with the living and proclaiming aspect of Suvisesha Sangham giving importance to the 25 spiritual things propagated by Suvisesha Sangham.

### **Monthly Formation Programme, Mumbai**

Monthly formation programme of Mumbai District was conducted at Sakinaka Church on 20 December from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Total of around 35 people attended the programme. It began with the Holy Rosary followed by a small prayer session conducted by Mr V A George. The session was taken by Fr. Varghese Valikkodath based on the life style of Suvisesha Sangham and its practical implications. He spoke in detail about the importance of reading the Bible, the relevance of Confession in the Holy year of Mercy, the sanctified participation in the Holy Qurbano, the austere observance of lent and fast, the timely saying of yama prarthana and the daily recital of Holy Rosary. The session led the

District members to take the following New Year resolutions: to follow a schema to read the complete Bible in 2016, to make a complete confession of the life in the Year of Mercy and partake in the pilgrimage to the 'Holy Door of Mercy' in any of the Cathedral, to actively participate and receive the Holy Qurbano atleast on every Sunday, to make special efforts to maintain the sanctity of lent and fast, to take real pain to say the prayers in time, to pray the Holy Rosary everyday and to make sincere attempts to forgive others in this year of Mercy.

### **Monthly Formation Programme, Pune**

The usual monthly gathering of the Suvishesha Sangham members of Pune District was convened at Khadki Cathedral on 6 December 2015 at 3.00 pm. The programme, aimed at training of the members to equip themselves to spread the Gospel, as commanded by Jesus in Mk.16:15, was attended by 27 members from different parishes of Pune District. After the initial Bible reading and singing of Psalms, Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, Exarchial Director of Suvishesha Sangham exhorted the need for more members from Pune District to attend the ensuing Sabhathala Training programme in Trivandrum and enlisted 5-6 members for the same. Rev. Father then proceeded with conducting classes on meaning and importance of the Holy Sacraments, emphasizing that the celebration of the word is through observation of the Sacraments, Bible Reading and Yama Prarthana.

The highlight of the programme was that the Exarch, H.E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC also spared some of his valuable time in conducting the classes. After reading the Gospel Mark 16: 1418, His Excellency went on to explain that, like the Apostles, we are also called to be with HIM and to preach the Gospel. We are more blessed, as we believe in God without actually seeing Him, since Jesus said, “Blessed are those who believe without seeing” (Jn.20:29). He further quoted Pope Francis “Share the joy of Gospel with others, whose who are suffering and needy”. This is what God says to the Suvishesha Sangham of the Exarchate. The Exarch emphasized the need of concrete action by preaching, in the local language, and to adopt a region for the purpose of evangelization, and has set a time schedule of three months to start with. The program ended with Angelus and Apostolic blessing.

## Malankara Catholic Association (MCA)



### One Day Seminar and Executive Committee Election, Mumbai

The MCA in the Mumbai District conducted a seminar followed by the elections to the Executive Committee-Mumbai District at Thane Church on 11 October 2015. The seminar was led by Fr. Jolly Thomas from Mar Thoma Church, Thane. The subject of the seminar was 'kudumbam paithrukathinte kalithottil'. The seminar was very effective and was attended by more than 65 members from various units in Mumbai. It was followed by MCA District Executive Committee election under the supervision of Fr. Joseph Menakaleeckal OIC (Director, MCA-Mumbai), Fr. Mathai Iranthara OIC (Proto Presbyter) and Rev. Sr. Pradeepthi SIC (Animator, MCA-Mumbai).

### The following members were elected:

President	M D Jose	Sakinaka
Vice President I	Mathew Philip	Thane
Vice President II	Peter K Daniel	Vikhroli
Secretary	Mathew Geevarghese	Kharghar
Joint Secretary I	Varkey P.C.	Vasai
Joint Secretary II	Abraham V. George	Borivali
Treasurer	Thomas Mathew	BARC

### First MCA Managing Committee, Mumbai

The MCA of Mumbai District conducted its first District Managing Committee meeting on 9 December 2015 at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Sakinaka. The meeting was presided over by MCA Director Rev. Fr. Joseph Menakaleeckal OIC and was attended by MCA Animator Rev. Sr. Pradeepthi SIC and the Managing Committee members. Around 23 members attended the meeting. It was decided to visit all units of Mumbai District to Inaugurate MCA at the unit level and distribute MCA membership forms to all the members. It was also decided to conduct a seminar during the Lenten season.

## Mathrusangham



### Liturgical Song Competition, Bangalore

The Malankara Community in Bangalore proudly acclaims to have organized for the first time an inter-church liturgical song competition for Mathru Sangham members named “Chilamboli 2015” on 06 December at St. Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church, Mathikere. The liturgical songs from the service of the Nativity of our Lord were the theme of the competition. Around 60 mothers forming 09 teams from three parishes demonstrated their singing and organizing skills to a vibrant and encouraging audience. Fr. Varghese Kadakketh, Bangalore District Director and Vicar inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp and addressed the gathering with his motivating speech in the presence of Rev. Sr. Infant Mary, the district animateur. Mrs. Moncy John, president of Mathru Sangham Bangalore district welcomed the participants and audience. The winners and participants were awarded with trophies and consolation prizes. The event was a unique and community get-together experience for the Mathru Sangham in Bangalore district.

### One Day Seminar Mumbai, District

A one day Seminar for the Mathru Sangham of Mumbai District was held on 6 December at Kharghar parish. Around 180 mothers from the 9 parishes in Mumbai attended the seminar which began with Holy Qurbano offered by Rev. Fr. Mathai Iranathara OIC, the Vicar of Kharghar parish and Mumbai District Vicar and Director for the Mathru Sangham. The enlightening event was inaugurated by the lighting of lamp by the Director, animateur Rev. Sr. Bhavya SIC and other dignitaries. It was followed by a General Body meeting in which the winners of Malankara Shabdham Bible Quiz were awarded trophies as well. The dynamic session of the seminar was led by Rev. Fr. Jolly Thomas from the Marthoma Church, Thane. The session emphasized on mothers setting up their priorities for their role in transferring the “Legacy” of Christian values to the coming generations.

## Malankara Catholic Youth Movement

### Resource Team Gathering, Hyderabad



The Resource Team chosen for giving leadership and guidance for conducting faith formation in the Units gathered for an introductory session at Jeeditmetla Church on 13 December 2016 at 4 pm. In the session which began with the prayer lead by Rev. Fr. Joby Thundiayath OIC, Fr. Varghese Valikkodath described in detail about the formation of the Resource Team and the process of faith formation to be undertaken by the Team. It is decided to have the monthly formation programme on every second Saturday of the month in any of the churches. The team entrusted the responsibility of choosing the Promoters to the the District Director. The session concluded with prayer and blessing.

### Resource Team Gathering, Pune

The Resource Team gathering of MCYM-Pune was held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Khadki on 9 Decemeber at 7.30 pm. Representatives from various units in pune took part in the gathering. The session began with an inspiring prayer by Fr. George Mathew OIC. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchial Director discussed in detail the prospects of forming the Resorce Team in Pune and the modus operandi of the Team in the District. It was suggested that the monthly formation programme can be conducted on every first Sunday of the month. The responsibility of choosing the promoters was left aside for the District and the Exarchial Directors. The gathering concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr Libin Samuel, the General Secretary-Pune MCYM and prayer by the Exarchial Director.

## Department of Catechesis

### First Semester Examination



The first Semester Examination 2015-'16 was conducted on 29November 2015 at 11 am at the respective Centres of the Exarchate. The valuation of the Answer Papers were done in Pune and the Results were announced by His

Excellency Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, the Apostolic Exarch in the Pastoral Council held on 5 December at St. Mary's Cathedral, Khadki. The Exarch announced the names of those who have got full marks and A+ Grade. The names of Joshua Ajit John-Thane (Class IV), Lijimol Philip-Chennai (Class VIII), Neha Susan Cherian-Singasandra (Class IX) and Irene Daniel-BARC (Class IX) have to be mentioned in special for their outstanding performance by scoring full marks in the Examination.



Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune  
**Commission for Faith Formation**

☎ 018 8058 70; ✉ catechesis.exarchate@gmail.com; www.catechesis.in

DoC / 2015 /05

08 December 2015

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

*Prayerful Greetings from the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation!*

The Results of the First Semester Examination 2015 '16 was announced by His Excellency Thomas Mar Anthonios, the Apostolic Exarch on 5 December 2015 in the Pastoral Council held at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral, KhadkiPune. The Parrish wise Results were published in the website on the same day around noon. Separate Lists of those who have secured full marks and A+ , A and B+ Grades were also published in the website.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have secured full marks and A+ Grade. It is the result of your hard work, zealous mind and right motivation. Rev. Fathers and Sisters, Headmasters and Teachers have tried your best to make this venture a great success. Announcing the results of the Examination in five days was a tedious task. But you made it possible by preparing the children for the Exam in the best possible way, conducting the Exam in the most disciplined manner and sending the Answer Papers and doing the formalities in the just instructed means. I wholeheartedly thank each and every one of you,



especially the District Directors and the District Executive Body, for your sincere support, generous service, earnest initiatives and timely interventions.

I hope you have already announced the results in the Parish. Those who were absent and those who have got E Grade have to write the Re Examination scheduled to be held at 11.00 am on 20 December 2015 at the respective Centres in the Exarchate. The Question Papers will be sent from the Centre and the evaluation will be done in the District with the arrangement of the District Directors under the guidance of the Exarchial Director. Hall Tickets already sent from the Centre have to be used for the re-examination too. Mark Lists of the re-examination will be compiled at the Centre and forwarded to the respective Parishes before 3 January 2016.

Wish you all the Blessings of the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

**Secretary**  
**Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation**

**I Semester Exam 2015 - 16 : A1**

UIN	Name	Parish
<b>Class IV</b>	Joshua Ajit John Nikhil P John	Thane Singasandra
<b>Class V</b>	Felixeena Thomas	Vishrantwadi
<b>Class VI</b>	Rinu Reji George Alben Alex	Kalewadi Borivali
<b>Class VII</b>	Josna Mathews Shawn Thomas George	Kirkee Kirkee
<b>Class VIII</b>	Lijimol Philip Sharon Mary Mathew Riya Martin	Chennai Kharghar Chennai
<b>Class IX</b>	Neha Susan Cherian Irene Daniel Nikki Alice Cherian Jessy Johnson	Singasandra BARC Singasandra Nashik
<b>Class X</b>	Nijo Joel Alex Brijith Babu	Dehu Road Dehu Road

**EXARCHIAL DISTRICT NEWS****Pune District****St. Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church - Dehu Road**

The inauguration of the Year of Mercy was held at St. Joseph Malankara Catholic Church, Dehu Road on 13 December. Rev. Fr. Arun Das OIC, Procurator Bethany Ashram, Ramwadi was the main celebrant for the services of the inauguration. All the parishioners actively participated in the service held at the main door of the parish, followed by which was the Holy Qurbano. Rev. Br. Joby John OIC, conducted an inspiring session on the observance of the Year of Mercy, for the MCA and Mathru Sangham members wherein he quoted many examples and made each one think how one should have mercy and inculcate in each one the qualities of bearing, sharing and caring.

**St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church - Aurangabad**

The community at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Aurangabad whole heartedly accorded welcome to Most. Rev. Ambrose Rebello, the newly ordained Bishop of the Diocese of Aurangabad, H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and Rev. Fr. Renjith Madathirambil, the Vicar on 12 December for the Holy Qurbano at the parish. During the Qurbano, celebrated in Malayalam, English and Hindi Bishop Ambrose Rebello delivered the homily emphasizing on the need and importance of the Extraordinary Jubilee of the Holy Year of Mercy. After the Qurbano H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios extended his collegial support and prayers for the episcopal ministry of Bishop Amrbose Rebello and presented Him with a memento as a symbol of love, prayers and concern from the Malankara Church. The parishioners also presented mementos to Bishop Anthonios and Msgr. Varghese Mattamana who is celebrating his Silver Jubilee Year of priestly ordination.

**St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church - Warje Malwadi**

1. On the occasion of the Festal Celebrations of St Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Church at Wanowari in Hadapsar, Holy Qurbano

in the Syro Malankara Rite was celebrated by Fr. George Mathew OIC on 26 November. All the parishioners from Warje Malwadi parish prayerfully participated in this Festal Qurbono and established fellowship with the Syro Malabar parishioners.

2. It was a moment of great joy for the parishioners of Warje Malwadi to welcome and praise God along with the Aboon. H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios offered Holy Qurbono in the parish and administered the Sacrament of Baptism to Ephrem, the son of Mr. Sijo Joy the secretary of the parish. During the public meeting after the Holy Qurbono and Baptism, Aboon addressed the parish community and appreciated the Marathi Christian mission and the initiatives for the same taken by the parish community. He also inaugurated and distributed the tickets of the Mega show named 'Ephphatha' to the parish community.
3. The inauguration of the Year of Mercy was held on 13 December. The services of the same was initiated by the vicar Rev. Fr. George Mathew OIC at the main door of the parish. During the service of the Breaking of the Word Rev. Br. Geevarghese Bersoma OIC explained how God is merciful to humankind and how we need to imbibe this spirituality of mercy in our lives especially during this extra ordinary year of mercy.

### Mumbai District

#### **St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church - Borivli**

1. It was a moment of great joy and achievement for the parishioners who bagged the first prize for the Ecumenical Carol Competition conducted by the Thane Malankara Catholic Church held on 13 December in Mumbai. Among the 12 teams the parish choir showcased their talent of singing and achieved the reward.
2. The parish feast was celebrated with great piety and devotion from 22 to 29 November. Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC, the vicar hoisted the perunal flag and celebrated the Holy Qurbono. Rev. Fr. Mathew

Augustine OIC celebrated Holy Qurbano on 23 November and on 27, Fr. Davis Tharakan the vicar of St. Thomas Syro Malabar Church celebrated mass in the Malabar Rite. The perunal rasa was on 28 November and the perunal Holy Qurbano was offered by Rev. Fr. Aji Thannimmottil the former vicar of the parish. The perunal celebration concluded with a week-long celebrations of prayers, night vigils, retreat talks and penance.

### **St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church - Sakinaka**

1. In view of helping the flood affected people of Chennai the parish community joined hands together and collected basic requirements like groceries, provision materials and toiletries weighing almost 6000 kg and handed it over to the Rehabilitation Plant at Loyola College in Chennai for the 32 slums affected by the floods. It was transported to Chennai with the help of "Indigo Airlines" free of cost to help the distressed people of Chennai.
2. The silver jubilee year of the priestly ordination of Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and feast day of Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra was celebrated together on 15 November in the parish. After the celebration of Holy Qurbano, the priests shared their joy by cutting the cake.

### **St. John the Baptists Church - Vasai**

1. On 12 December, St. John the Baptist Malankara catholic church, Vasai participated in the ecumenical carol singing competition organized by the Vasai YMCA at St. Alphonsa Church Vasai West, and gave in a very good and appreciating performance. The participants included members from MCYM, Mathru Sangham, Pithruvedi, and MCYCF. On 13 December, the same team participated in the GLORIA 2015 carols competition at Thane.
2. The inauguration of the Year of Mercy was prayerful conducted on 13 December in the presence of all the parishioners by the vicar Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC. The parishioners were concientized on the spirituality of Mercy and the need of the time to be merciful.

### **St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church - Thane**

The Ecumenical Christmas Carol Competition 'Gloria 2015' was organized by the parish on 13 December 2015 at Dr. Kashinath Ghanekar Auditorium, Thane West. 12 teams representing Syro Malabar, Syro Malankara, Orthodox and Mar Thoma churches from Mumbai and Thane participated in the competition. St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church, Borivili bagged the first prize consisting of Rs. 25,000 cash and a trophy. St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Church, Mankhurd and St. Stephen's Orthodox Church, Thane bagged the second and third prize respectively. Thane M.P Shri. Rajan Vichare and MLA Shri. Pratap Sarnaik spoke on the occasion. Famous Film Actor Shri. Tini Tom was the Chief Guest of the day. Vicar and General Convener Fr. John Britto OIC welcomed the audience while Fr. Mathai Iranathara OIC delivered the Christmas message.

### **St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church - Kharghar**

The MCYM members from the parish participated in a Sevens Football tournament at Bounce, Thane conducted by Kerala Catholic Association (KCA). The parish MCYM won the 1st Runner Up trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 15000 among the 16 teams from Mumbai region.

### **Holy Family Malankara Catholic Church - Vikroli**

The parish community was blessed to have H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC our Exarch for the Holy Qurbano on 29 November. This was the first time that the Aboon visited the parish after being the Apostolic Exarch of the Exarchate. In the public meeting held after the Qurbano, Mr. Binu Pattiyankal welcomed and expressed gratitude for Aboon's visit, prayers and concern towards the parish community. It was a moment of great joy for the community to wish and express prayers to the Aboon on the occasion of His forthcoming 35th anniversary of Priestly Ordination. The Aboon expressed his happiness towards the participation of people in the Holy Qurbana and reminded the community to continue this zeal in spiritual life.

**CHENNAI DISTRICT****Institutional News****Mar Gregorios College**

Though Chennai was marooned, our college was not affected by the Grace of God. The NSS & NCC volunteers initiated the relief work for the flood victims throughout Chennai. The Staff of the College offered their share of the salary and students also contributed for the flood relief fund. The volunteers collected necessary materials for distribution among the affected. A medical and rehabilitation camp was also conducted in the college campus.

**Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher Secondary School**

The recent floods affected the school premises severely, and for more than ten days the building was under 5ft of water. A medical Camp in association with the Apollo Hospital, Chennai was conducted from 11-13 December, benefitting more than 2500 people. The school started functioning from 14 December 2015 after ensuring the safety measures as instructed by Directorate of Higher Education.

**Parish News****St. Thomas & St. George Malankara Catholic Church**

Due to the floods, Holy Qurbano for the parishioners of St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church was celebrated in the nearby Adoration Chapel. With the efforts of the parish members the church was able to cater to the needs of the flood victims by distributing relief materials including medicines, sanitary items, mattresses, blanket, edible items etc. Similarly, St. George Church distributed more than Rs. 4 lakhs worth relief material to the flood victims. This was possible with the help of people of Kanyakumari district.

**Special Gratitude**

The Exarchate of St. Ephrem very specially thanks all the Bethany sisters of the Province of Moovattupuzha, especially the provincial council and V. Rev. Mother Remya SIC for donating a plot of land adjacent to St. Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church in Dehu Road.

**DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE**

- January 1 : Naming of Our Lord.  
 Feast of His Beatitude Baselios Cardinal  
 Cleemis Catholicos.  
 Erection of Mavelikara Diocese.
- January 3 : St. Chavara Kuriakose
- January 6 : Denho (Baptism of our Lord)
- January 7 : Exaltation of St. John the Baptist
- January 15 : Commemoration of Mary, Mother of God of Seeds.  
 Erection of Muvattupuzha diocese
- January 17 : Feast of H.E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC
- January 18 : Nineveh Lent begins (3 Days Nomb).  
 Feast of Commemoration of His Beatitude Cyril  
 Mar Baselios Catholicos.  
 Feast of Commemoration of H.G. Joseph Mar  
 Severios  
 Church Unity Octave Begins.
- January 21 : End of 3 Day Nomb
- January 24 : Kohne Sunday (Commemoration of Departed priests)
- January 25 : Erection of Dioceses of Puttur & Pathanamthitta
- January 26 : Republic day
- January 31 : Aneede Sunday (Commemoration of Departed Souls)

## Proposed Activities for the Celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy in the Exarchate of St Ephrem

### 1. Liturgical Convention

In the Parish level 3 day program on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday conducted by a Resource Team to be formed in the Exarchate level - Comprises of learning classes, meditation and convention on

- The Mystical Nature of Malankara Liturgy
- The Signs and Symbols Used in the Liturgy
- The Celebration of Sacraments in the Malankara Church
- The Celebration of Feasts and Fasts in the Malankara Church

The day culminates in the celebration of the Holy Qurbano

### 2. Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

In the Exarchate level - Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Jordan and Egypt probably in November 2016 led by the Apostolic Exarch

### 3. Spiritual Journey to the 'Holy Door', Rome

In the Exarchate level - Spiritual Journey to the 'Holy Doors' in the Basilicas of Rome and Tourin Visits to the Marian Pilgrim Centers in Lourdes and Fatima Journey through Padua of St. Antony and Assisi of St. Francis probably in May 2016 led by the Apostolic Exarch

### 4. 24 Hours before the Lord

In the Parish level - 24 Hours continuous adoration in the Parish during the Season of the Great Lent together with provision for a special confession of the Holy Year.

### 5. Spread the 'Joy of the Gospel' to a mission area in the Exarchate Jurisdiction

In the District level - As a special initiative of the Holy Year, take maximum effort to present 'the joy of the Gospel' to at least one community living in the periphery of the city in which each Parish is situated District Suvisesha Sangham members have to take a lead role in the realization of this mission task.

### 6. Reading the Bible in an Year

At the Personal level - the faithful in the Exarchate are encouraged to read all the books in the Holy Bible in the year 2016. A schema is prepared and the same will be provided to all those who take up this task for the greater glory of God the calendar published from the Exarchate too carry the Bible readings in this regard.

### 7. District Pilgrimage to the 'Holy Door' in the Exarchate

In the District level - Pilgrimages should be arranged from the 5 Districts of the Exarchate at different times of the Holy Year to the 'Holy Door' opened in the Cathedral. It can be a one-day programme guided by the Apostolic Exarch consisting of a Recollection of one's life, a heart-touching Confession and a Spirit-filled Holy Qurbano.

### 8. Orientation Programme for the Priests and Religious on 'Be merciful as the Father'



In the Exarchate level A two-day 'Orientation Programme' for the Priests and Religious working in the Exarchate based on the theme 'Be merciful as the Father'.

**9. Exarchate Convention on the Theme of the Holy Year**

An Exarchate level Convention of two days on the theme of the Holy Year for the children (MCCL), youth (MCYM) and elders (MCA & Mathrusangham)

**10. Prayerful Journey to the Sacred Doors of Orphanages, Hospitals and Mercy Homes**

In the Parish or District level - Together with the spiritual pilgrimage to the 'Holy Door' for the repentance and conversion of oneself, a prayerful journey should be undertaken to the 'Sacred Doors' of the orphanages, hospitals and mercy homes to create a sense of hope in them and to transmit the light of Gospel to them.

**11. Preparing the Faithful for Complete Indulgence through Pilgrimage and Confession**

In the Parish level - The faithful should be well instructed and motivated about the Holy Year of Mercy. They should be prepared to accept the concept of complete indulgence in its profound sense and to obtain it through comprehensive confession and sacrificial pilgrimage to the 'Holy Door of Mercy' either in Rome or in the Exarchial Cathedral. Since the 'Pilgrimage to the Holy Door' is obligatory in the Holy Year of Mercy, a culminating pilgrimage has to be organized for the whole Parish Community to the 'Holy Door' of the Latin or Syro-Malabar Cathedrals in the respective cities.

**12. Motivate Merciful Activities at the Individual, Parish, District and Exarchial Level**

7 Corporal Works of Mercy  
 Feed the Hungry  
 Give drink to the thirsty  
 Clothe the naked  
 Shelter the homeless  
 Visit the sick  
 Visit the imprisoned  
 Bury the dead

7 Spiritual works of Mercy  
 Counsel the doubtful  
 Instruct the ignorant  
 Admonish sinners  
 Comfort the afflicted  
 Forgive offences  
 Bear wrongs patiently  
 Pray for the living and the dead

*These Proposals for the Proper Celebration of Holy Year of Mercy in the Exarchate have to be considered as God-given opportunity to reconcile with God, with others and with oneself; an opportunity to receive the mercy of God and to share it with others.*

*I exhort all the Priests, Religious and Faithful to actively co-ordinate and participate in these activities in the respective levels of their implementation.*

*Wish you all a Spirit-filled Holy Year of Mercy!*

+ *Mar. Anthonios*

✠ Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC  
 Apostolic Exarch

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- January 03 : 'Vade Dalmino' - MCYM Pune District Arts Festival, Kalewadi  
 : MCCL Mumbai District Arts Festival, Ulhasnagar
- January 20 : Festal Celebration of H.E. Thomas Mar Anthonios
- January 26 : Y-ZEST 2016, MCYM Mumbai District Arts Festival, Ulhasnagar
- January 31 : Ephphatha, Musical Night organized by Chinchwad & Dehuroad Parishes

**Bishop's Diary - January 2016**

- | Date  | Function/Venue  |
|-------|---|
| 01    | : Valakam   |
| 03    | : First Holy Qurbano, Dn. Soju, Hennur  |
| 04    | : Marriage, Chennai   |
| 05    | : Trivandrum - Feast of H.B. Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos       |
| 06    | : Mumbai  |
| 07    | : Inauguration of Mar Thoma Convention, Pune                                      |
| 08    | : Inauguration of International Colloquium, Bethany Ashram Pune                   |
| 10    | : Adoor, Kerala   |
| 11    | : Pooyapally, Kerala  |
| 16    | : Mar Gregorios Day Celebration, Kerala   |
| 17    | : Suvishesha Sangham, Sakinaka Maharashtra Malayalee Christian Association, Vashi |
| 18    | : Feast of St Anthonios   |
| 20-21 | : Exarchate Priests Meet, Pune  |
| 23    | : St. Thomas Syro Malabar Church, Dapodi  |
| 24    | : First Holy Communion, Chinchwad Marriage, Warje                                 |
| 29-30 | : Suvishesha Sangham, Trivandrum  |
| 31    | : Pastoral visit, Kharghar (Mumbai)<br>Ephphatha Musical Programme (Pune)         |

*Feast of Commemoration of His Beatitude  
Cyril Mar Baselios Catholicos &  
H. G. Joseph Mar Severios  
18 January*



*Festal Greetings*



H.E. Geevarghese Mar Timotheos  
22 January



H.E. Joshua Mar Ignathios  
29 January



H.E. Philipos Mar Stephanos  
8 January



# Inauguration of the Holy Year of Mercy at Cathedral Church, Khadki



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