



THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

# THE EPHREMITES



BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE

VOL I | NO. 10 | March 2016



HAPPY EASTER



Suvisesha Sangham  
Formation  
Class in Mumbai  
District by Sr. Mary  
Prasad DM



Suvisesha Sangham  
Formation in  
Pune District



Suvisesha Sangham  
Team in Hyderabad  
District

### Exarchate welcomes

Rev. Fr. Mobin Oolakkavil  
from the Archieparchy of  
Tiruvalla, the new Vicar of  
St Joseph MSCC, Mathikare,  
Bengaluru



# The Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

## THE EPHREMITÉ

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



VOL I | NO.10 | MARCH 2016

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

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BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE

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

We are in the middle of the Great Lent. Abstinence from meat, fish, egg, fasting on Fridays, Yama prarthanakal of the Great Lent, 40 prostrations at noon with austerity and repentance expected during the Lent are surely taking us closer to the Divine. The confession we undertake during the Season of the Pasch (Pesaha) in this Holy Year of Mercy will instill in us a deep sense of repentance and transform our lives to be oriented towards Christ. The experience of conversion of life and receiving the mercy of God should be transmitted to others through sharing, the sharing of the savings from austerity with someone who is in despair; sharing of our advantages with someone who is in need; and the sharing of our own hearts for the upliftment of others. Let us appropriately observe the Great Lent in order to celebrate Easter in a more meaningful and grace-filled way!

### **Malankara Catholic Mission in Goa**

As you have already been informed and invited, the Malankara Catholic Mission in Goa is ready to be inaugurated with the solemn Holy Qurbono on 13 March 2016. In the present situation of the Exarchate, the task of co-ordinating the Goa Mission is entrusted to Fr. Varghese Valikkodath. I urge you to forward to Fr. Valikkodath the names of Malankara Catholics you know (be it your parishioners, relatives, friends, or neighbours) who are living in and around Goa. Let the inception of Goa Mission be a solid stepping stone in the formation of new Mission Centres in the Exarchate.

### **Realization of the First Phase of Khopoli Project**

By the grace of Almighty God and with the support of many generous hearts, we have succeeded in buying around 61/2 acres of land at Khopoli. Since Khopoli is a fast-growing town situated between Pune and Mumbai, the advantage of the land can be shared between both Pune and Mumbai Ecclesiastical Districts. Logistically placed alongside the Expressway, it is accessible to the whole of South India and can be developed as a common centre for all. A second phase has already been initiated in view of bringing our faithful around this area.

## **Jeevan Darshan Camp and Vocation Camp**

Two Camps are being organized in the Exarchate during the Summer holidays: Jeevan Darshan Camp in the District level and Vocation Camp in the Exarchial level. Jeevan Darshan Camp will be conducted after the Annual Examination of the children by the Brothers who are studying for the Exarchate in different Seminaries. The Camp includes realization of oneself, the orientation of one's life and the career opportunities available in the present scenario and guidance to one's vocation in life. The District Catechism Directors are expected to arrange the Camps according to the convenience of each District. Vocation Camp will be conducted in the month of May under the guidance of Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchial Vocation Promoter for the aspiring candidates who intend to join the Minor Seminary of the Exarchate which is planned to be inaugurated in June 2016. All children who wish to join Seminary or Ashram or Convent are expected to give their names to Fr. Varghese Valikkodath before 15 March 2016 through their respective Vicars / Sisters / Catechism Headmasters. A team of Brothers under the leadership of Fr. Valikkodath will be visiting their houses in order to pray and strengthen them in their vocation. Kindly pray for more vocations to priestly and religious lives.

## **European Pilgrimage in line with the Holy Year of Mercy**

A spiritual journey to the Pilgrim Centres in Europe is envisaged during the Holy Year of Mercy in the month of June 2016. Vatican-Rome-Assisi-Padua-Milan-Turin-Avingnon-Lourdes-Fatima-Lisiuex-Avila are included in this pilgrimage. This is arranged in view of the 'Pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy' in St. Peter's Basilica Vatican. Consider this as a 'once-in-a-life opportunity' and make the best advantage of the pilgrimage under the auspices of the Exarchate.

## **Inauguration of the Social Service Society of the Exarchate**

The charitable activities of the Exarchate will take a formal form with the inauguration of the Social Service Society of the Exarchate on 12 March 2016. Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, the Secretary of the Exarchial Commission for the Social Apostolate and the formal Director of Caritas India will be guiding and co-ordinating the Social Service Society. Let us join hands with him and the team in realizing the social and charitable



commitments of the Exarchate.

### **Formation of Resource Teams in the MCYM**

I am extremely happy to know that a new venture named as 'Resource Team' for the required faith formation and personality development of the Malankara Catholic Youth has been initiated in all five Districts of the Exarchate. This monthly programme guided by the Exarchial Director and the Exarchial Animators of MCYM should evolve into a model imitable project for the MCYM in other places. This effort will surely hold the Youth together in Christian principles, Catholic faith and Malankara tradition. I encourage the Youth to actively involve in this unique attempt.

### **Vestition of the Brothers**

Five Brothers who are entering the Theology Course will formally receive the Priestly Cassock in a liturgical function planned on Saturday, 28 May 2016 at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral Khadki. Your earnest prayers and esteemed presence will strengthen the Brothers in their journey to priesthood. Let us remember Bros. Justin Chempanal, Paul Vettikkattil, Thomas Attumalil, Paul Alamkott and Joseph Dinakaran in our daily prayers.

### **Happy and Glorious Easter!**

I wish you all, all our families a happy and glorious Easter! "Peace be with you!" - Jesus shares the peace with everyone he encounters after his resurrection. May this peace of the Risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes and communities and the world!

Yours loving in our Lord

✠ **Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC**  
Apostolic Exarch

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*"O Lord, help me so that the works of this world may not the power that separates me from you and that I may dedicate each one of them to you and do them. Whenever I engage myself in them, let not my soul forsake your loving association and when my mind consider about worldly affairs, bless me to remain with you and think about them."*

*Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios*

## കാതോലിക്കേറ്റ് വാർത്തകൾ

മലങ്കര സുറിയാനി കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയുടെ

പത്തൊമ്പതാമത് സാധാരണ എപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ സുന്നഹദോസ്  
സമാപിച്ചു

തിരുവനന്തപുരം: 2016 ഫെബ്രുവരി 16-ന് തിരുവനന്തപുരം കാതോലിക്കേറ്റ് സെന്ററിൽ ആരംഭിച്ച മലങ്കര സുറിയാനി കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയുടെ പത്തൊമ്പതാമത് സാധാരണ എപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ സുന്നഹദോസ് 20-ന് സമാപിച്ചു.

സുന്നഹദോസിനോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് സഭയിലെ വിവിധ സന്യാസി-സന്യാസിനി സമൂഹങ്ങളുടെ സുപ്പീരിയേഴ്സുമായും ടീംഗങ്ങളുമായും കൂടി കാഴ്ച നടത്തി വിവിധ വിഷയങ്ങളിന്മേൽ ചർച്ച നടത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. തുടർന്ന് സഭാതലത്തിലുള്ള വിവിധ സുന്നഹദോസ് കമ്മീഷനുകളുടെ വാർഷിക അവലോകനവും നടന്നു. കാര്യബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് വിവിധ രൂപതകളിൽ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ട കാര്യങ്ങളും സഭയുടെ പൊതു ശുശ്രൂഷകളെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ആലോചനകളും നടന്നു.

മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ് കർദ്ദിനാൾ മാർ ബസേലിയോസ് ക്ലീമീസ് കാതോലിക്കാബാവായുടെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷതയിൽ ചേർന്ന സുന്നഹദോസിൽ സഭയിലെ എല്ലാ മെത്രാന്മാരും പങ്കെടുത്തു.

- ബിഷപ്പ് തോമസ് മാർ അന്തോണിയോസ്  
ചാൻസലർ & കൂരിയാബിഷപ്പ്,  
മേജർ ആർക്കി എപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ കൂരിയ

## സുവിശേഷസംഘ സംഗമം

മലങ്കര സുറിയാനി കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയുടെ സുവിശേഷ സംഘത്തിലേക്ക് കൈവയ്പ് സ്വീകരിച്ച അംഗങ്ങളുടെ ഒരു സംഗമം 2016, ജനുവരി 29, 30 തീയതികളിൽ, പട്ടം, കാതോലിക്കേറ്റ് സെന്ററിൽ നടന്നു. 29-ന്, വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച രാവിലെ 9 മണിക്ക് കബർചാപ്പലിൽവെച്ചുനടന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥനയോടെ സംഗമം ആരംഭിച്ചു.

അത്യഭിവന്ദ്യ ബസേലിയോസ് കർദ്ദിനാൾ ക്ലീമീസ് കാതോലിക്കാ ബാവാ തിരുമേനി അനുഗ്രഹപ്രഭാഷണം നടത്തി. മലങ്കര സുറിയാനി കത്തോലിക്കാസഭയ്ക്ക്, ഇൻഡ്യമുഴുവൻ സുവിശേഷം പ്രഘോഷിക്കുവാൻ അനുവാദം ലഭിച്ചത് സന്തോഷത്തോടെ അനുസ്മരിച്ചു. സഭ സുവിശേഷത്തോട് ഹൃദയം ചേർത്തുവെച്ചപ്പോൾ സുവിശേഷ പ്രഘോഷണ വേദി വിശാലമായി. വ്യക്തികളും കുടുംബങ്ങളും വചനവായന, യാഥാപ്രാർത്ഥന, നോമ്പാചരണം, കൂദാശാസ്വീകരണം, സുവിശേഷാത്മക ജീവിതസാക്ഷ്യം ഇവയിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ആത്മീയ അന്തരീക്ഷം സംജാതമായി. മാർ ഈവാനിയോസ് തിരുമേനിയിലൂടെ സ്വർഗ്ഗം ആഗ്രഹിച്ച കാര്യങ്ങൾ നമ്മി



ലൂടെ നിറവേറിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ധാരാളം തീഷ്ണമതികളായ അൽമായ പ്രേഷിതർ രൂപപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നു എന്നുതും വന്യപിതാവ് എടുത്തുപറഞ്ഞു.

അഭിവന്ദ്യരായ എബ്രഹാം മാർ ജൂലിയോസ് തിരുമേനി, സാമുവേൽ മാർ ഐറേനിയോസ് തിരുമേനി എന്നിവർ 29, 30 തീയതികളിൽ യഥാക്രമം വി. കുർബാനഅർപ്പിച്ച് സന്ദേശം നൽകി. അഭിവന്ദ്യരായ ജേക്കബ് മാർ ബർണബാസ് തിരുമേനിയും അഭിവന്ദ്യ തോമസ് മാർ അന്തോണിയോസ് തിരുമേനിയും സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ആദ്യവസാനം പങ്കെടുക്കുകയും സുവിശേഷ സംഘാംഗങ്ങളുടെ കടമകളെപ്പറ്റിയും ജീവിതസാക്ഷ്യത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യകതയെക്കുറിച്ചും വിശദീകരിച്ചു ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു.

ബ. ആന്റണി കാക്കനാട്ടച്ചൻ, സുവിശേഷസംഘം ലക്ഷ്യംവയ്ക്കുന്ന വിശുദ്ധജീവിതത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും, ബ. ദാനിയേൽ പൂവണ്ണത്തിലച്ചൻ സുവിശേഷപ്രഘോഷണത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യകത, വെല്ലുവിളികൾ അതിനെഅതിജീവിക്കേണ്ടവിധം എന്നിവയെക്കുറിച്ചും ക്ലാസുകൾ എടുത്തു. ഗ്രൂപ്പുകൾ തിരിഞ്ഞ് ചർച്ചകളും നടന്നു. കൂടാതെ ആരാധന, വി. കുമ്പസാരം ഇവ സമ്മേളനത്തിന് കൂടുതൽ ആത്മീയ ശക്തി പകർന്നു.

176 പേർ സംഗമത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു. (ബിഷപ്പ് -1, വൈദികർ- 10, സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് - 25, അല്മായർ : പുരുഷന്മാർ- 101, സ്ത്രീകൾ- 39). 30-ാം തീയതി ഉച്ചയ്ക്ക്, 1.30-തോടുകൂടി സമ്മേളനം സമംഗളം പര്യവസാനിച്ചു.

## SOME GUIDELINES FOR ORDERING OUR ECCLESIAL LIFE IN THE EXARCHATE OF ST EPHREM, KHADKI-PUNE

### The Church and its settings

The church building has manifold meanings and symbolisms in our life. First of all it represents the Church as the mystical body of Christ where the People of God meets God to commune with him. Hence simultaneously it is a place of communion of the People of God with God and place of communion for the People of God among them who are communed with God.

The church built in the Antiochene-Malankara tradition is a replica of the Temple of the Old Testament where it is a holy place with the holy of holies.

In all respects, our churches, its construction and its use should visualise and realise the above aspects. The following guidelines are to be observed.

1. Before a parish starts the construction or renovation of a church, there should be a clearly drawn engineering and architectural

drawing with all specifications. An application addressed to the Apostolic Exarch, signed by the Parish Priest along with the signatures of the Trustee and Secretary or those who legitimately take their place, should be submitted to the Finance Department. The work should not be begun without the written permission from the Exarch.

2. The Madbaha, the holy of holies, has to be planned structurally and architecturally together with the general structure of the church. Besides that all other interior decorations have to be drawn up and submitted to the Exarch. He personally examines the site and gives approval to the plan.
3. In the Antiochene-Malankara traditions no statues are integrated either in the general structure of the church nor in the Madbaha. Similarly no crucifixes are installed in our churches.
4. The church in general and the madbaha in particular should generate, in a devotee, a sense of the mystical presence of God in the church and its experience in himself/herself. Hence the church and the madbaha should not be decorated with unnecessary plastic decorations, thoranams, serial lights and other additional paraphernalia. Maintain the church simple with its inbuilt and approved architectural designs. Don't dirty the church with stickers, placards, etc.
5. The madbaha should maintain its mystical character with decorations prescribed according to liturgical norms. The thronos must be built as per specifications given in the thukkasa. There should be three steps integrated at the eastern side of the altar. If the tabernacle is integrated into the main altar, it should be at the centre of the steps. And the cross is placed above the tabernacle. The candle sticks and other decorations shall be below it at the two sides and they shall never be taller than the cross.
6. Decorating the thrônô s either with natural or artificial flowers is not appreciated. Do not bring in vain-glory in the Madbaha. The Madbaha should not be decorated with serial or other fancy electrical lights which distract the concentration of the faithful from the Holy Celebrations. Adequate lighting should be provided with quality lighting system recommended by electrical experts. Genuine candles should be used on candle stands and no electrical fittings are

permitted.

7. The priest in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the sacraments and the sacramentals should strictly follow the book of thukkasa. Any aberration he introduces is a breach of priestly discipline and will be liable to admonition and correction.
8. In our Exarchate, only the approved copy of the Thakso (Missal), Koodasakramam (Order of Sacraments), Qurbonokramam (Order of the Holy Qurbono), Prarthanakramam / S'himo (Order of Common Prayers) Anduthaksa (Order of the Liturgy of Feasts), Divyanidhi (book of prayers of blessings for various occasions) are used. Similarly only approved Catholic versions of the Bible are to be used. The English Translation is the RSV-Catholic Edition). The Malayalam Translation is POC Bible. Catholic Translations of the regional languages also should be available in the churches of the respective region of our Exarchate.
9. The parish priests should train well the altar servers. Altar servers are received into the madbaha only after proper training and the liturgical initiation ceremony. The parish priest should, at least once in a year, gather all the altar servers including the main server (kappiyar) and refresh them. This can be done when new altar servers are trained and received into the madbaha for service. The Parish priest gives a practice to the altar servers before the visit of the Bishop and the Holy Qurbono celebrated by him.
10. For all liturgical services, the priest should wear the vestments prescribed for the particular celebration. No priest assists at a liturgical function without wearing the black mantle (karuthakuppayam). While serving at the Holy Qurbono he wears the haymnia too.
11. All servers at the liturgical functions shall wear the sushrusha kuppayam with the white sash. No other colours are introduced. No one shall serve liturgical functions without the sushrusha kuppayam. A priest should wear the alb before wearing the Kappa.
12. When a lay person comes forward to address the community, like making announcements, he/she shall come from the hykala, stand at the foot of the kestrumo and carry out the responsibility. He/she does not enter the Madbaha for this. Such persons should be dressed well for the occasion.

### **Some norms to be observed at liturgical function.**

The norms given in the Book of Thukkasa are to be observed with diligence. However, since some such norms are still constantly and habitually disregarded, the following are specially noted down:

1. During prayers of the canonical hours, the candles on the Namaskaramesa need not be kindled. The sanctuary veil is drawn aside after lighting the candle placed at the centre of the thronos (altar). However, at the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Anointing with Holy Myron, Marriage, etc. the candles on the Namaskaramesa are lighted.
2. At the time of the prayers of Suthoro two candles on the two sides of the altar are lighted.
3. During the Night Prayers (Lilyo), the madbaha is closed (the sanctuary veil is not drawn aside). It is at the fourth kaumo, at the time of Haleluiah... that two candles are lighted on the two sides of the altar and the veil is drawn aside.
4. At the time of prayers of the Sixth Hour and Ninth Hour, candles are not lighted on the altar and the sanctuary veil is not drawn aside.
5. The Sanctuary veil is drawn aside only at the beginning of the liturgical functions. In some churches, the server, after preparations are made for liturgical celebrations, simply draws aside the veil too. This is symbolically not right. As a sign of revelation of the glory of the Lord to the people gathered for worship, the veil is drawn aside at the beginning of the liturgical celebrations. Before the veil is drawn aside, the server rings the small hand bell as sign of beginning the liturgical celebration.
6. During the prayers of the Lenten Season, the candles on the Golgotha are also lighted.
7. The decorum and order followed at a liturgical celebration is very important. Hence proper arrangements are to be made in the church for each occasion in accordance with the space of the Church. Every church should develop its own authentic practices with adaptation of authentic prescriptions of the thukkasa to the given circumstance. At the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage, etc. and Sacramentals of Funeral Rites, etc proper arrangements have to be made in the church.

8. The incensing is a very important rite of our liturgical celebrations. To do it meaningfully, the Bishops and the Priests have to see to it that sufficient arrangement is made and space is given to server to move with the incensing properly. He and his functions are to be respected.

### **Choir**

“The one who sings prays twice” says St Augustine. There is no liturgy without sacred music. The most cherished characteristic feature of the Syro-Antiochian Malankara liturgy is its music and prayers sung by the entire people of God. Therefore, we have the choir to assist the worshipping community.

The following guidelines are to be observed in the formation of the choir and their functions

1. Each parish shall have a choir consisting of children, youth and the adults men and women.
2. They should gather together for periodic practice and when necessary on the day before a proposed solemn celebration of the liturgy.
3. The practice can be done in the parish hall or at a convenient place under the guidance of the parish priest or his representative, the priests and sisters and lay people whom the parish priests depute. Only final practices are done in the church if necessary.
4. There shall be no choir practice in the church immediately before the celebration of the liturgy.
5. In churches with balconies, it is the proper place for the choir. In the absence of balconies, the choir should be assigned a place that does not hinder the darsan of the liturgy and the madbaha. They should not be an eye-sore to the faithful to lose their devotion.
6. There shall only be Christians as members of the choir. The members of the choir are bound to observe devotional discipline at the time of the liturgical celebration. The participation in the choir of the parish is an added moment of grace for the members.
7. The children and youth and elders shall be given training to use musical instruments suited for sacred/liturgical music. To encourage our own children and youth to study sacred music and the related music instruments, we shall not employ professional

musicians for our choir. Their service can be availed for training and practice.

8. Professional Musicians, especially people who do not have a sense of liturgical music, shall not be inducted into our parish choirs.
9. Sacred music should not imitate the Rock, Jaz and other martial and popular music. Instruments that are unsuitable to sacred music should not be used. Hence the Parish Priest should be vigilant on this.
10. Professional music troupes shall not be invited and employed in our liturgical functions. The members of the choir should avail their service at important extra needs of the parish, such as at weddings etc.
11. The music and the music instruments shall not be so loud that it subdues the voice of the worshipping community. The choir and the music instruments are at the service of the worshipping community.
12. We take it for granted that the Electronic Synthesiser is the proper music instrument for sacred music. This is a false notion. We have to learn to select the proper musical instruments from the synthesiser and mix it to obtain optimum result. The Choir should learn to do it.
13. So far we do not have an approved book of music giving the music of the hymns of the Divine Liturgy (Holy Qurbano). We will call together our experts and try to prepare one and introduce it with the approval of the Holy Episcopal Synod and our Catholicos.
14. Given our circumstances, the piano can be a proper instrument for sacred music in our churches. It is recommended to our youth to learn to play the instrument. Those parishes that venture to buy such an instrument for its permanent use will be encouraged with a subsidy for the same.

### **Norms to be observed at the Celebration of Sacraments, Parish Feasts, Birthdays, Jubilees, etc.**

1. Our celebrations should be edifying and generate piety and God-experience in the Faithful. It should be simple, elegant and orderly. It should avoid all sorts of luxurious manifestations and empty paraphernalia. At the time of our celebrations, we should share our joy and finance with those who are poor, oppressed and marginalised. We should reach out to those on the periphery of the



society irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

2. Our celebrations should be eco-friendly and society-friendly. We should not disturb the ambience and the people around with unnecessary advertisements, flex boards and loud sound. Civic decorum with respect for all people of all cultures and religions should be observed.
3. Perunal Rasa should be simple and people friendly. By no means shall it disturb the public movement and traffic. Avoid such processions if it is foreseen that it would cause great difficulty to the public.
4. The Parish Priest, Trustees and Secretaries should take care to obtain the necessary permission from the competent public/civic authorities in order to conduct procession through public roads and to use microphones in public.
5. Parish Feasts or other Feasts shall not be celebrated from the funds or assets of the Parish. This is to be done through special nercha or offerings or sponsorship. Even if there is money, pomp and show should be avoided. The parish, the Parish Priest, Parish Council and the Sponsors should see to it and at least ten percent of the budgeted amount should be set apart to support either the works of charity and evangelisation undertaken by the parish or by the Exarchate.

### **Liturgical Reception to the Bishops**

Unwanted and unnecessary formalities should be avoided at the time of receiving a Bishop at Perunal or other occasions. The Bishop himself should not be seen as an agent of pomp and show. Further, the concentration of the People of God who are gathered for the Holy Qurbano and pious functions should not be disturbed. Given our circumstances and the conveniences of our churches and their ambience, it is very difficult to have an orderly procession. Hence the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The liturgical reception giving a lighted candle and the incensing after that is the only rite prescribed for this. All other forms should be avoided. Meaningful Regional customs can be introduced. This is done at the main west-door of the church.
2. Non-reusable garlands and bouquets should be avoided. They can be replaced with catholic translations of the Holy Bible in the regional

language. Other meaningful gifts, especially those that can be shared with the poor, can be thought of.

3. On a Perunal Day or other occasion, the reception should be before the Canonical Prayer of the Hour especially the Morning Prayers. The Bishop should lead the prayers before the Holy Qurbano.
4. All priests should wear their proper vestments at the celebration of all liturgical functions, especially at the time when the Bishop celebrates the liturgy. No one is exempted from this. So also the liturgical servers should observe the dress code.

### **Use of sound systems in our churches, especially in the liturgical celebrations**

Experience shows that we are not scientifically aware of the production of sound, its use and management and its effects in human life and society. In our culture, as the sound system was introduced as a new invention, it was a means of attracting the attention of the people to the programmes, etc. However, with the frequent use of the sound system for every trivial function, its good effects are lost. Over production of sound is a threat to human health and tranquillity and disturbs the nature and the ecosystem. In the church it shatters the silence of the mind and the inner spiritual experience. Most our churches are situated in thickly populated areas, close to apartments and houses. There are many police complaints lodged against our churches. In this context, we have to have a reasonable use of the sound systems in our churches.

1. The civil law concerning the use of public address systems must be followed strictly. Public address systems shall not be operated after 10 PM.
2. The volume of sound prescribed by a verdict of the Supreme Court is 50 decibel. The volume of sound in our churches shall not exceed this limit.
3. We have to decide for ourselves how we should make use of the sound systems for a devotional celebration of the liturgy. Is our liturgy, especially the celebration of the Holy Qurbano dictated by the sound system or we adapt the system for the a devotional celebration.
4. In all churches, a sound system shall be integrated into the structure of the church. While constructing new churches, with proper

consultation with experts in sound engineering who have an idea of our liturgy, we should integrate the system into the structure of the Church. The following points are noteworthy.

- a. The system and the control of the system shall be integrated in the sacristy of the church. Thereafter, the system should be integrated with madbaha and the balcony which is proper place for the choir.
- b. All cables are to concealed and points are to be given at fixed points. All a few more extrapoints are provided to cater to needs unforeseen now.
- c. The strength of the system has to assessed scientifically by the sound engineer and an extra capacity instrument should be recommended in view of the future.
- d. Cordless mikes are the best suited to our liturgy because of the flexibility and mobility our liturgy requires.
- e. Mike-stands should be used in using the mikes. That is the standard recommendation of sound engineering. The companies that produce the mikes recommend that the mike has to be on the mike-stand the speaker keeps a distance of 7 to 9 cms between the lips and the mike. This is needed to keep the technical sensitivity of the mike and for health and hygienic reasons.
- f. There shall be a mike placed on the Namaskaramesa on a table mike stand. It is recommended that ... All mikes used in the sanctuary and at other places should be placed on the mike-stand with flexible holders (goose neck). Given the modern technology and our need, it is good to use cordless mikes when possible.
- g. Except on the altar at the time of the celebration of the Holy Qurbano, the mike should be placed on the left-hand side of the altar. This enables the free movement of the right hand of the celebrant for blessing, making the sign of the cross, etc.
- h. The chief celebrant should use a cordless collar mike for the celebration. There are brands available that give a very good output. Those who have craze for high volume of sound will find it unsuitable. And in an ambience of deafening sound all around, the sound from this mike will be found feeble. It is audio-illusion. The ideal distribution of sound is that the hearer hears in the same volume of sound of the speaker. The use of this mike is very much

suitable because of the dynamic nature of our liturgy.

- i. By this, we shall avoid the disturbance caused to faithful when the server stands right in front of the celebrant holding mike at blessings and before Holy Mysteries at the time of the procession of mysteries. It avoids a lot of disturbing running to and fro and the worshipper constantly disturbed.
  - ii. It adds to the order and tranquillity of the liturgical celebration and enhances devotion.
- i. Two mikes should be provided for the concelebrants on the two sides of the chief celebrant.
  - j. Similarly two mikes shall be provided to the altar servers at the two sides.
  - k. The distribution of sound in the church should be done scientifically, so that there is equal sound at all zones of the church.
  - l. The sound boxes should be sleek and should not protrude into the church from walls. There are high quality, optimum out-put sound boxes now available. Let us make use of them.
  5. Once a sound system is installed in a church, it is forbidden to taken on rent sound system for perunals and other such functions. We make once and for all an investment and get maximum benefit out of it at all times and occasions. Periodically we may need to update the system.
  6. During the celebration of the Holy Qurbano, etc. it is forbidden for anyone other than a server to enter the madbaha to regulate sound system.
  7. It is forbidden to set up sound systems in the nave of the church and continuously being operated by a person installed at the centre of the church for that alone. It is worse that if he has no idea of the liturgy itself. He goes on turning the knobs and finally ends up in howling and blurring.
  8. The control of the sound system has to be integrated in the sacristy of the Church.

### **The liturgy of the blessing of the Marriage**

1. It has become a fashion in Kerala that professional troupes who have no sense of the liturgy and sacred music and who revel in the

bombastic sound of their sound systems are invited to lead the choir of the liturgy of marriage. They hijack the liturgy to their whims and fancies. They set two sound boxes in the in front portion of the nave and start their orchestra half an hour before the celebration of the marriage and continue the same half an hour after the marriage too. The whole church atmosphere is that of theatre of the Kerala-style. This is forbidden in the Exarchate.

2. It is highly recommended that the choir of the parish assist at the marriage liturgy and thus be in solidarity with the couple and their family in one of the important moments of their life. This choir has to be trained by the parish priest to assist at the celebration of marriage.

**Photography and Videographer at the liturgy of the marriage and other liturgical functions.**

Videographers and Photographers at the celebration of the sacraments of marriage, holy Qurbano, First Communion, etc. has to be restricted to the minimum. There shall not be more than two videographers and two photographers, one each from the bride and groom's side. The parish can levy a fee towards the electricity expenses, etc.

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N.B.: All the Vicars are requested to take the above directives for a discussion in the parish and make the necessary implementations. Also send a report of your study and further suggestion to the Bishop's House.

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**New Appointment**

The Exarchate very specially welcomes Rev. Fr. Mobin Oolakkavil from the Archieparchy of Tiruvalla who is appointed as the Vicar of St. Joseph's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Mathikare, Bengaluru.  
Ph: 08157886060 / 07736112852  
email: monumobin@gmail.com

*"Even today he is continuing the sacrifice of his life. Allow me to love you above all and to sacrifice my life for you. Heavenly Father, you have created me in your image. If you are the ocean, holiness is its water. Make your image in me pure so that your holiness may reflect in me."*

*Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios*

## EXARCHATE NEWS

### 1 The Exarch Celebrates Festal Qurbono at St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Church, Kalewadi

HE Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC celebrated Holy Qurbono at St. Alphonsa Forane Church, a designated pilgrim centre of the Eparchy of Kalyan of the Syro-Malabar Church on 03 February, on the occasion of the ten-day festal program. He inspired the faithful with his insights from the life of St. Alphonsa. Many members of the neighbouring Malankara Catholic parishes participated in the celebration.

### 2 Purchase of Land at Khopoli

It was a great moment of achievement for the Exarchate when it could complete the deed to purchase a plot of land at Khopoli, between Pune and Mumbai. The property measures 6.5 acres of land. The exarchate expresses its deepest gratitude to all the donors, benefactors and well-wishers and everyone who laboured behind the purchase of this land.

## MALANKARA CATHOLIC SUVISHESHA SANGHAM



### 1 Formation Course for District SuviseshaSangham - Mumbai

A two day formation course was conducted for Mumbai District SuviseshaSangham on 13 and 14 February 2016. Rev. Sr. (Dr.) Mary Prasad DM, Central Team Member of SuviseshaSangham, led the classes on Word of God. 62 members from various Parishes of Mumbai attended the sessions on both the days. Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchial Director of SuviseshaSangham, co-ordinated the programme and took various nourishing sessions during intervals. The two day programme started with solemn 'installation' of the Holy Bible and its reading by Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra, Vicar of Sakinaka Parish. Rev. Father was assisted by Smt. Rosamma Rajan, Shri. Baby and Shri. Thomas Mathew. Fr. Pulipra welcomed the gathering.

The theme of the programme was Word of God. Catholic teaching about the word of God was elucidated by Rev. Sister with special emphasis on the written word of God - The Bible. The Old Testament was taught in detail which included the Pentateuch and the Books of prophets. It was



First Holy  
Communion-  
Aleena Wilson,  
Borivili



Ecumenical Christmas  
Celebration-  
Ulhasnagar



Mathrusangam Day Celebrations, Vasai



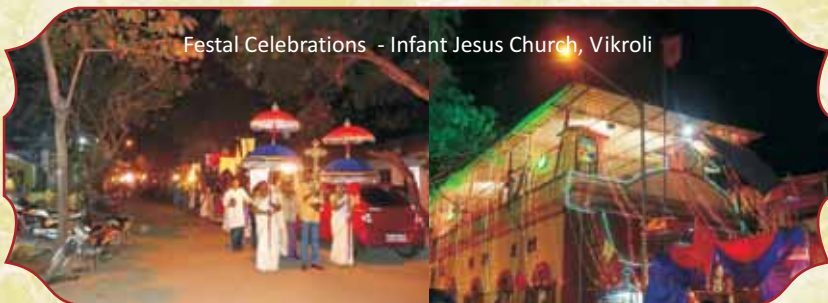
First Holy  
Communion-  
Joel Shaji,  
Borivili



MCA parish gathering-Malad



Festal Celebrations - Infant Jesus Church, Vikroli





ULHASNAGAR

WARJE MALWADI



BARC



KALEWADI



DEHURAOD



BORIVILI





**Catholicos Day Celebrations,  
Kalewadi**



**Felicitation to Bro. Renju OIC  
on completion of novitiate, Kalewadi**



**MCA Unit  
Inauguration,  
Borivili**

**The Executive Members  
from Mumbai District  
visit Vasai Parish**



**Sakinaka Parish  
visits Home for the Aged**

**Christolsav 2016, Bangalore District**



**Eye Testing Camp - Sacred Heart Matriculation School, Chennai**



**Foundation Stone for Presbytery at Chennai laid by the Exarch**



**Mar Gregorios College - Graduation Day**



**Mar Gregorios CBSE School Sports Day, Chennai**



**Mar Gregorios CBSE School Sports Day, Chennai**



**Mar Gregorios CBSE School Arts Day Inauguration, Chennai**



indeed a revelation & enlightenment for all. Rev. Sister also dealt into the history behind the written Bible and also taught the methodology to be followed for Bible learning and sacred reading of the scriptures.

Sharing sessions were also conducted on both days after lunch to understand the experience and progress of members in the new way of Christian living as members of SuviseshaSangham. All the members present participated in the sharing session. Fr. Valikkodath motivated the SS members to practice vigorously the first 15 guiding principles given to SS members to grow in spirituality. The programme ended with Holy Mass by Fr. Valikkodath on the first day and by Fr. Philip on the second day. Rev. Fr. Valikkodath expressed thanks to Sr. Mary Prasad for the very valuable inputs and requested that more sessions be conducted by Rev. Sister on the topic in future. The service of Fr. Philip Pulipra and Shri. Baby KI in arranging local needs including providing the church, arranging food and other amenities is sincerely appreciated.

## **2 District SuviseshaSangham Formation - Pune**

The formation classes of Pune District SuviseshaSangham were held on 10 and 11 February 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral Church-Khadki, under the leadership of Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchial Director of SuviseshaSangham. Sr. Mary Prasad D M, who conducted the classes on the Bible, enlightened the members with genesis and evolution of the bible through centuries to its current form. It was really informative that the number of books of Old Testament was finalized as 46 by the Alexandrian Jews even before the Birth of Jesus. Due to time constraint only the Old Testament, that too up-to the books of Prophets, could be completed. Nearly 35 persons attended the classes. As usual the classes were started with singing of Psalms and ended with Bible reading and reflection by each of the members. On the sidelines of the gathering, contact-persons were nominated on District and Parish levels for co-ordination among members.

## **3 District SuviseshaSangham Formation - Hyderabad**

The monthly SuvisheshaSangam formation programme of Hyderabad district was held on 21 February 2016 at St. Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church, Jeedimetla. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchial Director of SuvisheshaSangam celebrated the Holy Qurbano. He then addressed the

parishioners about the background behind the formation of SuvisheshaSangam in Malankara Catholic Church and stressed the need for everyone to become members of the SuvisheshaSangham. After initial prayers and a reading from the Holy Bible, the session began with an introduction about SuvisheshaSangham by Fr. JohnThundiyaath OIC, the District Director. The session was led by Fr. Valikkodath. He made it clear that SuvisheshaSangam is not an organization of selected group but it is a way of living. So it should first begin with self transformation of the members of the church. He spoke about 25 point Guidelines to be followed by SuvisheshaSangham members. To begin with, 6 points from the Guidelines were taken up for implementation and those were reviewed in detail. Those include regular reading and meditation of the Bible, timely sayings of Yama prathana, observance of lent and fast, Confession and active participation in Holy Qurbano. Fr. John Thundiyaath OIC and 25 members from two parishes in Hyderabad attended the formation programme.

## **MALANKARA CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT**



### **1 First Resource Team Gathering - Pune**

MCYM-Pune entered into a new venture on 7 February 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral Khadki, wherein a new system was launched in the form of the MCYM Resource Team. This was a new idea developed by Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath and was warmly welcomed by MCYM-Pune. This was the first meeting and formation programme for the resource team in MCYM-Pune District under the able guidance of Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath & Mr. Saji Daniel (Mentor & Animator).

The meeting started at 3 pm with the MCYM core team and Animators of Pune district. In this forum Fr. Varghese Valikkodath explained the motive and goal of this kind of venture among the youth in the Exarchate of Khadki-Pune. Most of the points evolved around the teachings and the importance of catechism and spirituality amongst the youth. Moreover to cater to it a new team in the name of resource team was introduced to nurture the upcoming youth with the core values of catechesis.

The responsibility of getting the classes conducted in the units was



entrusted to the Resource Team and the respective animator of the unit. The resource team meeting would be the platform wherein the resource team members would be trained and guided to conduct the session at respective units. Mr. Saji Daniel was entrusted the first class which was based on chapter 2 of the 12th Standard catechism text (The Challenges and Struggles of Adolescence). Mr. Saji Daniel took an interactive and effective session wherein all the resource team members could understand the subject content and could adopt the pro-efficient skills of presenting the topic to their respective unit in guidance with our mentor Mr. Saji Daniel and Directors Fr. Varghese Valikkodath and George Mathew OIC.

Mr. Saji taught the resource team members different techniques and methods of presentation. All the youth present were really happy to participate and learn the new methodology introduced in the Exarchate.

The meeting ended up with the feedback from the Resource Team. MCYM-Pune Animator Mr. Johny Abraham thanked Fr. Varghese Valikkodath and Mr. Saji Daniel for introducing such a new venture among the youth. Over all a very fruitful day for MCYM-Pune resource team and great learning for entire MCYM utilizing the platform offered by our MCYM Director.

## **2 First MCYM Resource Team Training - Mumbai**

The first Resource Team formation programme of MCYM-Mumbai was conducted on 14 February 2016 in Sakinaka. It was a worth-attending introductory session presided over by Fr. Varghese Valikkodath. A good number of MCYM members participated in the class conducted by Mr. Saji Daniel from Pune on the topic 'The Struggles and Challenges of Adolescence' in which he depicted the story of 'The Prodigal Son' in three different perspectives; the prodigal son, the elder son and the father.

The video on Prodigal Son was shown after which the Youth were segregated into three groups and each group was asked to analyze different characters of the story. The following questions were put forward for discussion and analysis;

- What made the younger son leave home?
- Why did the father not stop him?

- Why did the elder son not stop him?
- Was younger son's age responsible for this?
- What are the characteristics of the father?
- What are the characteristics of both the sons?

The Exarchial Syndicate Members Renjit Varghese, Bibin John, Jithin Saji, Jinu Cheriyan along with the District MCYM President Sojisha Samuel were authorized to facilitate the Mumbai MCYM Resource Team for the time being. The Resource Team will present the learning in their respective Parishes within one month.

### **3 Resource Team Formation - Hyderabad**

The MCYM at Hyderabad formed their first official resource team gathering on 21 February 2016, which was conducted by Fr. Varghese Valikkodath in the presence of our vicar Fr. Joby Thundiyath. The gathering can be called as successful session as the impact that was made by Fr. Valikkodath was impeccable and very organized.

The session started by putting light on the resource team and its importance in our church and the current society. And then the discussions were made based on the 12th standard Catechism text book. The famous story of 'The Prodigal son' was the topic of discussion as the story is based on the challenges and struggles faced during adolescence. The graphical representation of the story with careful analysis and by studying the characters of the story provided a different dimension of thought to the story.

The 3 hour long session was remarkably interesting and also gave the MCYM members an opportunity to share their thoughts and understand the rights and wrongs in our lives.

**The following decisions were made with the suggestions and acceptance of everyone gathered:**

- To prepare lessons and present the theme and learning from the 11th and 12th Standard Catechism text books.
- To initiate regular resource team meetings every month and plan the activity under the leadership of Promoters
- An intellectual and spiritual growth of the MCYM members by involving the inactive as active members to participate in the resource team activities

- To support the MCCL by sharing the experience and learning one has got from the resource team sessions
- It was decided that the resource team activities will be conducted on Sundays.

#### 4 MCYM Global Meet - Bathery

MCYM Central Secretariat conducted the 21st Global Meet at Bathery on 30 & 31 January. The President of MCYM Exarchate, Mr. Saju John and Exarchate representative to the Central Secretariat, Mr. Sinu Mathew participated in this Meet. There were around 70 leaders from all 10 dioceses along with their Directors and animators. H.E Joseph Mar Thomas, the Bishop of Bathery,



inaugurated the meet along with the Chairman of Youth Commission, H.E Vincent Mar Paulose. The First day started with a prayer service and talk on Life of Late Archbishop, Mar Gregorios by Rev. Fr. Mathai Kadavil OIC on the occasion of Bishop's birth Centenary. On the 2nd day after the Holy Mass, the KCYM State Director, Rev. Fr. Mathew Jacob Thiruvailil OIC took a session on the topic 'Year of Mercy'. This was followed by Senate Meeting in which all the diocese presented their annual report. With the permission of the senate, Saju John presented the report for the Exarchate and spoke about the planned initiatives and programmes for this coming year. It was well appreciated by the members and conveyed their best wishes for all our initiatives. The key notes of the event will be shared to the units soon.

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*"O Lord, Jesus the Messiah, help me this day to deal mercifully with my brethren. Bless me throughout the day, being peaceful, to live selflessly under the protection of your cross. Let it not happen this day that I cause pain to anyone by word or deed. Bless me this day to render help and favor to my brethren as much as possible. It is my reaching heaven that all those who are around me blessed in your grace and holiness."*

**Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios**

## 5 Our Manger An Inter-Unit Crib Competition

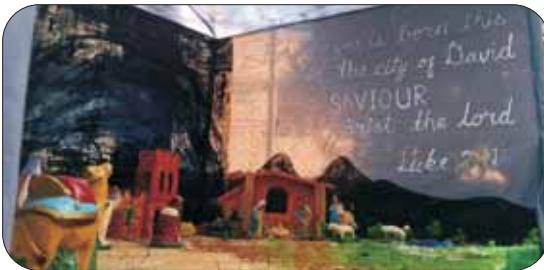
An Inter-Unit Crib Competition was held at the Exarchate level by the MCYM for all the units under it. It was a great effort put in by the participating units and the judges appreciated the good show. In the first of its kind, the units were asked to upload the crib pictures on to a link and the assessment was also done online. There was an undertaking signed by the Unit President and Director to curb any malpractices. The judges for this competition were, Bro. Jaison from Gurgaon diocese, Fr. Paul and Fr. Jolson from Kerala. The results of the competition are as follows:



**1st Prize ₹ 5000/-**

St. Thomas Malankara  
Syrian Catholic Church,  
Padi

**2nd Prize ₹ 3000/-**  
St. Mary's Malankara  
Syrian Catholic Church  
Warje Malwadi, Pune



**3rd Prize ₹ 2000/-**

St. Antony's Malankara  
Syrian Catholic Church  
Vishrantwadi, Pune

## **EXARCHIAL DISTRICT NEWS**

### **PUNE DISTRICT**

#### **1 Holy Redeemer's Malankara Catholic Church, Kalewadi**

##### **Felicitation to Brother Renju Francis**

The parish was proud to felicitate one of its members Br. Renju Francis who after his vestition and completion of noviciate visited the parish. At a felicitation meeting arranged after the Holy Qurbono, Rev. Fr Jolly Karimpil, Rev Fr Noble Joseph OIC, the Vicar and representatives of various associations felicitated Br. Renju and presented mementos. Bro. Renju also shared his spiritual experience with the community.

##### **MCYM Picnic**

The MCYM members from the parish had their annual picnic to Diveagar, one of the ends of the triple Raigad beaches in Maharashtra. Around 40 youths under the leadership of the MCYM President Mr. Sherin Daniel, Rev. Sr. Sheba SIC and Mr Shibu Mathew, the animator, participated in the picnic.

##### **MCCL Day Celebration**

The parish celebrated MCCL day on 07 February. The programme began after the Holy Qurbono. The inaugural session began with prayer followed by the presidential address by Ashana Roy. Rev Fr. Joseph Noble OIC, the Vicar inspired the children through his message. The programmes included felicitation talk by Br. Melvin OIC, and a special Bible Quiz. Agape was served to all.

#### **2 St Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Nashik**

##### **Annual Day Celebration**

St Thomas Malankara Catholic School celebrated its Annual Day on 26 February at 3 PM at CITU Bhavan Auditorium. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Proto-Syncellus of the Exarchate delivered the key-note address, while Sr Rani SIC, the Principal of St Thomas Bethany Convent School delivered the felicitation speech. The celebrations also included various cultural programs by the students.

#### **3 St Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Aurangabad**

**Farewell to Rev. Fr Renjith Madathirambil:** The parish bid farewell

to Vicar Rev. Fr. Renjith Madathirambil, who served the parish for the last six months and went back to Kerala to pursue higher education at Marian College, Kuttikanam in Kerala. The parishioners thanked Fr Renjith for his spiritual leadership and promised their prayers for his future priestly ministries and studies.

### **Birthday Greetings to Most Rev. Abmrose Rebello, Bishop of Aurangabad**

17 February being the birthday of Most. Rev. Ambrose Rebello, Bishop of the Latin Diocese of Aurangabad, Mr. George Abraham, the Jt Secretary of the MCA, Mr. Abilash Shaji, the MCYM President of the parish and other youth members met the Bishop and felicitated him.

### **Foundation Day**

The parish celebrated the foundation day on 29 February, which falls once in four years. At the concelebrated Holy Qurbono, Rev Fr Mobin Oolakkavil was the main celebrant with Msgr. Varghese Mattamana as the co-celebrant. The Public Meeting that followed was presided over by Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and Fr. Mobin Oolakkavil was the Chief Guest. Mr. Abraham George shared the history of Aurangabad Church. The program was organized under the leadership of Trustee Mr. Binoj and Secretary Mr. Sunny George.

### **4 St Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Warje Malwadi**

#### **Malhaar 2016**

14 February being the MCCL day, the parish organized 'Malhaar 2016', a day of faith formation and activities for the Catechism students. The program started with Holy Qurbono before which the students made their offering. The activities of the day were inaugurated by the Vicar Fr. George Mathew OIC, followed by fun-filled activities. The newly appointed Headmistress Ms. Merin took lead in planning and conducting the program. The support of the parents boosted the enthusiasm of the children.

#### **Resource Team Inauguration and First Session**

The resource team activities of the MCYM was inaugurated at Warje parish on 21 February by the unit director Fr. George Mathew OIC. Later the resource team conducted the first session for the MCYM. The



session consisted of Ice-breaking, Bible Reading, Group Activity, Group Discussion, Video Presentation, etc. Mr. Saju John, the Exarchate president, provided the necessary guidance for the session.

## **5 St Mary's Cathedral Church, Khadki**

### **Harvest Festival**

The Cathedral parishioners celebrated Annual Harvest Festival on 31 January after the Holy Qurbano. Most of the members including children participated by bringing their offerings and auctioning the items.

## **6 St Antony's Malankara Catholic Church, Vishrantwadi**

### **Harvest Festival**

The parish conducted Harvest Festival on 14 February. All the families of the parish actively participated in the program held after the Holy Qurbano. The offerings and auction of the day was intended for the development plans for a new Church.

## **7 St Joseph Malankara Catholic Church, Dehu Road**

### **MCCL Day Celebration**

The MCCL Day was celebrated on 14 February. The celebrations started with Holy Qurbano with offerings from the catechism students. After the Qurbano, a mind storming quiz contest was conducted by Br. Joby Thomas OIC and Br. Michael Raj OIC. All the students wholeheartedly participated in the quiz contest.

## **MUMBAI DISTRICT**

## **1 St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Malad**

### **MCA Gathering**

On 07 February after the Holy Qurbano, Pithruvedi members of the parish gathered under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas. The main purpose of this meeting was to explain the need to form MCA in the parish. Mr. ND Jose the MCA President of Mumbai District, explained the aims and objectives of the MCA. MCA syndicate member Mr. NE Jose and 15 other members attended the meeting.

**2 St Marys Malankara Catholic Church, Kharghar:** HE Thomas Mar Anthonios visited the parish on 31 January and celebrated the Holy

Qurbono. After the H. Qurbono there was an interactive session in which all the associations and apostolates and the parish council shared their experiences. Suggestions and programmes of activities were agreed upon to improve the faith-life of the community.

### **Harvest Festival**

The Harvest Festival in the parish was celebrated on 07 February. The day long event saw participation by a large number of parishioners. Auction, food and housie made the festival a delight for everyone. The event were moments of fellowship and togetherness.

### **3 St Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Sakinaka**

#### **Visit to the Home for the Aged**

Members of the Sakinaka parish under the leadership of the MCA visited the old age home in Mahakali, Andheri (E) on Sunday 31 January. The parish also generously donated provisions for the daily use along with some financial assistance. The visit was really an inspiring and motivating factor to look at life positively and look at the poor and destitute with concern and love.

### **Harvest Festival**

The harvest festival of the parish was held on 24 January and 07 February. The event was great success with all the members of the parish actively participating through the programme. The members also contributed generously for the requirements of the parish through this harvest festival.

### **4 St John the Baptist Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Vasai**

#### **Feast of St John the Baptist**

The parish feast of St John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of Vasai church was celebrated for a week from 03 to 10 January under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas, the Vicar. The celebrations began on 03 January with the flag hoisting, prayers and Holy Qurbono on every day for the entire week. Elegant rasa (candle procession) which started from St Gonsalo Garcia church added spiritual enhancement to the perunal. The celebrations were concluded with festal Qurbana celebrated by Msgr. Varghese Mattamana on 10 January.

## **Parish MCA Inauguration**

On 07 February, the executive members of Mumbai District MCA from Mumbai district visited Vasai parish to interact with the parish MCA members and to officially inaugurate the working of MCA activities in the parish. After the Holy Qurbano a common meeting was held, presided by Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC, the Vicar, Rev. Sister Teresa SIC, Mr. Samuel. P. John, the unit MCA President and various Exarchial and District level committee members viz. Mr. Abraham Samuel, Mr. Varkey, Mr M.D. Jose and Mr. Mathew Philip. Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas spoke on the importance of MCA activities in unit level, followed by discussions and decisions for future activities.

## ***Mathrusangham Picnic***

The Mathrusangham members from Vasai, under the leadership of Sr. Teresa SIC had a one day picnic at Suruchi beach, Vasai. All of them had a great time playing games, singing songs and homemade lunch. The picnic helped the mothers to be away from their busy schedules and to enjoy the joy of togetherness with the parishioners.

## **5 St Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Borivili**

### **MCA Unit Inauguration**

The central team of MCA visited Borivli on 31 January and inaugurated the MCA unit in Borivili parish. The function was presided over by Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC, the Vicar. The MCA members in good numbers attended the function. The MCA office bearers from Borivli including Mr Babu Daniel, the unit president, Mr Joy Varghese, secretary, Mr Abraham P George, and Mr CM Samuel (central team members) made necessary arrangements of the function.

### **MCCL Day**

The Borivli unit celebrated MCCL Day on 14 February after the Holy Qurbano and catechism classes. Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC, the vicar presided over the function and the dais was shared by Rev. Sr. Bhavya SIC, Mr. Bibin Rajesh, MCCL President, Ms. Vincy Rajamony the Secretary, Mr. Rijo Francis, the MCCL animator and Mrs. Sarah Mani Kuriakose, the parish Secretary.

## **First Holy Communion**

Joel Shaji Mathew and Aleena Wilson received First Holy Communion on 31 January at the solemn Holy Qurbono con-celebrated by Rev. Fr. George Thekkadayil and Vicar Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC.

## **6 Holy Family Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Vikroli**

### **Parish Feast**

The parish feast was celebrated from 31 January to 07 February. The days were blessed with Holy Qurbono, intercessory prayers and rosary prayers in the evening. Syro Malabar Qurbono was offered by Rev. Fr. Shinto, from Infant Jesus Church. Followed to which a cultural evening was arranged in which the local MLA, Mr. Sunil Raut was invited as the chief guest. The MCYM and the Sunday school displayed their talents, in a show hosted by Mr. Sherin Varghese and Ms. Jinu Cheriyan. The festal Qurbono was offered by Rev. Fr. Mathai Iranithara OIC, the Protopresbyter of Mumbai District, followed by procession from the parish to Infant Jesus Syro - Malabar Church.

## **7 St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, BARC**

### **MCCL Day**

MCCL day was celebrated on 14 February with the children conducting a small program exhibiting their talents. The programs began after Holy Qurbono. Rev. Sr Kiran SIC spoke to the children on how to walk along with Jesus. The day was a blessed one for the kids.

## **8 St Joseph Malankara Catholic Church, Ulhasnagar**

### **MCCL Day Celebration**

On 14 February the parish held MCCL day celebration. There was a program conducted by the catechism students displaying their talents, soon after the Holy Qurbono celebrated by Fr. Manoj Varghese OIC.

### **Ecumenical Celebration**

The parishioners participated in Ecufest, an ecumenical event, along with other neighboring parishes held at St. James Mar Thoma Church, Ulhasnagar on 14 February. The MCYM actively participated in the event and performed cultural programs which was well appreciated. Fr Manoj Varghese OIC the message on this occasion.

## BANGALORE DISTRICT

### 1 Christotsav 2016

After the grand success of Chilamboli 2015, the three parishes in the Bangalore district came together again on 31 January for “Christotsav Liturgical Song Competition 2016”. The event held for the catechism students at Mathikere was participated by around 70 children from Bangalore. The theme for juniors and seniors were from the liturgical prayers of Qumtho and Sleebo Season respectively. Rev. Fr. Varghese Kadakketh the Catechism Director of Bangalore District inaugurated the gathering by lighting the lamp along with the headmaster and headmistresses of three parishes while Mr. Sijo Jose the joint secretary welcomed everybody. St. Mary's church, Hennur won the junior level, while Hennur church and Singasandra church jointly won the seniors' event. Bros. Manu and Praful from Bethany Ashram Pune were the judges for the event.

### 2 Stepping Stones 2016

The MCYM from Mathikere unit was proud to conduct another season of the Bible Quiz competition for catechism students “Stepping stones 2016”, with six teams from three parishes participating on 31 January at St Joseph's Church Mathikere. Bros. Manu and Praful from Pune conducted the quiz for the children and the rounds were innovative and unique. Preethika Sabu and team from St. John's Church Singasandra won the first prize while Ajo Jose and team from St. Joseph's Church Mathikere and Maria & team from St Mary's Church Hennur bagged the second and third prize respectively.

## CHENNAI DISTRICT

### 1 St Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Padi

The foundation stone for presbytery was laid by the Exarch on 19 February 2016, after the Holy Qurbano. Vicar Rev. Fr Sabu M George, Co Vicar Rev. Fr Moncy Kaleekal, Rev. Sisters and all the parish members were present for this solemn function.

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*"Lord! Behold I refrain from work and approach towards your presence in prayer. Bless me at this hour to free my mind fully from worldly affairs in order that I may approach your divine presence."*

*Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios*

## INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

### 1 Mar Gregorios College of Arts & Science (MGC)

The second workshop for MGC Students Resource Team was organized on 6 February 2016 in the campus with the resource person Mr. Saji Daniel from Pune, and the session was focused on “Unleashing the potential” of youngsters. Many students and staff from the college participated in this session.

### Fiath - 2016

A bible convention named FIATH 2016, was conducted in the MGC campus for 3 days from 12-14 February by Shalom team. Rev. Fr. Joseph Vayalil, Rev. Dr. Joseph Pamplani and team led the retreat through inspiring messages, adoration and Holy Qurbano. Nearly 8000 people participated in the programme. This spiritual event was inaugurated by the Exarch.

### Graduation Day

The outgoing batch of MGC had their Graduation ceremony on 19 February 2016. Dr.P. David Jawahar, Registrar of the University of Madras was the chief guest for the day. This day was a historical day for the college as more than 275 degrees were conferred graduate.

### Sports Day

19th Annual Sports Day, was conducted on 23 February 2016 which was declared open by Secretary Rev.Fr.Sabu M George. The guard of honor was received by the Principal Dr.K.Mohandoss, Mr. A. Shanmugasundaram, Former Dy. Secretary to Govt.of Tamil Nadu presided over the valedictory function and distributed the prizes.

### 2 Sacred Heart Matriculation School

#### Eye Testing Camp

Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher Secondary School organized an Eye camp in alliance with Maxi Vision Eye Hospital, Annanagar East, Chennai from 04-06 February. Many students and staff benefited by this camp.

### 3 Little Flower Nursery School

**Cancer Awareness Programme:** The Cancer Health Care Trust

conducted a cancer awareness programme for the parents at Little Flower Nursery School. The speaker for the programme was Mr Mosses, Director of the Trust. The talk was helpful for the parents and staff to understand the disease and take the necessary precautions to avoid Cancer. The Students and Staff contributed Rs.25000/- towards the Trust for the research and help for the Cancer patients.

#### 4 Mar Gregorios Public School (CBSE)

##### Sports Day

Mar Gregorios Public School celebrated its 2nd Annual Sports day on 05 February. The programme started with the Flag hosting by chief guest Dr.Mohan Dass the Principal of Mar Gregorios College. Sports event started with the running race,group games,relay and various other events. All students eagerly participated in the events. Winners were awarded with medal and certificate by the chief guest. Among the four teams Ruby group won the 1st prize.

##### Arts Day

Mar Gregorios Public School celebrated Arts day on 03 February. The programme started with lighting the lamp by Local Manager & Secretary Rev. Fr. Sabu M.George, School Principal Sr. Seraphin Maria D.M, staff and student. Various events like fancy dress, clay modeling, vegetable carving, solo song, storytelling, speech and group dance. Prizes and certificated were distributed to the winners.

#### Prayerful Greetings

The Exarchate of St Ephrem specially prays and congratulates		
Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos	05 March	Anniversary of the Enthronement as Major Archbishop Catholicos
Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilos	18 March	Patron Saints Day
HE Jacob Mar Barnabas OIC	10 March	Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination
Bishops Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC Vincent Mar Paulos Samuel Mar Irenios Philipos Mar Stephanos	13 March	Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination
May God lead the Church through Your Prayers and Blessings.		



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12 March: Inauguration of Social Service Society of the Exarchate  
13 March: Inauguration of Malankara Community in Goa

## DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

- March 02 : Erection of Gogultho (Middle Day of the Great Lent)  
March 05 : Anniversary of the Enthronement of Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis, Major Archbishop-Catholicos  
March 10 : Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bp. Jacob Mar Barnabas OIC  
March 13 : Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordinations of Bishops Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, Vincent Mar Paulos, Samuel Mar Irenios & Philipos Mar Stephanos  
March 18 : 40th Day of Great Lent (Friday),  
Feast of Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilos  
March 20 : Palm Sunday, Social Welfare Day  
March 24 : Maundy Thursday  
March 25 : Annunciation of the Bl. Virgin Mary, Good Friday  
March 27 : Easter

## BISHOP'S DIARY FEBRUARY 2016

### Date : Function /Venue

- 1 : Trivandrum  
2-9 : CBCI Planning Meet- Bangalore  
10-11 : Pune  
12 : Inauguration of Social Service Society of the Exarchate, Pune  
13-14 : Inauguration of Malankara Community in Goa  
19-29 : Doha  
30-31 : Pune

*"O Lord, help me so that the works of this world may not the power that separates me from you and that I may dedicate each one of them to you and do them. Whenever I engage myself in them, let not my soul forsake your loving association and when my mind consider about worldly affairs, bless me to remain with you and think about them."*

*Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios*

<b>SUBSCRIPTION LIST OF ALL PARISHES UNDER EXARCHATE OF ST.EPHREM-KHADKI.</b>						
Sr. no	Parish Name	Justice Sunday 16.08.15	Mathru Sangam Day 06.09.15	MCYM Day 04.10.15	Mission Sunday 18.10.15	Catholicos Day 07.02.16
1	St.Mary's MSCC Church,Khadki	1790	2900	3975	24010	3365
2	Holy Redeemer's MSCC.Kalewadi	2500	2855	2690	17520	23400
3	St.Antony's MSCC,Vishrantawadi	3035	2130	2880	5310	15000
4	St.Joseph's MSCC,Dehuroad	360	420	515	3922	3080
5	St.Thomas MSCC ,Chinchwad	720	540	470	3000	5830
6	St.Mary's MSCC ,Warje Malwadi	1045	750	1010	2040	2800
7	St.Mary's MSCC,Aurangabad	340	370	380	800	4330
8	St.Thomas MSCC,Nashik.	425	390	590	560	2700
9	St.Mary's MSCC,BARC	970	1120	1158	1942	8490
10	St.Mary's MSCC,Kharghar	1519	1970	1670	1850	19710
11	St.Thomas SMCC,Borivilli	1502				11200
12	St.Mary's MCC,Malad	200	460	600	990	
13	St.John The Baptist MSCC,Vasai	1246	1621	1850	4000	7684
14	St.Mary's MCC,Sakinaka	2500	2350	2450	2500	5000
15	Holy Family MCC,Vikhroli	2268	3075	1830	1890	4000
16	St.Thomas MCC,Thane	3740	4300		4700	6400
17	St.Joseph's MSCC,Ulhasnagar	2327	2480	2004	2290	9272
18	St.Thomas MSCC -Padi	5515	6817	6894	50000	10000
19	St.George MCC -Ayyappakkam					
20	St.Mary's MSCC,Hennur					
21	St.Joseph's MSCC,Mathikare					
22	St.John's MSCC , Singasandra					
23	Mother Mary MSCC , Secunderabad	1350				
24	St.Joseph's MSCC ,Hyderabad	1537				
<b>NB:Collections not yet initiated as there is no regular Sunday Mass.</b>						
25	Bhoisar					
26	Nagpur					
27	Goa					

**Fr. Varghese Kaithon, Finance Officer (7030654433)**



The Exarchate of St Ephrem under the leadership of HE Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC organizes a spiritual journey to the Pilgrim Centres in Europe during the Holy Year of Mercy in the month of June 2016. The tour itinerary is detailed below. All those who are willing to join this pilgrimage with the Exarch are requested to contact Rev. Fr. Mathew Varikkattu (7769897666) and enrol your names at the earliest.

### TOUR ITINERARY

- DAY 01 : AT MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.  
ARRIVE ROME.
- DAY 02 : ROME
- Day 03 : ROME TO ASSISI
- DAY 04 : ASSISI PISA (259 KM) DAY 05: PADOVA- MILAN
- DAY 06 : MILAN ENGELBERG (SWITZERLAND)
- DAY 07 : ENGELBERG- (SWITZERLAND)
- DAY 08 : ENGELBERG- PARIS (701 KM)
- DAY 09 : PARIS
- DAY 10 : PARIS to LOURDES
- DAY 11 : LOURDS - AVILA (SPAIN) Salamanca
- DAY 12 : SALAMANCA TO FATIMA (PORTUGAL)
- DAY 13 : FATIMA TO LISBON
- DAY 14 : TO AIRPORT
- DAY 15 : BACK HOME



MCYM Resource  
Team Formation -  
Hyderabad District



MCYM Resource  
Team - Pune District



MCYM Class &  
Interaction Initiated  
by Resource Team -  
Warje Malwadi



MCYM Resource  
Team Formation by  
Mr Saji Daniel in  
Mumbai District



19th Holy Episcopal Synod of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Trivandrum



The Aurangabad parish representatives wish birthday greetings to Bishop Ambrose Rebello



Documents of Khopoli property being handed over by Mr. Babu George to Bp. Thomas Mar Anthonios



The Exarch celebrates Holy Qurbono at St Mary's MSCC, Khargar

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