



THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

# THE EPHREMITTE



BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE

VOL II | NO. 2 | June 2016



*The Risen Lord with  
Twelve Apostles*



**Bp. Thomas Mar Antonios obtains blessing from the Holy Father Pope Francis for the Exarchate of St. Ephrem**

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

# THE EPHREMITES



BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE

VOL II | NO. 2 | June 2016

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Apostolic Exarch

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## VOICE OF THE EXARCH

Dear All,

Fraternal greetings to all!

Before all things, I convey the Apostolic Blessing imparted by Holy Father Pope Francis to the Bishop and all the priests, religious and families of the Exarchate of St Ephrem on Wednesday, 11 May 2016, as I met him in the Audience of the day. The Holy Father was also much pleased to receive greetings of filial devotion, obedience and communion from the Exarchate.



On that day, for the Catechesis, the Holy Father chose Lk 15:11-32 and spoke of the Merciful Father who lovingly accepts both his sons, the younger prodigal son, who thinks that he deserves punishment and the elder son who is with the father always but wants compensation for his service.

### **The Thirteen-Days Lent**

This is the liturgical season after the Pentecost. We commemorate the birth and the growth of the early Church, especially the work of the Apostles and the apostolic note of the Church. From 16 to 29 June we observe a lent in spiritual preparation for the commemorations of the Apostles in the Church. On 29 June we venerate the martyrdom of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Rome and celebrate their feast. During the Lenten days, on 19 June, is the feast of St Jude Thaddeus, the Apostle. Happy Feast to all!

### **The Feast of Commemoration of Mar Theophilos Thirumeni**

We observe on 27 June the Feast of Commemoration of Jacob Mar Theophilos Thirumeni, the bishop who came to communion with the Catholic Church along with the Servant of God Mar Ivanios and the first Bishop of Tiruvalla. We shall commemorate this blessed Thirumeni in all parishes. For whom it is possible, let them join the Padayatra to the tomb of Mar Theophilos Thirumeni and participate in the services of commemoration in St John's Cathedral Tiruvalla.

### **A New Academic Year Begins**

The month of June is important to us. It marks the beginning of a new year, both for secular and ecclesial academic matters. We are awaiting the results of the Board Exams of Classes 10 and 12. The preparations for

the inauguration of the new academic year in schools have begun. I convey to the staff and students, the priests, religious and laity, who are doing a great apostolate through our schools my best wishes and invoke God's grace upon them.

Our Seminarians studying Philosophy in St Charles Seminary Nagpur have done well in their studies. Brothers Justin and Jobin stood first respectively in their Third Year and Second Year Philosophy classes. We are sending Bro. Jerry who completed his Fourth Year Minor Seminary to Dharmaram Vidya Kshetra Bengaluru to pursue studies in Philosophy. Similarly we are sending five of our Seminarians who have completed their Regency to St Mary's Malankara Seminary Trivandrum for studies in Theology and one to Mary Matha Major Seminary, Thrissur. Those of our Seminarians who begin their Theology course were vested in the clerical attire and promoted to the Minor Order of M'samarono on 28 May 2016.

Our Exarchate itself completed one year of its inception and enters a new year, the second year, of its life and activities. "The Ephremite" begins its Second Volume.

### **Inauguration of the Minor Seminary**

It is our basic need to have a Minor Seminary. We are grateful to the Eparchy of Gurgaon-Delhi and to Most Rev Jacob Mar Barnabas, that last year our Minor Seminarians could continue their formation in the Girideepam Minor Seminary. Due to lack of space, it is no longer possible. The Diocese of Poona and its Bishop Most Rev Thomas Dabre have let us use a bungalow at Poolgate in the heart of the City of Pune for the next three years as Minor Seminary. We have renovated it. The inauguration of the Minor Seminary is fixed at 3 pm on 18 June 2016. All our faithful are welcome for the inauguration.

I also request our faithful to help our Seminary through sponsorship of seminarians. A brochure on this will be send to the parishes soon. Similarly, you are welcome to sponsor or finance the immediate expenses (renovation, furniture, kitchenware, study aids, computers...) for setting up the seminary at its inauguration.

I am happy to announce that, we will have at least eight new comers to the Minor Seminary this year. We will have a total of 15 seminarians (2 for Second Year, 2 for Third Year, 3 for Fourth Year and 8 for first year) in the

Minor Seminary this year. Bro. Nikhil continues his +2 schooling in Gurgaon (Delhi).

### **Ministry of Evangelisation**

I like to share with you that we are making some advances in the field of evangelisation, that is, sharing the joy of the Gospel with those who have not so far come to the light of the Gospel. What hampers our work is the lack of priests, religious and dedicated laity. So let us pray to the “Lord of the harvest to send labourers into the field”!

### **Meetings and their Reporting**

While this “voice” is recorded for the June issue of the Ephremite to be sent to the press, we are preparing the report of the meetings of the Priests, Religious and the Pastoral Council. We hope that the meetings will be fruitful and pray for its success. The outcome of the meetings will be reported in the next number (June) of the Ephremite.

### **Gratitude**

The Month of May, rich in activities, elapses on a high note. I thank everyone for their dedication and commitment. The organisers and participants of the Jivan Darshan Camp and the Vocation Camps deserve great appreciation.

Those who promoted vocations to the Minor Seminary are remembered with gratitude. We owe our gratitude to all our benefactors, well-wishers and collaborators.

I have received a list of 13 Lay People from the various parishes of the Exarchate who are undergoing formation to be members of the third batch of Sabhathala Suvisheshasangham. They prepare themselves to receive the kaiveppu on 15 July, on the Feast of Commemoration of the Servant of God Mar Ivanios. Let us pray for them!

I invoke God's blessings on all! May I be strengthened by your prayers!

+ *Fr. Joseph Anthony*

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**Lovingly  
Your Aboon**

## EXARCHIAL NEWS

### **1. Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios visits the Holy Father**

Our Exarch, Aboon Thomas Mor Anthonios, on behalf of our Exarchate, as it completes one year of its erection by the Holy Father, visited him in the Audience of 11 May 2016. He conveyed to the Holy Father the greetings, obedience and love of the Faithful of the Exarchate and obtained an apostolic blessing for the Exarchate.

### **2. Erection of a New Parish at Dombivli**

After many years of prayerful anticipation by the Faithful, a new parish at Dombivli was erected on 01 May 2016 by His Excellency Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC (Exarch of St. Ephrem Exarchate of Pune) and appointed Rev. Fr John Britto OIC as its first Vicar. The declaration was read out by Rev. Fr George Mathew OIC the Chancellor of the Exarchate during the concelebrated Holy Qurbono led by the Exarch. In a meeting that followed, along with the Exarch, Rev Fathers Mathai Iranathara OIC, the Protopresbyter of Mumbai District, John Britto OIC, Mathew Varikkatu, the Protopresbyter of Pune District, Sr. Kiran SIC, Pastoral Council members of Mumbai zone and representative from different associations were present. For the Malankara families, numbering about 60, residing in and around Dombivli and Thakurli localities, the erection of the new parish was the culmination of their aspirations. They started with forming of a Unit at Dombivli under leadership of Very Rev. Fr John Berchmans OIC in 2003. The parish will be known as St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Dombivli.

### **3. First and Final Profession of DM Sisters**

On 28 April 2016, six sisters of the Amala Province of the DM Congregation made their First and Final Profession. The services began with the Holy Qurbono offered by Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC followed by the liturgy of the profession. This grace filled function was held at St Mary's Cathedral Church at Khadki in Pune. The Exarchate of St Ephrem rejoices along with the Amala Province of DM Sisters on this blessed occasion.

### **4. Festal Celebrations - Msgr Mattamana & Fr. Varghese Kaithon**

The Exarchate celebrated the feast of the patron saint of Msgr Varghese Mattamana and Rev. Fr Varghese Kaithon on the occasion of the Feast of

St George on 25 April 2016. The celebrations began with prayers led by H. E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. All Rev. Fathers with the name Varghese/George were remembered in the prayer. It was followed by an agape at the Bishop's House Khadki. His Excellency also conveyed His prayers and gratitude to both the fathers on their feast day focusing on their tireless dedication to the Church and to the Exarchate. The presence of the priests and religious from the Pune District added flavour to the celebrations.

**UPDATES FROM THE EXARCHIAL COMMISSIONS**

**1. Malankara Syrian Catholic Suvisesha Sangham**

**കുട്ടികളുടെ സുവിശേഷസംഘം**



കുട്ടികളുടെ സുവിശേഷസംഘം ആരംഭിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് മലങ്കര സുറിയാനി കത്തോലിക്കാസഭാ സുവിശേഷ സംഘം ഒരു പുതിയ കാൽവെയ്പിലേക്ക് കടന്നിരിക്കുകയാണ്. 2016 ഏപ്രിൽ 19, 20 തീയതികളിൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരം മേജർ അതിഭദ്രാസനത്തിലെ ഏതാനും പള്ളികളിൽനിന്ന് തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത 7-ാം ക്ലാസ് മുതൽ 12-ാം ക്ലാസ് വരെ പഠിക്കുന്ന കുട്ടികളെ ചേർത്ത് കുട്ടികളുടെ സുവിശേഷസംഘം രൂപീകരിച്ച് പരിശീലനം നൽകി. രണ്ടു ദിവസത്തെ ഈ പ്രോഗ്രാം കാതോലിക്കേറ്റ് സെന്ററിൽ താമസിച്ച് നടത്തി. 92 കുട്ടികൾ ഇതിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു. മേജർ അതിഭദ്രാസനവികാരി ജനറാൾ പെരിയ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മാത്യു മനക്കരകാവിൽ അച്ചൻ ആശയസമ്പുഷ്ടമായ സന്ദേശം നൽകി കുട്ടികളെ അനുഗ്രഹിച്ചു. ബ. ഫാ. ആന്റണി കാക്കനാട്ട്, ബ. സിസ്റ്റർ ഫ്രാൻസിനഡി.എം., ബ. സിസ്റ്റർ മേരി പ്രസാദ ഡി.എം., സുവിശേഷ സംഘാംഗങ്ങളായ ഡോ. തോമസ്കുട്ടി പനച്ചിക്കൽ, ഡോ. ജിബി വർഗീസ്, ഡോ. ജോജു ജോൺ എന്നിവർ ക്ലാസുകൾക്ക് നേതൃത്വം നൽകി. കബറിടത്തിലെ വി. കുർബാന, ധൂപപ്രാർത്ഥന, എന്നിവയും കാതോലിക്കേറ്റ് സെന്ററിലെ താമസം, പ്രാർത്ഥന, വി. കുമ്പസാരം എന്നിവയും കുട്ടികൾക്ക് വലിയ ആത്മീയ ഉണർവ് നൽകി. കുട്ടികൾക്ക് സുവിശേഷസംഘ ആധ്യാത്മിക ജീവിതശൈലി രൂപപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ 10 നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങുന്ന ലഘുലേഖയും നൽകി. തുടർപരിശീലനം 2016 ജൂൺ 11-ന് നിശ്ചയിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു.

**സഭാതല സുവിശേഷസംഘം**

2016 ഏപ്രിൽ 26, 27, 28 തീയതികളിൽ സഭാതല സുവിശേഷസംഘം ഒന്നും രണ്ടും ബാച്ചുകാർ ചേർന്നുള്ള പരിശീലനപരിപാടി കാതോലി

കേറ്റ് സെന്ററിൽ വെച്ചു നടന്നു. 52 പേർ ഇതിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു. അഭിവന്ദ്യ സാമൂവൽ മാർ ഐറേനിയോസ് തിരുമേനി കബറിങ്കൽ ദിവ്യബലി അർപ്പിച്ചു പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുകയും വചനസന്ദേശം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു. ബ. ഫാ. ആന്റണി കാക്കനാട്ട്, ബ. ഫാ. മാത്യു ചാർത്താങ്കുഴി, ബ. ഫാ. ദാനിയേൽ പൂവണ്ണത്തിൽ, ബ. സി. നമിത എസ്.ഐ.സി. എന്നിവർ ക്ലാസുകൾക്ക് നേതൃത്വം നൽകി. ആരാധന, കുമ്പസാരം, അനുഭവം പങ്കുവയ്ക്കൽ ഇവയും നടന്നു. കൂടാതെ, 8 ശുശ്രൂഷകളായി തിരിച്ച് വിവിധ സുവിശേഷ ശുശ്രൂഷകളെപ്പറ്റി ചർച്ച നടത്തുകയും സുവിശേഷ സംഘാംഗങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ട കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി തീരുമാനം ഏറ്റെടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഓരോ ഭദ്രാസനത്തിലെയും സംഘാംഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ഓരോ മിഷൻ മേഖലകൾ ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്കായി നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചു നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു. അടുത്ത പ്രോഗ്രാം 2016 നവംബർ 11, 12 തീയതികളിൽ നടത്താമെന്നും തീരുമാനിച്ചു.

**Chennai District**

The Chennai region Suvishesha Sangham met on 14 May 2016, from 9.30 A.M to 1.00 P.M. The Director of Suvishesha Sangham Exarchial, Rev. Fr Varghese Valikkodath led and the classes on the day were attended by around 40 members. The MCYM members too had orientation talks on the same day from 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. which was also led by Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath.

**Pune District**

The District Level formation classes in Pune was held on 06 May at St Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Khadki. Around 20 members from different parishes in Pune attended this class. The classes and prayers of the day was initiated by Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath the Director of Exarchial Commissions for Suvishesha Sangham.

**Bengaluru District**

The District level formation program of Suvishesha Sangham was organised in Bangalore from 30 April 01 May 2016 under the leadership of Rev Fr Antony Kakknattu. He emphasized the need to read the Bible in day to day life. Sharing of personal blessings received by the members created confidence in proclaiming Jesus openly.

**2. Malankara Catholic Youth Movement**

**MCYM Exarchial Senate Meeting**

The MCYM Exarchial Senate Meeting was held on 30



April 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Khadki-Pune. 62 members including the office-bearers and the elected members from the various districts in the Exarchate attended the meeting chaired by His Excellency Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC, the Chairman of MCYM in the Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune. The meeting deliberated upon the various facets of ecclesial life to be made practical in the Exarchate under the leadership of the youth. The meeting empowered the district and the unit level leaders to undertake this endeavour in their respective areas.

His Excellency delivered the Inaugural Address, while Mr. Saju John, the Exarchate President of MCYM delivered the presidential address. Reports of MCYM activities were presented and were subjected to critical evaluation. Several suggestions were made to streamline the activities in the Exarchate and to enhance the functioning of MCYM in individual Districts and Units by the Bishop, priests and by the participants in general. Statement of Account for the year 2015-16 were presented and approved by the Senate. Subsequently, Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, the Exarchial MCYM Director answered queries and clarified doubts raised by the Senate members regarding several practical aspects of MCYM leadership. Planning of the Yearly Activity for the year 2016-17 was presented and discussed. Msgr Varghese Mattamana introduced the Social Service Society of the Exarchate-SEVA (St Ephrem Vikas Ayojan) to the Senate members in his capacity as Director of SEVA.

### **MCYM Pune District Annual Retreat**

For the spiritual enrichment of our youth, the Pune District MCYM spent a day in pray and retreat on 8 May 2016 at St. Thomas MSCC Chinchwad. The theme of the retreat was 'An encounter with Christ'. Fr. Sunil Maria Benedict led the retreat and provided spiritual inputs, with participation of around 80 youths. The retreat began with the Holy Qurbano in English with Choir assisted by the Pune Choir team. HE Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC visited the youths and inspired them through His words of wisdom and encouragement and led the noon prayers. It was a true spiritually enriching experience of praying and singing, seeking the divine blessing of our good Lord. The presence of Fr. George Mathew OIC, the Director of MCYM Pune District, Fr Paul

Naveen OIC, Ani Zacharia OIC, Sr. Sheba SIC, District Animators - Mr. Johnny Abraham and Mrs Beena Raju along with the unit animators strengthened the retreat. There was opportunity for the youths for confession, adoration, discussions etc. In the concluding ceremony the Pune community thanked Fr. Sunil Maria Benedict for his presence and spiritual guidance. Rev. Sr. Sheba SIC being transferred to Kerala was felicitated for her contribution to the MCYM Pune as a very active Animator.

### **3. Malankara Catholic Children's League Jeevan Darshan Camp - 2016**



The 3 days Jeevan Darshan Camp 2016 was held in the four ecclesial districts of the Exarchate namely Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and Pune from 15 April to 8 May. In Bengaluru it was held at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church-Hennur and St John's Malankara Catholic Church-Singasandra, in Chennai at St Thomas Malankara Catholic Church-Padi, in Mumbai at St Mary's Malankara Catholic Church-Sakinaka and in Pune at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church-Khadki. The camps were conducted by the Exarchial team led by Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, Fr. George Mathew OIC, Bros. Justin John, Joseph Dinakaran, Paul Peter, Thomas Attumallil and Paul Vettikattil.

All the Students who attended the Jeevan Darshan Camp really had 3 days for reflection and learning. The theme of the camp was “Realizing Life in Jesus”. Students were divided into groups to create competitive spirit among them and points were awarded for each activity. Action songs, study classes, group competitions, fun games, sharing sessions etc made the camp lively. Study sessions were conducted separately for the seniors and juniors and various themes like vocation, career guidance and meaning of life. Mr. Saji Daniel, MCYM exarchate animator did a very good presentation on career guidance for the children in Bengaluru. Rev. Fr. Sunil Maria Benedict actively participated in the camps held in Bengaluru and taught action songs and gave a very good sharing on his life journey as a priest. The presence of Vicars in all the districts, District Catechism Directors, Catechism Teachers, Parents and MCYM members boosted the camps and helped the smooth conduct of the camp.

# Glimpses from the Erection of St Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Dombivili held at Ulhasnagar





**On the occasion of the installation of Bp. Theodosius as the new bishop of Mar Thoma Diocese, Mumbai**



**Atheena Anil from BARC Parish receives First Holy Communion from Bishop Thomas Mar Antonios**



**MCYM Exarchial Senate Meet, Pune**

# Mother's Day and Pithru Dinam Celebrations at Vikhroli, Vasai, Thane and Warje Parishes





**Feast of Pentecost at  
Thane Parish**



**Feast of St George  
at Vishranthwadi Parish**



**Handing over of responsibilities to the  
new MCYM office bearers, Ulhasnagar**



**Parish Feast Celebration of  
St Joseph, Hyderabad**



**St Josephs MSCC Parish committee,  
Ulhasnagar**



**Warje Parish Youth receives award  
for best Resource Team Activities  
from the Exarch**



## Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune

### Commission for Faith Formation

☎ 8018 8058 70; ✉ catechesis.exarchate@gmail.com ; www.catechesis.in

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DoC / 2016 / 08

30 May 2016

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

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

We celebrate the First Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Exarchate and the Installation of the Apostolic Exarch today. Let us sincerely thank the Almighty Lord for all the blessings He showered upon us through the past one year. The Department of Catechesis is thankful to all of you for the genuine support and the sincere efforts you undertook for the faith formation of our children in the Exarchate.

We are at the threshold of a new Academic Year, 2016 – '17, which has to be inaugurated on 12 June 2016. Even though we are adhering to the existing System in the Department, certain necessary modifications are inevitable for the progressive growth of the Department in the Exarchate. A detailed analysis of the existing System and an elaborate discussion on the proposed amendments will happen in the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation in the presence and guidance of the Apostolic Exarch in the month of September 2016.

With the strong suggestion from the Pastoral Council (27 May 2016) and by the directive of the Apostolic Exarch, the Department of Catechesis announces the commencement of Class XI from this Academic Year onwards. All students who have passed Class X this year are obliged to attend the regular Catechism Classes without fail. But they will be promoted to MCYM and no longer be considered as part of MCCL.

A list of Class X students who have written the Examination in 2015 – '16 is attached for your reference. Those who are marked in green have successfully completed the course. Kindly go through the list and notify me through a separate email if there is any correction in the spelling of the names either of the student or of the guardian.

The conditions for the successful completion of the course are as follows:

1. Appeared for both First Semester and Second Semester Examinations.
2. Obtained atleast 35 marks as aggregate of the two Semesters.

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*Grow in Christ; Rooted in the Word and Guided by the Spirit*

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Those who are marked in Red have not got 35 marks as aggregate and those who are marked in blue have missed either one of the Semester Examination.

Since we are beginning Class XI this year itself, a chance for improvement is given for those who have not cleared the Class X examination. An Improvement Examination is scheduled to be held on 19 June 2016 at 11 am in the respective Parishes with a Question Paper set from the Centre. The Answer Sheets will be evaluated at the Centre and the Results will be announced latest by 25 June 2016.

The options for the Improvement Examination are as follows.

1. Those who have not obtained 35 marks as aggregate even after appearing in two Semesters have to appear for either one or both of the Semester Improvement Examinations and get 35 marks as aggregate.
2. Those who have not appeared for any one of the two Semester Examinations have to write the corresponding Semester Improvement Examination and obtain 35 marks as aggregate.

Those who have got A+, A and B+ Grades in Class X will be honoured with Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals correspondingly along with the Certificate. Those who have obtained A+, A and B+ in Classes IV to IX will be awarded with Certificate of Merit. A list comprising of those who have obtained A+, A and B+ in each class is attached herewith for your kind reference.

It is the responsibility of the outgoing Headmaster/Headmistress, if any, to introduce the new Headmaster/Headmistress to the Department. Kindly forward a mail regarding the change along with the name, phone number and email of the new Headmaster/Headmistress.

A survey form to collect the details of the Teachers is attached herewith in order to assess the teaching ministry of them.

Wishing you all the blessings of the Feast of St Ephrem (18 June).

*Yours in Christ Jesus,*

*F. Varghese Valikkodath*

*Secretary*

*Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation*

**EXARCHATE DISTRICT NEWS****Pune District****1. St Antony's MSCC, Vishrantwadi*****Feast of St. George***

The parishioners, for the first time, celebrated the feast of St George on 07 and 08 May 2016. It began with Holy Qurbano on 07 May followed by the Flag Hoisting. In the evening there was a short movie on the life of 'Geevarughese Sahada'. A special feature of the feast was the procession carrying the traditional 'Chemb' (big copper vessel) filled with rice offered by the parishioners and the distribution of 'nercha' prepared out of the offertory rice. The festal celebrations concluded with the solemn Holy Qurbano on 8 May.

**2. Holy Redeemer's MSCC, Kalewadi**

The annual general body meeting of the parish was held and new parish committee was elected through ballot voting system under the guidance of Vicar Rev. Fr Joseph Noble OIC on 28 April 28. Elections of the office bearers of various pious organisations viz. MCYM, Mathrusangham, Pitruvedi etc were held on 24 April 2016.

**3. St. Mary's MSCC, Warje*****Resource Team Meet***

In the second resource team meet conducted on 23 April at St. Mary's Cathedral Church, Khadki, MCYM Resource Team from the Warje Parish bagged the first place for conducting the best of resource activity in Pune District.

***Food Distribution***

On 24 April, the MCYM members distributed 25 food packets for the needy on the streets. This activity under the banner of SEVA was held on the day of Hindi Retreat held on every fourth Sunday of the month.

***MCA Activities Inauguration***

The activities of the MCA in the parish was inaugurated on 01 May on the occasion of the Laity Day. The Holy Qurbano was celebrated by the Vicar Rev. Fr. George Mathew OIC with the active participation and altar

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\* MSCC - Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

service assisted by the MCA members assisted. In the inaugural session the MCA members sang the prayer song followed by which Mr Joy George the MCA President spoke words of appreciation expressing desire for the active involvement and more activities for the MCA.

### ***Mothers' Day***

On the occasion of Mother's Day, the parish specially prayed for all the Mothers especially for those of the parish. The Holy Qurbano was celebrated by Rev. Fr Joseph Venmanath on this special day.

## **Mumbai District**

### **1. St Thomas MSCC, Thane**

#### ***Visit of the Exarch***

The parish was graced by the visit of Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC on 20 April 2016, who chaired a meeting to discuss the present status and problems of the parish with regard to the redevelopment of the society in which the church property is situated. At the meeting were present Rev Fathers John Britto OIC, Manoj Varghese OIC, Mathai Iranathara OIC, Varghese Kaithon, and Jose Konathuvila the office-bearers of the Exarchate. In an open forum the faithful expressed their valuable suggestions. Advocate Mr Siby Jacob clarified all legal points pertaining to the situation. His Excellency also briefed the faithful about various projects already undertaken and under consideration by the Exarchate and requested prayers and support from all.

#### ***Laity Day***

The Parish celebrated the feast of St. Joseph, the Worker on 1 May 2016 as Laity Day. The celebrations began with Holy Qurbano, witnessing the active involvement of the MCA members through assisting at the Holy Qurbano and making individual offerings. Mr Isaac Kuttiyil enlightened the parishioners on the mission and vision of the MCA and on the life of St. Joseph, its the heavenly patron. The celebration concluded with distribution of cake sponsored by Mr. Reji Samuel and family.

#### ***Food for the Hungry***

The parish under the leadership of the MCA has begun an initiative to distribute food packets on a Sunday of every month after the Holy Qurbano among the poor, living on the streets. This initiative was

inaugurated on Sunday 08 May after the Holy Qurbano. Rev Fr Manoj Varghese OIC blessed the food packets while Deacon Praful Abraham handed over the first food packets to the President of the MCA for distribution.

## **2. St Mary's MSCC, Kharghar**

### ***Visit to the Cancer Rehabilitation Centre***

The MCA members from the parish visited the Cancer Rehabilitation Centre at Nerul on the 24 April as part of their charity drive and the inmates were given food prepared by the MCA members themselves. The MCA members also distributed food to the people in the slums and on the roadside at Kalamboli.

### ***Feast of St George***

The parish celebrated the Feast of St George on 24 April. The Holy Qurbano was concelebrated by Rev. Frs Bijily Thomas OIC, Benedict OIC and Varghese Manoj OIC. The festal celebrations ended with agape sponsored by the Kharghar Parish Prayer Group.

### ***Mothers' Day***

Mothers' Day was celebrated in the Parish on 15 May. The celebrations were under the leadership of the MCYM who showed their gratitude and appreciation to all the mothers of the parish giving them roses and cards as souvenir.

## **3. St. Mary's MSCC, Sakinaka**

### ***Resources Team Meet***

Resource team of Sakinaka conducted their first session named, "The Struggles of Adolescence" on 17 April 2016. The students from 7 to 10 standards along with the MCYM members attended this session led by Stanley Simon and Anish John Sabu. The session was divided into three parts. First part was informative where the Parable of the Prodigal Son was read and the parable was linked to the different problems faced by adolescents. The second part was interactive where the participants were asked several questions about their views of adolescence problems. The last session was instructive where ways of tackling these problems were discussed. The session concluded with the sharing of tips of living a good adolescent life by Mother Ardra SIC, the Asst. General of the Bethany Sisters and a video, "Who am I?" which focused on God's expectation

from the adolescents.

### ***Feast of St George and St Joseph***

The Feast of St. George was conducted on 24 April and 01 May respectively. The main celebration was the Holy Qurbano offered by the Vicar Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra. On 01 May, the MCA members also celebrated Pithru Dinam (Fathers' Day). All the MCA members offered special prayers and offerings and distributed food packets to the poor on the streets.

### ***Mothers' Day***

The parish very specially celebrated Mothers' Day on 08 May. Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath celebrated the Holy Qurbano on this day and the community prayed for all the Mothers, especially for those from the parish.

## **4. St. Joseph MSCC, Ulhasnagar**

### ***Elections***

Elections of the office bearers for the MCA, Mathrusangham and MCYM were held on 03 April 2016 in the presence and under the leadership of Rev. Fr. John Britto OIC, the Vicar.

### ***MCYM Resource Team Session***

A seminar was conducted by the Resource Team members of MCYM. The theme of the seminar was 'The Problems in Adolescence'. The seminar focused on how to address social and personal challenges of adolescence. The seminar, conducted by Mr. Jithin James, was attended by 15 youths from the parish.

### ***Suvisesha Sangham***

Mr. AJ Varghese from Ulhasnagar parish took part in the Suvisesha Sangham training at the Catholicate Centre, Trivandrum from 07 - 09 April, 2016.

## **5. St John the Baptist MSCC, Vasai**

### **Annual General Body Meeting (AGM)**

The AGM of the parish was held and the new committee members were elected. The Vicar, Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC, presided over the AGM.

### ***Pithru Dinam Celebration***

On the day of the feast of St Joseph the parish celebrated Pithru Dinam with great piety and prayer. The Holy Qurbano was specially offered for the intentions of the the MCA members and for their activities. They brought forward offerings for the Holy Qurbano and also distributed food for the needy people on this day.

### ***Mothers' Day***

The parish under the leadership of the MCYM celebrated Mothers' Day on 8 May 2016, when many of the mothers shared their blessed experience of being a mother. The remarkable sharing among them was one made one member who is blessed by God Almighty with a baby after a time span of 8 years. The MCYM members gifted cards and chocolates to the mothers of the parish as a token of affection and gratitude.

### ***Suvisheha Sangham***

Mr. Thomas Mathew, Mr. Abraham Mathew, Mr. Samuel. P. John and Mrs Valsa Samuel from the parish took part in the Suvisheha Sangham training held at the Catholicate Centre in Trivandrum from 07-09 April 2016.

## **6. St Thomas SMCC, Borivli**

### ***AGM and Election***

The Annual General Body of the parish was convened on 17 April 2016 after the Holy Qurbano. The Annual report and accounts were presented and passed by the General Body. The new Committee members for the year 2016- 2017 were also elected during the meeting.

### ***MCA Day***

MCA Day was celebrated on 01 May along with the Holy Qurbano. In the meeting which followed Mr Babu Daniel, the MCA President of the unit shared his visions on the activities of the MCA. The feast of the Patron Saint of the Vicar Rev. Fr. Joseph Thomas OIC was also celebrated on the same day.

## **7. St Mary's MSCC, BARC**

### ***Visit of His Excellency Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC***

It were moments of spiritual enlightenment to have Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC in the parish on the occasion of the First Holy

Communion of Atheena Anil on 01 May 2016. After the Holy Qurbano His Excellency interacted with the members of the MCA, Mathrusamajam, MCYM and Sunday School. The program ended with agape.

### ***MCA & Mothers' Day***

The parish specially conducted MCA and Mothers' Day on 08 May 2016. The mothers of the parish were felicitated with flowers. During the meeting held on the day, Vicar Rev. Fr. Mathai Iranathara OIC spoke on the importance of the Laity Day. Mr Raju Geevarghese (MCA President), Mr. Thomas Mathew (Zonal Treasurer), Mr Joseph Koshy (Trustee) and Mr Daniel Babu also shared their views on the same. Nercha appam was served after the meeting.

### **8. Holy Family MSCC, Vikhroli**

#### ***Feast of St. George***

The feast of St George was celebrated in the parish on 24 April 2016 with solemn Holy Qurbano offered by the Vicar Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra. Special prayers were held in the intercession of St George. Nercha was distributed on the day.

#### ***Pithru Dinam***

The Feast of St Joseph, the Worker, was celebrated as Pithru Dinam on 1 May 2016. Holy Qurbano was celebrated by the Vicar with special intentions and offertory by the MCA members and other parishioners. In a short programme, immediately after the Holy Qurbano, Mr Binu Pattiyankal spoke on the life of St Joseph and Mr EV Varghese (Unit MCA President) conveyed the vote of thanks, followed by distribution of nercha-appam.

#### ***Mothers' Day***

The parish also celebrated Mother' Day with special prayers offered for all the Mothers. After the Holy Qurbano programs like speeches of appreciation for the mothers, quiz etc were conducted in the leadership of the members of the MCYM.

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*"The devil is afraid of us when we pray and make sacrifices. He is also afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much. He runs away when we make the Sign of the Cross."*

*St. Anthony of Padua*

**Hyderabad District**

**St Joseph's MSCC, Jeedimetla**

The feast of the parish was celebrated fervently on 01 May. The Holy Qurbano, concelebrated by Rev Frs. John Berchamans OIC, John Felix OIC and the Vicar John Thundiath OIC was the main spiritual experience of the celebration.

**Chennai District**

**Mar Gregorios Public School - Chennai**

Mar Gregorios Public School celebrated the 2nd Graduation day and 2nd Annual day on 22nd April 2016. Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC presided over the celebrations and delivered the key note address. Rev. Fr. Sabu Maruthoor, the Secretary and Manager of the School welcomed the gathering. Dr. K Mohandoss, the Principal of Mar Gregorios College of Arts & Science and the Guest of Honour of the day also addressed the students, while Rev. Sr. Seraphin Maria DM, the Principal of the School, read the annual report. 25 students received their KG graduation. Prize distribution and cultural programs were part of the annual day celebrations.

**CONGRATULATIONS**



The Exarchate very specially congratulates Mr. Benson Samuel Ninan from St Mary's MSCC, Sakinaka on securing 556th rank in the UPSC exams.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

June 18 : Blessing and Inauguration of Nirmal Hriday Minor Seminary of the Exarchate of St Ephrem Khadki-Pune.

**WELCOME**

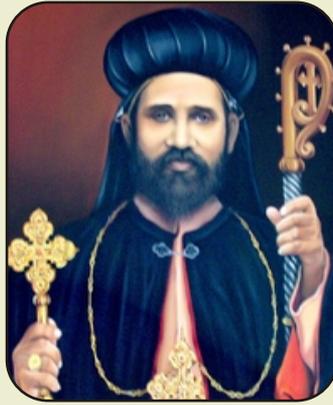
The Exarchate specially welcomes and thanks Rev. Fathers Samuel Thoppil, Jose Konathuvila, Joseph Venmanath & Stephen Chempakathoppu for their willingness to serve in the Exarchate

**BISHOP'S DIARY JUNE 2016**

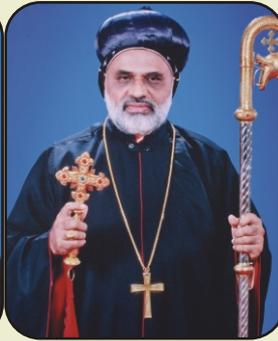
Date	Function/Venue
1-4 June	In Pune
05 June	Pune District Pastoral Council Meet
07 June	Bengaluru
11 June	Sunday school Meet, Mumbai District
12 June	Feast of St. Antony, Vishrantwadi Church Reception to Rev Mother Gladys SIC, Dehu Road Church
14 June	Ecumenical Meet at Orthodox Church, Khadki
15 June	Blessing of the chapel at Mar Gregorios College Chennai
18 June	Blessing & Inauguration of Nirmal Hriday Minor Seminary of the Exarchate of St Ephrem Khadki- Pune
25 June	Baptism, Delhi
30 June	Marriage, Vishrantwadi

**DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE**

01 June	- Feast of St Justin
11 June	- Mar Bartholomew, the Apostle & Mar Barnabas (Feast of Bp. Jacob Mar Barnabas)
11 June	- Commemoration of the Erection of the Syro-Malankara Hierarchy
13 June	- Feast of St. Antony of Padua
15 June	- Commemoration of the First Church in honour of Mary, the Mother of God
16 June	- 13 Days' Nombu Begins
18 June	- Feast of Mar Ephrem (the Patron of the Exarchate)
19 June	- Feast of Mar Judah Thadaeus, the Apostle
24 June	- Birth of John the Baptist
24 June	- Commemoration of Cheppattu Philipose Ramban
27 June	- Commemoration of Bp. Jacob Mar Theophilos
28 June	- Feast of Bp. Samuel Mar Irenios
29 June	- Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul (13 Days Nomb ends)
29 June	- Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bps. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom & Joshua Mar Ignathios
29 June	- Feast of Bp. Vincent Mar Paulos



**Feast of Commemoration of Bishop Jacob Mar Theophilos OIC (27 June)**



**Festal Greetings and prayers to Bishops Jacob Mar Barnabas OIC (11 June), Samuel Mar Ireneos (28 June) and Vincent Mar Paulose (29 June)**



**Festal Celebration of Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and Fr. Varghese Kaithon**

# Memoirs of Jeevan Darshan Camp 2016 held at Pune, Mumbai, Bengaluru & Chennai

