



EXARCHATE OF ST EPHREM  
KHADKI - PUNE

THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

# THE EPHREMITES

BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE



VOL II | NO. 12 | April 2017



*Happy Easter*



# Foundation Stone Laying of Exarchial Center, Khopoli



The Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

# THE EPHREMITÉ

Bulletin of the Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki - Pune



VOL II | NO.12 | April 2017

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. 12 | April 2017

## PATRON

H.E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC  
Apostolic Exarch

## EDITOR

Fr. George Mathew OIC  
The Chancellor

## CIRCULATION

Local Parish Priests

## DESIGN LAYOUT

Anita Printers

## PROOF

Mr. Renjith Varghese &  
Bincy Daniel

## DISTRIBUTION

Br Jose G & Sijo Cherian

## CORRESPONDENTS

Tom, Angel, Sojisha, Binu, Sijo, Cibi,  
Nithin, Sara Mani, Jerome, Lijo, Libin,  
Rex, Shibu, Beena, Jacob, Vitty, Anish,  
John, Jeffi, Abraham, Preethy, Teeja,  
Thomas, Benson & Sabu

## PRINTING

Anita Printers, Wadgaonsheri, Pune

## PUBLISHED BY

The Chancellor  
Exarchate of St. Ephrem,  
51 Bhau Patil Road, Bopodi, Pune  
Maharashtra, India

©Copyright With Exarchate of St. Ephrem

For private circulation only

## CONTENTS

1. Voice of the Exarch
2. Exarchial Commissions  
Circulars
  - Catechism
  - MCYM
3. Exarchial News
4. District News
  - Pune District
  - Mumbai District
  - Bengaluru District
  - Chennai District
  - Hyderabad District
  - Goa District
5. Days of Remembrance
6. Bishop's Diary



## VOICE OF THE EXARCH

Dear All,

Greetings and love!

It gives me great joy to address you once again in this Lenten Season. I hope that it enables us to grow in holiness through the renewal of our life. May this Lenten Season lead us to a deeper experience of the salvific events of the *pesaharahasyam*, the paschal mystery! I wish you a HAPPY EASTER. May the glory of the Risen Lord shine upon us and fill our hearts and homes with His peace!

### **Foundation Stone Laying of our Exarchial Centre**

It was indeed a great moment of unity, solidarity, communion and brotherliness that we experienced at the Foundation Stone Laying of our Exarchial Centre at Kharsundi Village near Khopoli on 16 March 2017. I thank all the parishes of our Exarchate, especially the parishes of the Mumbai-Pune Ecclesiastical Districts. When you turned out in large numbers, in spite of the hostile climate, in spite of the day being a working day, in spite of other difficulties, our Bavathirumeni was exhilarated; the people of Kharsundi village came to know, who we are; all of us were so encouraged! The Organisers did plan well and executed the plan with perfection. Hearty congratulations! Without naming anyone, but keeping each one in my heart, I extend hearty gratitude to one and all, to our beloved Bavathirumeni, our beloved Barnabas Thirumeni, dear Achans, Sisters, Elders, Youth and Children. We are the Church and we build up our Church!

Dear All, we have made a master plan for the development of the plot we have purchased. We have a dream to realise. It will take time. Our present priority is to build up the infrastructure for our Minor Seminary, as I discussed in our Exarchial Pastoral Council and Exarchial Finance Council. It is our earnest desire that every member of our Church raise an amount, according to each one's capacity, through "Donate a Brick" action, a brick, equivalent to one sq ft with a cost of construction of Rs 2000. We are planning to reach out to each member and family of our Exarchate with the brochure.

### **Visits to Missions**

The last month was important for me in directing our missionary

activities, evangelisation and social work programmes. I clubbed my visit to our parish in Nagpur with a visit to the mission work taken up by the Amala Province of the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary in the Eparchy of Chanda. Rev. Fr Samuel Thoppil was also with me. Similarly on 17 March 2017, together with Rev. Fr Jose Konnathuvila and Rev. Fr Mathew Thazhethottathil, I visited the village missions of the Vincentian Fathers in the Ahmednagar District of Maharashtra. On 22 March, together Rev. Fathers Vijoy Varghese Thekkepookalam OIC, Zacharias Nanthiattu OIC, Joseph Menakaleeckal OIC and George Mathew OIC, I visited Most Rev. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, to open a village mission which will be taken up by the Bethany Navajyothi Province. An then on 24 March 2017, we Msgr Varghese Mattamana, Fr Varghese Kadakketh, Fr Joel Mathew OIC, Mr James from Bengaluru and Mr Sunny Pawath from Mumbai and I visited Kamagiri in Tamil Nadu and Devanahalli near Benagaluru to study the mission works undertaken by our parishes in Bengaluru. All these gave me practical knowledge of sharing the joy of the Gospel with those who have not come to the same. The visit taught me well that the knowledge of language, culture and religion coupled commitment is the key to open up village missions.

### **Sunday School Examinations**

The Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation and our Sunday School Teachers are doing their best to organise the annual examination of the Sunday School to be held on 23 April. May our children, through the exams see how well they have encountered Jesus in their life! I urge all parents to motivate the children to prepare well for the exams. God has the priority of our life! All possible adjustments have been made to facilitate the students, even who go for the holidays to their native parishes, to write the annual exams. Repetition of exams will be in June. In spite of these, those who disregard these will not be promoted to the next class.

During a recent parish visit, a group of Sunday School teachers came to me and shared with me how the parents are busy with their children sending them to tuition classes and holiday programmes and nullify all their efforts to attract the children for the Sunday

School classes. I told them to do their best and leave the rest to freedom of the parents. Let them decide on their priorities of life!

### **Holiday Programmes**

Summer holiday is a season for refreshing. The refreshment of our spiritual faculties gives physical recuperation! We have a number programmes organised in our Exarchate for our spiritual nourishment. The *Jeevan Darshan* camp for our children, for the children of High School and Higher Secondary grade, for their vocation guidance is a forum for our children for the orientation of their life. The camps in the Exarchial districts of Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and Pune will be held from 25 April to 30 April. The major seminarians of the exarchate along with Rev. Frs. Mathew Punakulam and George Mathew OIC will give leadership for the camps.

### **Suvisesha Sangham**

The formation of *Suvisesha Sanghams* in all our parishes and at the Exarchial level is progressing. The dates of the *Kaiveppu* are also fixed; Bengaluru-Sunday, 11 June 2017; Mumbai-Sunday, 18 June 2017 and Pune-Sunday, 25 June 2017. Congratulations to all the members, participants, formators and organisers of the *Suvisesha Sangham*. I hope that other Ecclesiastical Districts will take up the lead in organising their *Suvisesha Sanghams*! Congratulations to all!

### **Seminary Day**

Nirmal Hriday Minor Seminary celebrated the first Seminary Day on 21 March. I was part of this celebration and I could evaluate that we had a fruitful seminary formation in the last academic year. The day was blessed by the presence of Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, Msgr. Malcolm Sequiera, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Poona along with priests, religious, pastoral council members, benefactors, well-wishers and trustees and secretaries from different parishes. Together with Rev. Fr George Mathew OIC, the Rector, I thank everyone for their specific association with the seminary. I assure you all, especially the benefactors, the prayers of the seminarians for your intentions.

The Malankara Syrian Church dedicates 23 April, Sunday as Seminary Day. Let us sincerely pray for the seminarians in the



Church and especially in the Exarchate. It is a day to make our special offerings for the maintenance of the St Mary's Major Seminary of our Church and our minor seminary. The parish priests shall conveniently bring this to the attention of the faithful.

### **Social Welfare Day**

The Malankara Catholic Church dedicates 09 April as Social Welfare Day. Let us renew our commitment to the society and remember the words of our Lord: "Whoever has two tunics should share with him who has none and whoever has food should do the same" (John 3:11). The Sunday collection of this day is also to be sent for the charitable social activities of the Church and the Exarchate.

### **Proud moments for the Exarchate**

The exarchate feels proud of the dynamic participation of her laity in all the different spheres of the church. I am happy to know that Mr Alex Valavil from Dehu Road parish in Pune is appointed as the member of the MCA Executive Committee; Mr P K Cherian from Singasandra Parish in Bengaluru to the Managing Committee of MCA Central Committee and Mr Lijosh K J from Hennur Parish in Bengaluru as the Secretary to the Global MCYM Secretariat. The exarchate congratulates and appreciates them and wishes them a fruitful leadership for the good of the people of God and the Church.

### **Vocation Promotion**

Exams of the students of Class X and XII are getting over; similarly that of the graduating and post graduating students. The coming two months are dedicated to foster intensely the vocations. Let all the Faithful Priests, Religious and the Laity promote in every way genuine vocations to priesthood, religious and eparchial and religious life - of women and men. Our Exarchate being new and missionary needs vocations in abundances. Let us pray! Let us do the needful! The parents are the chief promoters of vocation of their children.

May I also give you in brief, the upcoming events for you to ensure your participation in them:

- **MCYM Annual Senate and Leadership Meet**

The Exarchial MCYM has planned the Annual Senate and the Leadership Meet from 29 April to 1 May at Pune. The details

will be communicated to you by the Exarchial Director. All the Office Bearers in the Parish, District and Exarchial level of MCYM are obliged to attend the Leadership Meet without fail.

- **Consecration of the Churches**

The blessing of St George Malankara Catholic Church *Ayapakkam in Chennai will be on Saturday, 6 May 2017* and the consecration of St Thomas Malankara Catholic Church Padi in Chennai will be on Friday, Saturday 12, 13 **May 2017**.

- **Priest Meet and Pastoral Council**

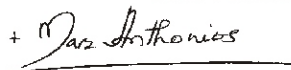
The priest meet and pastoral council will be held in Bishop's house Khadki-Pune on Friday, 26 **May 2017**.

- **Minor Orders**

The minor orders of our seminarians will be held at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, 27 **May 2017**.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I wish you all a glorious Easter Season followed by a fruitful and refreshing summer holiday season. Let everything be for the greater glory of God and for the good of all. God bless us!

Your Aboon

+ 

✠ **Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC**

*Apostolic Exarch*

*Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune*

<b>New Appointments</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fr Mathew Joel OIC (8075488502) - Vicar, St Mary's MSCC Mathikare</li><li>2. Fr Benedict Kaniyanttayath OIC (8108804652) - Local Manager Khopoli Project</li><li>3. Fr Soju Thomas (9745195438) Mission and Pastoral Responsibility with residence at Bishop's House</li><li>4. Fr Mathew Punakulam (9605205077) - Secretary to Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios, Asst Vicar St Mary's MSCC, Warje Malwadi</li></ol>

## EXARCHIAL COMMISSION NEWS



Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune

### Commission for Faith Formation

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

DoC / 2017 / 13

19 March 2017

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

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

We are nearing the conclusion of the Second Semester. This Semester will come to an end with the Second Semester Examination scheduled to be held at 11.00 am on 23 April 2017. Even though it is little difficult for the students, this is the most appropriate timing available for the Examination in the given situation of the Exarchate. So let us adhere to this decision confirmed in the gathering of the catechism representatives from every Parish on 3 October 2016.

In order to assist those who will be in Kerala during the Second Semester Examination, according to the need of the students, Examination Centres will be provided in the Diocesan Headquarters (Trivandrum, Mavelikkara, Pathanamthitta, Tiruvalla, Muvattupuzha, Bathery). The Headmasters are requested to send a list of students, before 3 April 2017, who wish to write the Examination at any of the above Diocesan Headquarters. Other Centres will be allocated if there are more than 5 students to write the Examination. No requests will be entertained after 3 April.

As usual, JeevanDarshan Camps are planned in Pune, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai Districts of the Exarchate. The Exarchial Brothers who are studying in different Seminaries will lead the Camps. The date and venue of the Camps will be announced in the Districts by the respective District Directors of Catechesis. Fr. George Mathew OIC, the Rector of the Minor Seminary will be in-charge of the Camps.

Wishing you all a fruitful Holy Week and a blessed Easter,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Varghese Valikkodath

Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation

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





Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune  
**Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (MCYM)**

☎ 8018 8058 70 : ✉ [mcym.exarchate@gmail.com](mailto:mcym.exarchate@gmail.com)

MCYM / 2017 / 01

21 March 2017

**Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Respected Animators and Promoters and loving Youth,**

Prayerful Greetings from MCYM Directorate Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune!

Hope the Parish and District level elections to the MCYM Secretariat are underway. Kindly adhere to the dates specified in the latest Circular dated 20 February 2017 from the Directorate of Exarchial Commissions. The names to Exarchial Syndicate have to be forwarded to the Directorate as soon as they are decided in the Districts.

**Annual Exarchial Senate and Leadership Meet**

As you are already informed, the Annual Senate of the Exarchial MCYM will be held together with a Leadership Meet from 11.00 am on 29 April to 1.00 pm on 1 May 2017. All the members who belong to the Parish Secretariat, the District Syndicate and the Exarchial Syndicate of MCYM are honourably expected to attend the Leadership Meet without fail. The District Directors are earnestly requested to attend the Annual Senate to be part of the Action Planning for 2017-'18. All Animators and Promoters in the Parish, District and Exarchial level should actively take part in the Annual Senate. A separate Animators and Promoters Gathering is also scheduled for 30 April parallel with the Leadership Meet.

As per the suggestion by the Apostolic Exarch, a Common Minimum Programme for the Districts and the Parishes has to be drawn in the Annual Senate Meeting. The Districts and the

Parishes will be obliged to follow the Common Minimum Programmedecided in the Senate.

As per the suggestion of Global MCYM, the theme of MCYM for this year is 'Youth: Disciples and Witnesses'. Since this theme goes along with the present objective of the Exarchate in general, the Exarchial MCYM decides to accept it without any adaptation. In line with the theme, the Annual Senate and the Leadership Meet is christened as YiELD 2017 (Youth in Evangelization-Leadership-Discipleship). Evangelization and Witness goes hand in hand in Christian context. The Leadership Meet will be led by Mr CC Joseph, the International Co-ordinator of Jesus Youth.

There will be a Cultural Competition on the second day of YiELD 2017 on the theme 'Youth: Disciples and witnesses'. Every District will be given 15 minutes to present the theme in whatever Art form they want. More details of the Competition will be communicated to you soon.

### **Evaluation of MCYM Resource Team Sessions**

MCYM Resource Team Sessions are being held in the Districts and the Parishes for the last few months. Around seven Sessions are completed in most of the Districts. As per the instruction of the Apostolic Exarch in the last Annual Senate and the decision of the members of the Senate, there would be an evaluation of individuals, based on the Resource Team Sessions conducted in the Parish. Taking this into account, there will be a written Examination across the Parishes in the Exarchate from 11 am to 1 pm on 23 April 2017. All youth of the Exarchate, irrespective of the days of their attendance in the Resource Team Sessions, are expected to attend the Examination as this will lead to the formal completion of Class XII of Catechism.

The Power Point Presentations used for these Sessions and the corresponding lessons in Class XI and XII Text Books of Catechism form the Syllabus of the Examination. Thorough

reading of the lessons and internalizing it is necessary for taking the Examination with confidence. The detailed mode of the Examination will be communicated to you by MrSaji Daniel and Mrs Julie Philip, the Exarchial Promoters of the Resource Team Formation. The number of Youth taking the Examination from each Parish has to be communicated by the MCYM Secretary to the present District Presidents latest by 3 April 2017.

### **Oath Taking of New Office Bearers in the Parishes and the Districts**

Oath taking of the new Office Bearers in the Parishes has to be done formally in the Church before the Parish Community on a Sunday after the Holy Qurbano. The District Office Bearers have to take the Oath in front of the District MCYM Director in the presence of the existing Exarchial Syndicate Members from the District. The Presidents are requested to forward the names of the Office Bearers in the Parish and the District level in the attached format to the email id [mcym.exarchate@gmail.com](mailto:mcym.exarchate@gmail.com).

### **The Exarchial Representative in the Central Secretariat of MCYM**

MrLijosh KJ from Hennur Parish in Bangalore has been assigned the responsibility of Secretary in the MCYM Central Secretariat. As a senior member of MCYM, Lijosh has been working as the Treasurer of the Exarchial MCYM in the present Secretariat. Let us wish him all the best in his new responsibility and pray for his successful interventions in the relationship between the Exarchial and the Central Team.

Wish you all a Blessed Holy Week and Graceful Easter!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

*Fr. Varghese Valikkodath*  
..

**Exarchial Director, MCYM**



## **Malankara Catholic Youth Movement**

### **1. YiELD 2017 Annual Senate and Leadership Meet**



The Annual Senate Meeting and Leadership Meet YiELD 2017 (Youth in Evangelization- Leadership- Discipleship) of the Exarchial MCYM is scheduled to be held from 29 April to 1 May at Pune. The programme will begin at 11.30 am on 29 April with the Holy Qurbano and conclude at 1.00 pm on 1 May with the Valedictory Session. Mr. CC Joseph, International Co-Ordinator of Jesus Youth will lead the Leadership Meet. The elections to the new Exarchial MCYM Secretariat will be held in the Annual Senate Meeting held during these days. All Office Bearers of MCYM along with their Animators at the Parish, District and Exarchial level are bound to attend the Leadership Meet without fail.

### **2. MCYM Resource Team Formation in Bangalore**

The Seventh Resource Team Training Session for Bangalore District was held on 18 March at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Hennur. The session on 'St. Paul, the Example to Christians' was led by Mrs. Thangam George and Mr. Shiju John. Around 20 members participated from the four units in Bangalore District including the Animators - Mr. TM Johnson and Mrs. Hema Joseph and Mathikere unit Promoter Mr. Jacob Daniel.

The session began with a prayer by Rev. Fr. Varghese Kadakketh followed by a group activity. The activity required each individual to select two other individuals - one as a personal 'fear' and the other as a 'protector' and move around whilst ensuring that 'fear' never gets between the individual and the 'protector'. This activity based on 'The Theatre of Oppressed' is meant to depict how chaotic it is to run away from our fears and why we always need a Saviour whom we can lean on.

After the activity, Mrs. Thangam began with a brief history of Saul of Tarsus, his background, his deep-rooted belief and scholarly character. A video clip from the movie 'St. Paul' showed Saul, although being a devout Jew, resisted from stoning Stephen. Through several other clips, she brought out the constant tension

that prevailed in the society after the crucifixion of Jesus. The strong Jewish faith of the masses was, for the first time, under threat because of the 'Jesus Movement'. The members went through Saul's journey to Damascus and his transformation to Paul. Paul eventually became a committed missionary who spread the Word of Jesus even though he was never in direct contact with Christ. Paul is an ideal role model for preaching the Gospel even today.

Then Mr. Shiju discussed the unique characteristics of St. Paul that led him to become an ideal instrument for spreading the Word of God. Paul exhibited qualities such as Enthusiasm, Courage, Suffering, Openness, Friendship, Intellectual ability, Standing by the poor and Preaching without remuneration during his tumultuous journey through Asia minor and Rome. Mr. Shiju showed how the Youth today can relate with each of these qualities in our daily life. We all face challenges today just as Paul did but we need to remain resilient in our faith in Christ.

### **Malankara Catholic Suvisesha Sangham (MCSS)**

#### **1. Suvisesha Sangham Formation Programme, Mumbai**

Suvisesha Sangham Formation Session at Mumbai District level was conducted at St. Mary's Church, Sakinaka on 12 March 2017. The programme began with Morning Prayer at 7 am followed by con-celebration of Holy Qurbano by Rev. Frs. Antony Kakkanatt, Kurian Thondukuzhiyil OIC and Philip Pulipra.



After breakfast, the Sessions started at 10.15 am with songs and prayers. Fr Antony Kakkanatt, the Executive Secretary of Malankara Catholic Suvisesha Sangham started the class in continuation on the topic of 'Christianity is a race and fight' from where he had stopped during his earlier class on 20 November 2017. One has to nail his likes, desires and interests and carry his cross if one wants to be with Jesus. If one surrenders everything to God, He will take care of the remaining. One has to wash his heart clean of wickedness so that he may be saved (Jer.4:14).

Fr Antony delved on the subject of faith of ancestors like Abel, Henoah, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses etc. (Heb.11). We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, so let us lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking up to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter.

Fr Antony also touched the subject of sufferings. God allows sufferings in our life for our betterment and spiritual growth. If we accept our sufferings as virtues and graces, it will be good for us and others.

The second half after lunch was used for the spiritual exercise of '*Lectio Divina*' i.e. Divine reading. Fr Antony read out a Bible portion and explained its inner meanings. Then half of the members individually made a sharing on the verses that touched them and the other half individually made prayers out of the portion read out.

It was announced by Fr. Antony that '*kaiveppu*' of the Suvisesha Sangham members of Mumbai District shall be conducted on 18 June 2017 and he exhorted all members to spiritually prepare themselves for the same.

The programme ended by 4.45 pm with prayer and blessing by Fr Antony.

### **2. Suvisesha Sangham Formation Programme, Bangalore**

Bangalore District level Suvisesha Sangham formation classes in Bangalore though started in 2013, from October 2015 onwards the Classes are conducted more frequently and on an average 25 members from all the four Parishes are regularly attending the classes. Rev. Fr. Antony Kakkanatt, Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath, Rev. Sisters Francina DM, Mary Prasad DM, Namitha SIC, and Sophia Paul SIC have so far conducted the Classes detailing and sharing their in-depth knowledge of the Bible to lead a Jesus-centered Christian life.

The participant members are getting enriched spiritually and growing tremendously with the Classes to firm up their faith and belief in God, experiencing our Jesus Christ, living 'Suvisesham'



**Suvisesha Sangham, Chennai**



**Suvisesha Sangham Inauguration, Kalewadi**



**Suvisesha Sangham, Bangalore**



**Food for Hungry, Chennai**



**Suvisesha Sangham, Mumbai**



**MCYM Resource Team Formation , Bangalore**







**Mumbai District Pastoral Council Meet**



**Mathrusangham Arts & Sports Day, Chinchwad Parish**



**The New Priests with the Seminarians, Pune**



**Pune District Pastoral Council Meet**



**Lenten Retreat, Kalewadi**



**St Thomas Ecumenical Christian Association, Kalewadi-Pune**



**Parish Picnic, Warje Malwadi**





**Family Quiz Winners, Kalewadi**



**MCYM Executive Body, Ulhasnagar**



**Parish Feast Day, Singasandra**



**MCCL Day Celebration, Hyderabad**



**MCCL Day, Ayappakam - Chennai**



**Karunalaya visit by Hyderabad Parish**



**Catechism Teacher's House Visit,  
Sakinaka**





**Visit to Mission in Devanahalli, Bengaluru**



**One Day Retreat, Goa**



**Pune District Priests & Religious Meet**



**Child Protection Awareness Rally, MGC**



**Newly Elected MCA Members, Padi**



**Releasing of the Parish Directory,  
Vikhroli**



**Sunday School Teachers Seminar,  
Pune District**

by following the guidelines drawn for the 'Suvisesha Sangham' in their daily life,

The last class was conducted by Rev. Fr. Antony Kakkanatt on 11 March 2017 at St. Mary's Church, Hennur wherein he taught the responsibility of each one of us being in Suvisesha Sangham. As every human being has a relationship with God, especially we being Christians are called to maintain that relationship through fellowship, worship and communion, fixing our eyes on Jesus Christ, so that we can get control over all the obstacles and evil temptations, thereby to get rid of all evil thoughts and acts in our life, to become a real Christian.

While the 'Kaiveppu' is planned for 11 June 2017, one more session will be arranged, mostly by April end.

Suvisesha Sangham-Bangalore is thankful to all Rev. Fathers and Sisters who are training us, our vicar Rev. Fr. Varghese Kadakketh and the Hennur Parish Committee for making all the required arrangements to conduct the Formation Classes smoothly.

### **3. Suvisesha Sangham Formation Programme, Chennai**

Suvisesha Sangham Formation Class of Chennai District was held for 2 days on 11 and 12 March 2017 at St. Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic church, Padi, Chennai. Class started with prayer and welcome address by G. Thomas. It was held from 9.30 am to 4 pm.

Rev. Sr. Mary Prasad DM. took class on the topic, 'St. Paul - His mission work and his letters. She highlighted his qualities as a missionary. He was a fervent apostle, a very bold person, an intellectual and a great theologian. Indeed it was inspiring and we learnt a lot from this class.

Rev. Sr. Paulsy DM took class about Malankara *Sabhayude Aradhana Krama Geethangal*. It was also very informative. About 45 persons attended the session and the Session concluded with prayer.

### **4. Suvisesha Sangham Formation Programme, Pune**

Suvisesha Sangham Formation of Pune District was held on 13

March 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Khadki. The Session, led by Rev. Fr. Antony Kakkanatt, started at 9.30 am with a song followed by a reading from the Holy Scripture *Ephesians* 4:7-11 which was reflected upon.

Fr. Antony taught that Suvisesha Sangham is a holiness movement; the life of a Suvisesha Sangham member is a journey towards the holiness of Jesus Christ. At any cost, a member has to carry his/her cross daily, along with the cross of Christ. A member must have a personal relationship with Jesus. He is our Lord, Father, Saviour, Bride-Groom and Friend. Christian fellowship leads to worship; which again leads us to communion with Christ.

St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews 11: 1-39 was read out and a detailed interpretation was given by him. He informed the members that in our race towards the holiness, we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses to strengthen and encourage us. Then he elaborated on the life and qualities of each of these Fore-fathers (Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc.) and explained how to follow them. Lastly, he said that the Servant of God, Mar Ivanios is our role model for the holiness.

Post lunch. Fr. Antony taught about '*Lectio Divina*' (divine reading) of the Holy Bible. Reading of the Holy Book has mainly 5 steps: (1) Reading (2) Reflection (3) Prayer (4) Contemplation (5) Application in life.

Later, the Scripture Luke 5: 1-11 was read out and reflected upon. Half of the members shared the specific portion which attracted them. The other half prayed on the basis of this portion. The thoughts reflected upon were to keep away from the shore (to keep away from worldly attractions), put out the net into the deep water (keep deep faith in crises), put out the net as per Jesus' saying (all for His Will), etc.

Though this class was a gist of the earlier sessions, it brought a provocative thought in the minds of the members, to set out for spreading the Good News. It inculcated the feeling that it is our duty to spread the Good News according to the Scripture and also as per the great longing of our Servant of God Mar Ivanios.



The session concluded with prayer and blessing by Fr Antony.

### **Mathrusangham**

#### **Retreat of Mathrusangham-Mumbai**

The annual one day retreat for Mumbai-Mathrusangham members held during the Lenten season was conducted on 5 March 2017 at St. Mary's Church, Kharghar. The full day session was conducted by Rev. Fr. Vincent Kundukulam. Around 180 Mathrusangam members from all the parishes in Mumbai attended the Retreat.



The session conducted was on the topics like the happiness of Families, how important is self-acceptance and respect for oneself for women in families, as a mother, child and wife. He also emphasized that we should see Mother Mary as not just the Mother of sorrows, but also a victorious role model for all women, who was exalted in spite of countless hardships and sorrows in her life.

He also reminded the mothers to teach their children, especially boys that women are not an opportunity but a responsibility. The session ended with Holy Qurbano by Rev. Fr Mathai Iranathara OIC, the District Director of Mathrusangham.

### **Malankara Catholic Association (MCA)**

#### **Food for Hungry Programme by MCA-Chennai**

MCA Members of St. Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Padi, Chennai collects food packets from the parishioners on every Sunday after the Holy Qurbano and distributes it to the poor and needy people.

The programme was inaugurated on 17 July 2016 and continues till date. So far 620 food packets have been distributed to the hungry and poor people, under this scheme. MCA-Chennai takes this opportunity to thank all the sponsors and MCA Members for their support and Co - operation.



## EXARCHATE NEWS

### **1. Foundation Stone Laying for School, Nashik**

Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios on 04 March laid the foundation stone for a new building for St Thomas school in Nashik. The ceremony was held in the presence of priests and religious from Pune, Mumbai and Nashik along with the political and social leaders of the area. The prayers were led by the Bishop himself. Bishop during his address congratulated all those who tirelessly worked behind acquiring of the land and giving leadership for the same. Special appreciation was expressed to Fr Jose Konathuvilla the principal of St Thomas School.

### **2. Foundation Stone Laying, Khopoli**

The foundation stone laying ceremony for the seminary cum school at kharsundi village near khopoli was done at the hands of His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, the Head and the Father of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, on 16 march 2017. H.E Jacob Mar Barnabas and H.E Thomas Mar Anthonios blessed the ceremony with their presence and prayers. Many priests, nuns and hundreds of faithful along with social and political leaders from kharsundi attended the ceremony.

H.E Thomas Mar Anthonios welcomed everyone to the function through his warm and graceful words. The chief project coordinator, shri Babu George briefed the project in detail. Felicitations were done by H.E Jacob Mar Barnabas and Mr. Daniel Babu. Civic reception was given to the officials of kharsundi and Khopoli Corporation. His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos felicitated and contributed to the project. The events like handing over keys of home for homeless by vikhroli and borivili parishes, endowments to the project by ecclesial districts of pune, mumbai and chennai and seminary brochure release were also conducted during the ceremony. Then the faithful were blessed by the reply and benedictory speech by His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos. Then it was the time for the historic foundation stone laying ceremony. H.E Jacob Mar Barnabas led

the noon prayer when the ceremony on laying the foundation stone was being held. The ceremony came to the conclusion with the vote of thanks by rev. Fr. Varghese Kaithon, the finance officer of the exarchate and the lunch.

### **3. Shelter the Shelter-less Project**

Holy Family MSCC and St Thomas MSCC from the Mumbai District had initiated a project of shelter the shelter-less as part of the charity during the Year of Mercy. Their tireless efforts and hard work lead to the completion of the project and fulfillment of their desires in March 2017. The units gifted a house to one of its members. The official handing over of the keys of the house was done on 16 March 2017, during the stone laying ceremony of the Seminary and School at Khopoli, by His Beatitude Moran Mor Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, who had initiated this project. His Beatitude and Bishop Mar Anthonis specially appreciated the efforts of both the parishes and the initiatives taken by the Vicars Rev. Fr. Joseph Menakaleeckal OIC and Fr Philip Pulipra.

### **4. Pune & Mumbai District Pastoral Council Meet**

Pune district pastoral council meeting was held on 02 March in DM Convent whereas that of Mumbai was held on 04 March at St Mary's MSCC, Kharghar. H.E Thomas Mar Anthonios initiated the meeting which was added by the Priests, Sisters, trustees, secretaries and all other pastoral council members of the district. The main agenda of the meeting was the foundation stone laying of exarchial center at Khopoli and the smooth functioning of the event.


### **5. Blessing of Community Hall, Dombivili**

It was really a proud moment for Dombivli Parishioners to have their own Chapel after a long time. The Chapel was blessed by His Excellency Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios on 04 March. Rev Frs. Mathai Iranithara OIC, George Mathew OIC, Vijoy Varghese OIC, Mathew Punakulam, Soju Thomas and Rev Fr. Manoj Varghese OIC, the vicar of Dombivli Parish were present on the occasion. After the blessing of the Chapel and the Holy Qurbano, there was a public meeting, wherein the well-wishers were felicitated for their

hard work towards the work of the Prayer Hall. Bishop also appreciated the Vicar, Sisters, Committee Members, MCA, Mathrusamajam, MCYM and Sunday School Teachers for their full support to make the Chapel beautiful.

### **6. Seminary Day Celebration**

The First Seminary Day Celebration of Nirmal Hriday Minor Seminary was held on 21 March at Seminary campus in Pune. Brothers showcased their talents through dancing, singing, mimics etc. Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios was the chief guest of the program. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and Msgr. Malcolm Sequira the Vicar General of Poona Diocese were the other guests of the day along with priests and religious from Mumbai and Pune participated in this function. The pastoral council members and trustee and secretaries from Mumbai and Pune along with the parents of the seminarians from nearby locations, benefactors and well wishers joined the function. The program ended with agape.



### **The Ephremite Matrimonial Column**

Bangalore settled Syro Malankara Catholic parents invite proposals for their God fearing, good looking daughter - 26 yrs. 58kg, 5'1", MCA - working as software engineer. Respond to Mr. Varghese - 09845863365

### **OBITUARY**

Mrs. Sherly Jose, w/o Mr. Jose Thomas and mother of Sheejo Thomas and Jijo Thomas, from Dombivli Unit was called to eternal rest on 11 March, 2017. The exarchate expresses condolences to the family and prayers for the departed soul.

**EXARCHIAL DISTRICT NEWS****Pune District****1. St Thomas MSCC, Chinchwad****Church Anniversary**

The 8th Church Anniversary of St Thomas MSCC was celebrated on 26 February. As part of celebrations, Holy Qurbano was conducted at 6.30 pm and the main celebrant was Fr. Naveen Paul OIC. The celebration concluded with dinner served to all.

**Mathrusangham Arts and Sports Fest**

Under the leadership of Brothers Jaison OIC and Sijo OIC, an Arts and Sports fest was conducted on 12 Feb. All the Ladies wing members participated in the events with great enthusiasm. Gents wing and MCYM members also provided all possible support to co-ordinate the events. Overall this novel initiative was very successful.

**House Visit by Ladies Wing**

Ladies wing members visited houses of all members of the parish. They were accompanied by the Vicar and Rev. Brothers along with few Gents wing members.

**2. St. Joseph MSCC, Dehu Road**

The Arts Festival named SARGOLTSAVAM 2017 was held in the parish on 19 February. All the family members of the Parish were divided into two groups. Sunday school, Youth, MCA Gents and ladies participated in the festival actively. The judges for the day were Br. Jithu & Br. James OIC and Sr. Maria SIC. Sports events such as Knock Out and Treasure Hunt were also held. The key hands behind the SARGOLTSAVAM were the missionary Brothers Geo Paul and Tenny Mathew along with our Bethany Sisters, Jephin SIC and Alphonso SIC. The event ended with Valedictory Address by the Vicar Rev. Fr. Noble Joseph OIC followed by Prize Distribution.

**3. St Mary's MSCC, Warje Malwadi****Parish Picnic**

To spend some time together as a community and to strengthen the bonding, parish picnic was organized under the leadership of the Vicar to Lakewood Resort near Khadakwasala on 05 March. The



parish members started early after the Holy Qurbano. Ice-breaking session, fun games, sports events were arranged by the missionaries for which all the members equally and actively participated. Sharing food, cracking jokes, competing for the attractive prizes etc. made the day memorable for all.

### **4. HRMSCC, Kalewadi**

**Inauguration of Parish Level Suvisesha Sangham**

The Vicar inaugurated the 'Parish Level Suvisesha Sangham' on 26 February by lighting the lamp. It marks the dawn of living and preaching the Good News as per the Command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Annual Retreat**

The Annual Retreat for the parish was conducted during the lent by Rev Fr. Jinto Edattukunnel Director Kalyan Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services from 23 to 25 Feb. On the last day special prayer was conducted for the SSC & HSC student. The retreat was a moment of spiritual renewal which was attended by almost all the parishioners.

### **Family Quiz**

The Family Parish Quiz was conducted on 26 Feb and on 05 March by brothers from Bethany Ashram, Ramwadi. The First Prize was bagged by Mr. Sabastian John and Family, Second prize by Mr. Reji Varghese & Family and the Third Prize by Mr. Shiji Varghese and Family.

## **Mumbai District**

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

#### **Prayer at 10th and 12th STD students' houses**

The Dombivili MCYM members took an initiative to visit the 10th and 12th standard students' house and express good wishes for their Board Exams. MCYM members along with Sister in charge and Animator visited the houses. Prayer meeting was conducted in their house along with the Rosary.

### **2. St. Joseph's MSCC, Ulhasnagar**

#### **Election for the Year 2017-18**

On 12 March, Elections for the year 2017-18 was conducted after the Holy Qurbano. The Vicar thanked the outgoing committee

members and expressed prayerful wishes for the new.

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

#### **Annual General Meeting and Elections**

The parish annual general body meeting was held on 19 February and according to the exarchate by-laws, an 8 member committee comprising of prayer group leaders and a representative from each prayer group was selected. Committee also includes 3 ex-officio members and Presidents of pious organizations. Mrs. Sally Thomas was selected as Secretary, Mr. Sathesh Powath as Joint Secretary and Mr. Shaji Mathew as Trustee for the period of 2017- 18.

#### **Mathrusangam One Day Retreat**

The annual one day retreat for Mumbai Mathrusangham members was held during the lenten season. It was conducted on 05 March at St. Mary's MSCC Kharghar. The full day session was conducted by Rev. Fr. Vincent Kundukulam. Mathrusangham members from all the parishes in Mumbai attended the same.

#### **Harvest Festival 2017**

The annual harvest festival was conducted on 19 and 26 February under the guidance of the Vicar. Auctions were held during the program.

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

#### **Sunday school**

Sunday School Headmistress Jolly Sabu, Vicar, Fr. Philip Pulipra, Bro. Paul, Sr. Jeena SIC & all our Sunday school teachers visited the homes of all students appearing for the 10 & 12 board exam and prayed for their success.

#### **Harvest Festival**

Sakinaka Parish's harvest festival was organized with the active participation of all the prayer groups on 05 and 26 February. The event was a grant success under the leadership of the Vicar and committee members.

#### **Vincent De Paul Retreat**

A Solemn and annual recollection of Vincent De Paul North East Area council was held at St. Mary's MSCC, Sakinaka on 13 March 2017. The host of conference was the Mar Ivanios Malankara conference of SSVF Sakinaka.

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

### **Release of Parish Directory**

The Parish information Directory of HFMSCC was released on 12 March by Rev. Fr. Kurien Thondukhuzhiyil OIC, the former Vicar of HFMSCC after the Holy Qurbana. To express the gratitude of his service the unit vicar Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra specially invited Rev. Fr. Kurien for the release of the directory as it was during his time the place where the new renovated church stands was purchased for the faithful. Rev. Fr. Kurien expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the parishioners.

### **MCA Day Celebration**

HFMSCC celebrated the feast of St Joseph as MCA Day on 19 March. Holy Qurbana for the special intentions of the MCA members was celebrated by Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios, who had visited the unit with regards to the completion of the housing project of “Shelter the Shelter-less”. Mr. E.V. Varghese the unit president of MCA, conveyed his wishes to the MCA members as well as conveyed the gratitude of the unit to Aboon for visiting the unit and offering the Holy Qurbana.

### **Farewell of Bro Paul Peter**

The parish conveyed gratitude and blessings to Br. Paul for all his future endeavours on 19 March who as part of his regency at Sakinaka Presbytery assisted Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra for all the unit activities. The unit conveyed its wish after the Holy Qurbana in which he was blessed and given a token of appreciation by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Anthonios.

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

### **MCCL Day Was Celebration**

The chief guest for the day was Rev. Fr Jacob OIC which started with a prayer song by Jino Abhraham. It was followed by the message given by Mr. Varghese Thomas the headmaster of catechism. The Sunday school students from std I to std IV presented action song. Followed by message given by Tony Thomas and Albin Biju koshy, students from std V to std X presented dance. The programme concluded with the message of Rev. Fr Jacob OIC.

## **HSC/SSC House Visit**

Under the leadership of Rev. Sr. Kirti SIC the MCYM members of Vasai along with Sunday school headmaster Mr. Varghese Thomas visited the houses of students appearing for SSC and HSC examination. Rev. Sister lead the prayer and everybody conveyed best wishes to the students.

### **Bengaluru District**

#### **1. St. John's MSCC, Singasandra**

##### **Parish Feast Celebration**

St. John's MSCC celebrated the Feast of its patron St John on 11 and 12 February 2017. The spiritual celebrations included prayers, Holy Qurbano, hoisting the festal flag. The spiritual leadership was given by Rev. Frs. Rev. Frs. Antony Njerinampally OIC, Aby OIC, John Aluvila OIC, Geevarghese Kaithavana and Vicar Rev. Fr. Varghese Kadaketh. Srs. Infant Mary SIC, Arunima SIC, Nivedita SIC, Sr. Preethi Francis DM were also part of the Festal celebrations.

On 12 Feb, Lucky draw was conducted towards fund raising of the Church Construction. First prize ACTIVA Scooter was won by Mr. Jose Mathew of Hennur Parish. Thereafter, Cultural programs of MCCL, MCYM, MCA & Mathrusangham were organized. MCA & Mathrusangam organized Garments Stalls on the same day towards Fund raising for the Church Construction. The Feast was concluded with Lunch. along with and parishioners from other parishes in Bengaluru also joined us for the celebrations.

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

##### **Visit by Most Rev Philipose Mar Stephanos**

On 26 Feb, Most Rev Philipose Mar Stephanos celebrated Holy Qurbano at the St Mary's MSCC, Hennur. During the Holy Qurbano, the Bishop blessed Master Blesson Samuel and Master Ken B Varghese as altar servers. His Excellency also gave First Holy Communion to five kids from the parish. This was bishop's first official visit to any of the Bangalore parishes and he shared his impression and hopes from the Bangalore community during his interactions with the members.

## Chennai District

### 1. St Thomas MSCC, Padi

#### **MCCL one day tour and retreat**

One day tour was arranged for the catechism children and teachers to Mahabalipuram. Rev. Fathers & Rev. Sisters also accompanied the team. On 05 Feb a one day retreat was held for the catechism children from 7.30 AM to 4 PM. Rev. Fr. Shiju K Levi led the retreat, confession, counseling and concluded with adoration. 35 children participated in the retreat.

#### **One day pilgrimage**

The Mathrusangam members went for a one day pilgrimage to Our Lady's church at Acharapakkam on 24 February 2017. 25 members participated in the pilgrimage. It was a spiritual renewal and a fellowship for the mothers of the parish.

#### **Prabodhanam classes**

Prabodhanam classes are conducted every month for the MCA members. Bethany Sisters take lead for the classes which is a real inspiration for the MCA members of the parish. Around 30 persons are attending the class regularly.

## Institutional News

### 1. Mar Gregorios Public School

#### **Grandparents and Parents Day Celebration**

This was a remarkable day for MGPS as the school honored grandparents and parents of the students. Rev. Fr. Sabu M George, Dr. Amritham & Dr. D. Annette Beatrice graced the occasion. Dr. Beatrice was the chief guest. Various events were conducted in order to explore the creativity, artistic and sports talents of the parents. Thus, MGPS presented a memorable day for all grandparents and parents.

#### **Sports Day**

MGPS students celebrated sports day on 28 February. Our school principal Sr. Seraphin Maria DM addressed the students regarding the importance of the sports. It was a remarkable day for the students as they enjoyed a lot. Various sports events were conducted for all the classes. The winners were awarded with medal and certificate.



## **2. Mar Gregorios College, Chennai**

### **Awareness Rally**

In order to bring awareness on child abuse, Mar Gregorios College NCC Team conducted an Awareness Rally on “Child Abuse” on 06 March. The Secretary Rev. Fr Sabu M George inaugurated the Rally by waving the flag. Students had the placards in their hands and walked around Mogappair West. This noble effort was highly appreciated and welcomed by the society, staff and students. Mr. Krishnamoorthy (Inspector of Police), Ms. R. Sathyabama Advocate (Ministry of Railways), Dr. P. Devaraj, Psychologist (Revamp Hospital) and Mr. Sameesh MS, Media Secretary, Human Rights (Thiruvallur District) were invited as guests.

### **Hyderabad District**

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

### **MCCL Day celebrations**

MCCL day began with the offering by the little children at the Holy Qurbano offered by Rev. Fr. Rijo Thomas OIC. MCCL kids also presented their talents through dance, music, story-telling and skit. It was indeed amazing to see confident speakers among them as well.

### **Bethany Karunalaya Visit**

The Hyderabad Malankara Community visited Bethany Karunalaya; Home for the destitute and children on 12 March 2017. Members from both the parish in Hyderabad visited the place as one community and spent a day at the Orphanage. The day began with Holy Qurbano and followed by various activities for the kids and the old.

### **Goa District**

## **St Ephrem MSCC, Cortalim**

The parish community had a one day retreat organized by the vicar as part of the Lenten preparations. The retreat was led by Mr Johnson from Bengaluru. Almost all the parishioners participated in this retreat conducted after the Holy Qurbano. It was a spiritual renewal and a community building experience for the parishioners.

**Bishop's Diary - April 2017**

- 01,02 : Hyderabad  
03 : Bethany Ashram, Ramwadi  
04 : Nashik  
05 : Baptism, St Mary's Malankara Cathedral Church, Khadki  
06 : Finance Council Meet, Khopoli  
Mission Meet, Khopoli  
09-16 : Holy Week, St Mary's Malankara Cathedral Church, Khadki  
12 : Sakinaka Parish, Mumbai  
18-19 : Mission Meet for Bapatla at Khadki  
20 : St Mary's Malankara Cathedral Church, Khadki  
22 : St Antony's MSCC, Vishrathwadi  
24,25 : DM Sister's Profession, Wardha  
26 : Foundation Stone Laying for Carmalaram Parish, Bengaluru  
27 : Chinchwad Madabaha Blessing  
28 : MCYM Leadership Meet, Pune  
29 : Easter Celebration MMCA, Mumbai  
30 : Kalewadi Parish

**Days of Remembrance**

- 7 : Fortieth day of the great Lent  
8 : Commemoration of Bishop Lawrence Mar Ephrem  
9 : Palm Sunday and Social Welfare Day  
12 : Feast of Bishop Abraham Mar Julios  
13 : Maundy Thursday  
14 : Good Friday  
16 : Easter (Kyomtho)  
23 : New Sunday, Seminary Day  
28 : Commemoration of Bishop Isaac Mar Yoochanon



**Foundation Stone Laying of St Thomas Malankara School, Nashik**



**Venturing a new mission in Gulbarga with Bishop Robert Miranda**



**Bishop Addresses the Recollection of Vincent D'Paul Society, Sakinaka**



**Community Hall Blessing, Dombivali**



**A house for the shelter-less, Vikhroli**



**Bishop on a visit to Vincentian Fathers Mission, Ahmednagar**



**Bishop Philipose Mar Stephanos at the Hennur Parish for First Holy Communion**



## Feast of Commemoration



**Bp Isaac Mar Yoohanon**  
28 April



**Bp Lawrance Mar Ephrem**  
08 April



*Festal Greetings*

**Bp Abraham Mar Julios (12 April)**

*With Best Complements from*  
**ST. JOSEPH'S BETHANY CONVENT SCHOOL**

**DEHU ROAD, PUNE**



Printed and Published by

**The Chancellor, Exarchate of St Ephrem**

51 Bhaupatil Road, Bhopadi, Pune - 411 020. Tel.: +91 9545941458. Email : ephremite@gmail.com