



## PASTORAL LETTER

BISHOP MAR BOSCO PUTHUR

*BOSCO PUTHUR, Bishop of the Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle of Melbourne of the Syro-Malabar, and Apostolic Visitor to New Zealand, to the Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church in Australia and New Zealand.*

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

May the grace of our Lord be with you!

As you are well aware, it was on 25th of March 2014, that the new Eparchy for the Syro-Malabar Faithful of Australia was inaugurated and, as its first bishop, I was officially entrusted with your pastoral care. Many Bishops from India, Australia and New Zealand participated in that beautiful ceremony. In the same manner, many lay faithful and priests from our communities of Australia and New Zealand participated, which I remember with gratitude. Let me thank once again, those who organised and cooperated with the Inauguration ceremony.

Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God is the heavenly patroness of our Eparchy. With the intercession of our Blessed Mother, let us labour in unity to enhance the Kingdom of God.

Let us bear witness to the risen Christ in this land, in the same way as Mar Thoma



Sleeha, our Father of Faith bore witness to his faith by proclaiming "My Lord, My God". Pope Francis established our Eparchy to provide our faithful with leadership, strength and encouragement so that we will be able to, as individuals as well as a community, bear witness to Jesus Christ in this land. On this occasion, I remember with gratitude the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, the Synod

of the Syro-Malabar Church and Major Archbishop Mar George Cardinal Alencherry who initiated the process for the establishment of the Eparchy, and the Bishops' Conferences of Australia and New Zealand who whole-heartedly supported it, which in turn helped the Holy Father to take the decision.

As you are well aware, our Eparchy is in its infancy, without any Churches, Parishes or Institutions. Our first priority is to organise as many communities of faithful and form them as Eucharistic communities and parishes. It is important to make available for our faithful Holy Qurbana and other Sacraments on Sundays as well as on weekdays, in the Oriental tradition which our forefathers have passed on to us. Regular Catechism classes for our children also need to be organised urgently. At least for a while, infrastructural facilities for these services can be found only with the help of local parishes. It is very encouraging to note the assistance promised to our infant Eparchy to this effect by the Australian Bishops during the recent meeting of the Bishops' Conference. It is a very important and urgent responsibility of ours to provide pastoral care according to the teaching and traditions of our Mother Church, not only for the communities in the urban areas, but also in the remote communities, however small they may be.

Let me share with joy the decision regarding the construction of our first Parish Church at the property in Mickleham, which our community has recently purchased. This Church will be called after Saint Alphonsa and will be the Cathedral of our Eparchy. I sincerely request your prayer and generous financial support (of communities as well as individuals) towards this project of building the mother Church of our Eparchy.

We need a ministry of many priests to provide pastoral and spiritual leadership for the future development of our





communities. I am confident that our communities will be ready to welcome priests and provide appropriate facilities for them. The communities with adequate facilities, that are ready to receive a vicar (Parish Priest) and to organise regular Sunday Qurbana and Catechism, can be erected as Parishes. I request that as many communities to come forward for that.

We need to constitute necessary canonical structures for our Eparchy. The Presbyteral Council, College of Consulters, Pastoral Council and Finance Council are those which are most important. I am glad to announce to you the recent formation of the Eparchial College of Consulters. The others will be constituted in the near future.

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

During our trials and temptations for survival, as migrant people, let us not forget the consoling words that the "Lord is my Shepherd". Even when you are in a foreign land, confronted with an alien Culture and many difficult situations, your keen interest to live in intimate communion with your Mother Church is highly praiseworthy. I really appreciate those lay faithful, men and women, especially Trustees, Parish Council members, Catechism teachers and others who laboured hard to nurture our communities (small or large) even before the arrival of priests.

Remember that our families and children are God's precious gift, and taking the Holy Family of Nazareth as the model, let us bring up our families abounding with God's Love and family prayer. Let us also acknowledge the benefit of Family Prayer Units (Kudumba Kootayma) and with enthusiasm participate in them, to foster among families mutual encouragement in faith formation and witnessing of faith. Twenty - Twenty five families per unit would be an ideal size for a Family Prayer Unit.

Youth is our future. Youth ministry will be one of the priorities in the Eparchy.

I would like to specially remember with gratitude all the priests who had worked hard to provide pastoral care to our communities before the formation of our Eparchy. There are religious and diocesan



priests among them. Let me thank their Superiors and Bishops who allowed them to provide pastoral ministry to our communities and request from them their continued assistance in the future.

It is also our duty to form a Presbyterium of the priests, incardinated to our Eparchy. I would like to encourage you all, families, parents, and youth to promote vocations within our own communities. As you know, priestly formation will take many years. This year we have already selected 12 candidates for our Eparchy from the dioceses of Kerala, who are now undergoing formation in their respective minor seminaries. They need our prayers and financial help. I request you to come forward to sponsor these candidates for priesthood.

On July 3rd - Dukrana of Saint Thomas the Apostle, we celebrate Sabhadinam, the common Feast day of the Syro-Malabar Church. I would encourage you to celebrate this Feast day with due solemnity in our communities. Please pray for our Church especially on this Feast day.

Let us thank God for the recent announcement of the Holy Father regarding the canonisation of Chavara Kuriakose Elias and Euphrasia, the Blesseds from our Church. On 23rd November, the Feast of Christ the King, they will be declared saints during a solemn liturgical ceremony in Rome. I would like to request all the communities to celebrate this day in a special way.

Please remember our Eparchy and me in your prayers.

Wishing you all the greetings of Dukrana Thirunal!

Your Loving Father in Jesus,

**+ Bosco Puthur**

*Bishop of the Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle of Melbourne of the Syro-Malabar*

*Given from the Eparchial Curia, Mickleham, Melbourne, on 13 June 2014.*

*N.B: This pastoral letter is to be read out during the Holy Qurbana on 6th July, the Sunday or any Sunday*







# CARDINAL PASTORAL LETTER SABHADINAM 2014

*GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Men and Women Religious and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church, May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!*

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

On the third of July, we celebrate the memory of St. Thomas, the Apostle of India, which is popularly known as "Dukarana". It is also on the third of July that the feast of St. Thomas is celebrated in the Universal Church. All those who have descended from the Christian communities belonging to the seven churches established by St. Thomas are known as Thomas Christians. They now belong to the Syro-Malabar, Syro-Malankara, Malankara Orthodox, Jacobite Orthodox and Mar Thoma Churches. All those have embraced the Christian faith through the missionary efforts of these churches are also known as St. Thomas Christians. The present Christian community of India consists of these St. Thomas Christians, the Latin Catholics who received the faith through the missionary work of St. Francis Xavier and other missionaries, foreign and native and members of the Protestant denominations. It is in the midst of the diversity of these Christian denominations and also in the midst of the country's own diversity based on

religion, caste and culture that we have to witness as well as to proclaim Christ today.

Christ is the one who proclaimed that "I am the Way, the Truth and the life" and led humanity to that Way, the Truth and the Life. Those who believed in Christ called it "the Christian Way". When St. Thomas brought this Way to India, our forefathers called it "The Thomas Way." This way of Thomas has now become the life style of Christian communities.

St. Thomas Christians grew in strength through their families and family unions. Many of the histories of the families published recently attest to this fact. The importance of family life is seen in the fact that it has been selected for a deep reflection by the Church. What John Paul II did immediately after his election as the Pope was that he convoked a Synod on family life. Based on the recommendations of the Synod, he issued an Apostolic Exhortation called "Familiaris Consortio". The ministry for family life in India is being carried out according to its directions. More than in any other state of India, the apostolate for family life, I am happy to say, is very active in Kerala. Later, a call for New Evangelization was made by Benedict XVI. Pope Francis has combined both the New Evangelization and the Family in the topics that he has assigned for the next Synods. More precisely, the topic for the Synod's consideration is "The Challenges faced by families in the context of New Evangelization." He is planning to use the decisions and deliberations that would

be made at the next two Synods which will be taking place in Oct. 2014 and Oct. 2015 for the renewal of family life. We have to pray for the success of these two Synods. Moreover, special discussions and renewal programs have to be organized in our dioceses and foreign missions and in the whole Church. In this effort, it would be very beneficial if those who are engaged in the apostolate of family evangelization and faith formation work together. All the apostolates in a diocese should act in unison for the renewal of family life. At a recently held conference of the office bearers of different lay organizations and their directors at Mt. St. Thomas, the need for working together in a unified manner was expressed very strongly. It would be very helpful if we can strengthen the activities of AKCC which was started with the intention of bringing together all the lay faithful of our Church. More activities will be organized by the Commission for the Laity and the Families with the approval of the Synod.

Faith formation that is being done in our Church is drawing a lot of favorable attention. The success of our Christian witness is dependent on the fruitfulness of our faith formation. It is through our Faith Formation programs in Mission League, CLC and among Altar Boys that vocations are being nurtured in our Church. It is with great joy that I extend my greetings to all the priests, sisters, faith formators and lay evangelists who are working hard in these areas of ministry.



It is incumbent on the part of the faithful not to indulge in destructive activities like alcoholism, murder, drug trafficking, extortion of the poor through excessive interest rates, broken agreements, inordinate and wasteful expenditures for luxurious ways of living etc. Parents and teachers have to pay special attention to the abuse of internet usage and

internet addiction. Those who are engaged in family apostolates and faith formation have to work together to organize seminars and discussion groups not only to prevent abuse in the cyber world but also to show the potentialities of using it for evangelization. Parents should pay more attention when the children are sent on vacation trips as some of these trips have become death traps where through traffic accidents or drowning many have lost their lives.

There are more than forty lakhs of Syro-Malabar Catholics out of which seven lakhs are expatriates in different countries, apart from those who belong to the dioceses of Chicago and Melbourne. The Church has to organize suitable pastoral set-ups for their spiritual development. All the faithful are hereby requested to pray for the setting up of suitable structures for their pastoral care.

A new government is in charge at the Centre after the recent elections. All the faithful have, of course, to cooperate with the different governments that come at the Centre as well as at the State level at different times. The programmes that the Centre is envisaging for the development of the country should be beneficial to the poor also. The new Central Government will, we hope, pay more attention to the working class, farmers, traders, fisher folks and others who are engaged in similar professions. Along with the preservation of the environment, the interests of those farmers in the Western Ghats and of the fisher folks in the coastal areas of the State have to be given special attention. Along with these, secularism, democracy, equality, protection of the minorities which are the basic pillars of our Constitution are to be protected. They are necessary for the preservation of the unity and progress of India which is very diverse on account of caste, religion and language.

The Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church has decided to celebrate the Dukarna Day as a Day of the Church. There will be a solemn celebration of this Day at Mount St. Thomas on July 3rd with participants coming from all dioceses and religious congregations. I urge all our dioceses, parishes and expatriate communities to celebrate this Day with Eucharistic celebrations, meetings and cultural

programs. I also exhort you to make your contributions on this Day for the common needs of the Church.

It would be appropriate to remember the special blessings given to the Church in these days. The process of canonization of Bl. Chavara and Bl. Euphrasia is almost complete. We have a new diocese in Australia and got an Apostolic Visitor to guide the pastoral activities of our communities settled outside Kerala. We shall thank the Lord for all His blessings.

wish all the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church as well as those who are listening to this pastoral Letter all the blessings of the Lord.

Lovingly in Christ Jesus,  
**George Cardinal Alencherry**  
Major Archbishop of the  
Syro-Malabar Church

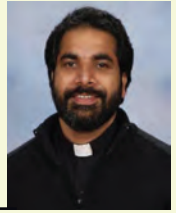
*Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St Thomas, Kakkannad, on 4 June 2014.*

*N.B: This pastoral letter is to be read out during the Holy Mass on 29 June, the Sunday previous to July 3, or any other convenient day in the month of July, in all churches and chapels of the Syro-Malabar Church where there is Sunday Mass for the public.*





## BLESSED KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA: A journey through the life of a Saint of our own



Fr James T Antony CMI

St Kuriakose Elias Chavara was a man of action throughout his life and the ultimate source of his power was prayer. In him we find a perfect integration of a Jnana Yogi, Karma Yogi, and a Bhakti Yogi making him a holy person to inspire and motivate people. St Chavara, a multifaceted person who travelled to himself to know God living in him, and to others to rediscover God through his action of love and charity. Thus prayer and action forms St Chavara's key charisms.

### Life at a glance:

St. Chavara was born in Kainakary, in the District of Alleppey, in the Kerala State of India on 10 February 1805, to Kuriakose and Mary, pious and devout catholic parents of the Syro Malabar Church. After early schooling in his native village Kuriakose joined the seminary for priestly formation and was ordained a priest on 29 November 1829 by Maurelius Stabilini, Vicar apostolic of Verapoly Diocese. The deep desire for religious life, which he had from the beginning of his priestly studies, had its realization in 1855. He was called to his eternal reward on 3 January 1871 and was buried at St. Philomina's Ashram, Koonammavu from where his mortal remains were transferred to St. Joseph Monastery Mannanam in 1889.

### Spiritual icon of yesterday, today and tomorrow:

St. Chavara's spirituality was based on the triple roots of Carmelite, Oriental and Indian Traditions. His motto was to live for the sanctification of others as well as self-sanctification. As a man of prayer he

always sought and discerned the Will of God. His profound relationship with God enabled him to address God as "My dear Father."

The fact that at the time of his religious profession he took the name Kuriakose Elias of the Holy Family shows that he had a special devotion to the Holy Family. His devotion to the Holy Family is a great example he has left for each one of us.

The foundation of his spirituality was his unwavering devotion to the Holy Eucharist. He spent hours before the Eucharistic Lord in prayer and contemplation. He introduced and spread the 40 hours adoration in Kerala for the first time. He strongly believed that our action should flow from the power of our prayer. He also introduced retreat preaching for the laity in all parishes, the Way of the Cross, the Rosary, codification of the canonical prayers of Priests, and a systematic Seminary formation for future Priests.

### Visionary par excellence:

He considered education as an important factor for social reformation and uplift of the downtrodden, marginalised and less privileged. Breaking social barriers of cast discrimination he started the first catholic Sanskrit school in 1946 at Mannanam where all, irrespective of cast, creed and colour could sit together and study. Thus he could declare together with St Paul, we are one in Christ, part of His mystical body. He started a charitable institute and home for the aged, sick and destitute. He founded a lay association called the "Confraternity of St. Joseph for a Happy Death" for taking care of the sick and the aged and preparing them for a happy

death.

As a great visionary St. Chavara's contribution includes the foundation of two Religious congregations: the congregation for men, founded in 1831, now known as Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI) through which around 3000 members, spread out in 27 countries, continue the noble mission and charism of St Chavara, in the fields of education, pastoral care, health care, social work etc. The congregation for women founded on 13 February 1866, Third Order of Carmelites Discalced (TOCD), later developed into two distinct congregations; one for the Latin Church (CTC) and another for the Oriental, now known as Sisters of the Congregation of Mount Carmel (CMC). The CMC congregation has now nearly 7000 members working in various parts of the world continuing the mission and Charism of St. Chavara.

From 1861, as the vicar general, St Chavara admirably guided the Kerala Syrian Catholic Church. During this period he rooted out the Roccas schism, which infested the church, and won the acclaim of Pope Pius IX.

Being convinced of the importance of education for social enrichment, he introduced the concept of "Pallikoodam" i.e. a school attached to a church. Thus, the Kerala society and the Indian Society at large should be indebted to St. Chavara for the vast majority of educational institutions - starting with kindergarten and reaching up to medical colleges and universities, especially in Kerala - which impart quality education and value based formation.





### A legacy to be followed:

St Kuriakose Elias Chavara established himself as a person beyond a spiritual leader and invites each one of us to a greater unity far beyond the walls of a church. That his actions spoke louder than his words is truly manifested in the initiatives of this great saint at a time when no one dared to challenge the existing injustice and inequality. Apart from being a spiritual visionary and social reformer, he is also a great leader who made lasting contributions in the fields of literary education and social and cultural apostolate. St Chavara, as a poet and writer has made valuable contributions with number of books in prose, as well as in verse, with unique spiritual vision. His

counsel to the Christian families given in the form of the 'Testament of a Loving Father' is applicable and relevant to this generation and those to follow.

Recognizing the personal sanctity of St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the Holy Father Pope John Paul II beatified him in 1986. Pope Francis has declared 23 November as Chavara's canonisation day along with five other heroic sons and daughters of the church including Bl. Euphrasia of the CMC congregation, of which St Chavara is the founder. The Government of India also acknowledged his great services towards social reformation and released a commemorative postal stamp in 1987.



### PRAYER TO BLESSED KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA

St. Kuriakose Elias, we your Children bow before you, who art chosen by God to give new life to the church in Kerala. God was pleased with you, for like St. Paul who fully cooperated to the will of God, lived a life from which the Grace of God was never lost in the least. Because God Has adorned your soul with lovely virtues and glorified you in heaven and made you perform august deeds for the glory of God and for the salvation of souls, we offer in union with you, praise and worship to God. Loving Father, like the fiery prophet St. Elias who burned with zeal for God, you devoted all your life to the salvation of souls, now, in imitation of your life, obtain for us the Grace of God to live our lives pleasing in God's sight and with it now grant us the blessings we beseech..... through your intercession. Amen.



## Love the least, last and lost: Interview with JUSTICE KURIAN JOSEPH.

"I am a life member of Cherupushpa Mission League (CML). I have been serving the Altar since I am seven years old. I was an active member and leader of Holy Childhood, CML and Marian Sodality. Church organizations have made a great impact in my personality, profession and leadership," says Honourable Justice Kurien Joseph. He is currently Supreme Court Justice, the second one to hold the position from Kerala. Previously, he was Chief Justice of Himachal for 3 years, Kerala High Court Acting Chief Justice twice and justice for 10 years.

He reckons that his character was formed and achievements he gained were only because of his involvement in Church organizations through which he learned to trust God and love others. He was the first National President of CML serving for 8 years first Vice-President of Catholic Council and Ex-officio member of Kerala Catholic Bible Society. He was the only lay person attended from Kerala as a member of Pontifical Council of Laity in Rome. He also participated the Global Synod of Syro-Malabar Church and Asian Bishops' Synod in Rome. Moreover he is a well-known humanist, heavily involved in Akasapparavakal (homes for destitute) and other charity services in India. Homeless and street people were his special invited guests for the wedding receptions of all his three children, sticking to the words of Jesus.

While he visited his daughter and family in Melbourne I had the privilege to talk to him. Here are some of his inspiring thoughts to children growing in multi-cultural environment.

### Who motivated you?

"My Mother and Father had a great influence in me to love the Church and involve in its organizations. I must have prayed a million times the first little prayer my mother taught me, Ente Ammeenteaasrayame (My Holy Mother my refuge). When I was a little child I used to go to Holy Mass with my elder sisters who became nuns later. They inspired me a lot."

### How did they shape your life?

"My character was formed through the Church and its Organizations. When I placed God at the first place He placed me at the first. Trusting in God and with His wisdom I could solve over 3000 difficult family cases while I was at Kerala High Court. I could always be honest in my verdicts and decisions. I am bluntly honest. I stand for justice."

### A message for young people...

"Do not worry about spending any amount of time for the service of God and Church. Investing your time and energy in CML, Holy Childhood or any Church services is not a loss. You will gain hundred-fold. Do it for the glory of God. Don't be scared to respond to vocation to priesthood or religious life. You won't lose freedom, in fact God makes you free and joyful."

"Value human relationships; the one who loves his fellow beings can only love God. 'Love the least, last and lost' has been my priority. It gives complaisance and contentment in my life."

He concluded with a message to all the parents, "Train your child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Fr Varghese Vavolil, Canberra



# Cardinal Duraisamy Simon Lourdusamy

## his life and death

Lourdusamy was born in Kalleri, (Archdiocese of Pondicherry), India as the seventh of twelve children, of Annamarie and Duraisamy Simeon. Cardinal Lourdusamy was the elder brother of priest and theologian D. S. Amalorpavadass. The two of them played a significant part in the implementation of Vatican II Council reforms in India, and leading others to do the same.

After his school education, he entered St. Agnes's Minor Seminary in Cuddalore, and completed major seminary education in Philosophy and Theology at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore from 1946 to 1951.

He was ordained to the priesthood on 21 December 1951 at Seven Dolours Church, Tindivanam, Pondicherry. After studying further at Loyola College in Madras (1952–1953), he was sent to Rome to pursue higher studies in the area of Canon Law at the Pontifical Urbaniana University (1953–1956), from where he obtained a doctorate. He plays piano, and has composed the music for devotional songs.

On returning to the Archdiocese of Pondicherry and Cuddalore, Fr. Lourdusamy served as Archdiocesan Chancellor and private secretary to Archbishop Ambrose Rayappan, as editor of the archdiocesan weekly "Sarva viyabhi" and was choirmaster at the Cathedral in Pondicherry, Director of the Catholic Doctors' Guild, Director of the Catholic Nurses' Guild, Director of the Newman Association, and Director of the Catholic University Students

Union.

Pope John XXIII appointed Fr. Lourdusamy Auxiliary Bishop of Bangalore and Titular Bishop of Sozusa in Libya on 2 July 1962. He was consecrated as a bishop on the following 22 August by Archbishop Ambrose Rayappan.

On 9 November 1964, he was promoted to titular archbishop of Filippi, and appointed the Coadjutor Archbishop of Bangalore. He succeeded Thomas Pothacamury as Archbishop on 11 January 1968.

As Archbishop of Bangalore, he served as Chairman of the National Liturgical commission of India, founded the National Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical Centre in Bangalore.

Pope Paul VI appointed him as Secretary adjunct of the S.C. for the Evangelization of Peoples, 2 March 1971. He resigned as Archbishop of Bangalore on 30 April 1971 and left India to serve in the Curial Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in March 1971, Secretary of the S.C. for the Evangelization of Peoples, president of the Pontifical Missionary

Work and Vice-Grand chancellor of the Pontifical Urbanian University, 26 February 1973. He is the first Asian to become a member of the Roman Curia.

Pope John Paul II created Lourdusamy Cardinal-Deacon of Santa Maria delle Grazie alle Fornaci fuori Porta Cavalleggeri in the consistory of 25 May 1985; he is the first Tamil to be raised to the rank of cardinal. Cardinal Lourdusamy was named Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches on the following 30 October, and resigned the post on 24 May 1991.

He was sent as special papal envoy to the closing ceremonies of the Year of St. Willibrord, Luxemburg, 3 to 5 June 1990. He became Cardinal Protodeacon (the senior Cardinal-Deacon) on 5 April 1993, and served as a special papal legate to the funeral of Mother Teresa on 13 September 1997. On 5 April 1993 was appointed protodeacon. He chose to become a Cardinal-Priest on 29 January 1996 thereby relinquishing protodeacon post.

Cardinal Lourdusamy accompanied John Paul II on his Apostolic travels to Africa,

Asia, Oceania, and The Americas. He has also visited 110 countries on all continents in the service of Popes John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul I, and John Paul II, and received numerous distinctions in appreciation of his work and has been honoured by the Governments of Philippines, Republic of China - Taiwan (The Order of the Brilliant Star, First Class - November 13, 1983), France (Commander of the Legion d'Honneur - December 29, 1976), and Germany (Das Grosse Verdienstkreuz







mit Stern - October 10, 1977), Liberia (Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of Africa - November 3, 1977), Luxembourg (The "Grand-Croix de l'Ordre Grand-Ducal de la Couronne de Chêne - June 29, 1988). He was also awarded a doctorate of laws - "Honoris Causa" (February 5, 1979) by Adamson University, Manila, Philippines and a doctorate of letters - "Honoris Causa" (May 25, 1989) by Pondicherry University, India. Cardinal Lourdasamy was fluent in several languages including Tamil, English, Italian, French, German, Latin, Kannada, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and Swedish.

Pope John Paul II appointed Cardinal Lourdasamy a member of the following Departments of the Roman Curia for the Universal Church to benefit from his contributions: Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Congregation for Catholic Education, Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Pontifical Council for the Family, Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, Pontifical Council for Interpretation of Legislative Texts, Pontifical Commission for International Eucharistic Congresses,

Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of the Oriental Canon Law, Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law, Pontifical Commission for Latin America, Pontifical Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, The Commission of Cardinals and Bishops set up by the Pope to prepare a Catechism for the Church Universal, The Commission for the Study of the Theological and Juridical Status of the Bishops' Conferences, The Permanent Interdicastrial Commission for the Formation of the Candidates to the Sacred Orders.

Lourdasamy died in Rome on 2 June 2014. A funeral Mass was celebrated for the Cardinal on Thursday, June 5, 2014, with Angelo Cardinal Sodano, Dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals, presiding. At the end of the service, Pope Francis led the Rites of Final Commendation and Valediction. His mortal remains were brought back to Pondicherry, India on June 6, 2014 and on June 9, 2014, after a mass of repose his remains were entombed at St. Joseph's Alter inside Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Pondicherry.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace!





# FROM THE TOP END

## Darwin and Alice Springs, NT

### ST ALPHONSA SYRO MALABAR COMMUNITY, DARWIN.

Following the example of St Thomas in faith and St Alphonsa, Patron of our community, the Syro- Malabar Church created its own role in the Diocese of Darwin. It is a growing community, although a few families have moved from Darwin to other parts of Australia. The whole community gathers for the Eucharist and other spiritual activities.

### Inauguration of the new Diocese and installation of Bishop Bosco

The Syro-Malabar community welcomed joyfully the announcement of the New Syro-Malabar Diocese in Australia. Chaplain, Fr Binesh Narimattathil and other representatives attended the inaugural ceremony of our new Diocese and the installation of Bishop Bosco Puthur as our first Bishop. It was an enriching experience for all those who participated, and we are looking forward to the visit of our new Shepherd.

### Holy Week

We had a wonderful Holy Week celebration in our traditional way. Celebrations like the procession with the Kuruthola (coconut Leaves) on Palm Sunday, washing of the feet, Appam Murickal Susrusa on Holy Thursday, Good Friday celebrations and Easter, with the empty tomb, helped children to know about our traditional way of celebration and made others feel like we are still in Kerala. There was great support and participation from the faithful.

### Community Feast and First Anniversary of St Alphonsa Sunday school

The celebration of our community feast and first anniversary of our Sunday school was an exciting time. We started our celebration on Saturday with flag hoisting and finished on Sunday with an auction. Bishop Eugene Harley, the Bishop of Darwin and Fr Malcolm Fyfe, Vicar General and Chancellor for Pastoral life, Darwin were our main guests. Solemn Eucharistic Celebrations and the procession with "chenda melam" were especially memorable. Bishop Eugene inaugurated the annual day celebration. It was very colourful, with a variety of programs presented by our catechism students, youth and parents. Thanks to the Diocese of Darwin and Fr Roy O'Neill for giving us such a wonderful opportunity and all the facilities.

### Syro Malabar Community in Alice Springs

Fr Binesh made his visit to Alice Springs from Darwin and spent nearly a week to meet the spiritual needs of our community. The Syro-Malabar Mass was moved from Thursday to Sunday, So Fr Binesh could attend the unit prayers and Sunday catechism.





We tried to celebrate holy week in our traditional way. On Good Friday, there was the 'Way of the Cross' in Malayalam and on Easter day Fr Binesh came from Darwin and celebrated Syro-Malabar Mass for us.

Now we are preparing to welcome our first Bishop, Bishop Bosco Puthur, to Alice Springs for our community feast.. We cordially invite you all for

the celebrations and reception for Bishop Bosco, on 6 July. There are also small Syro-Malabar communities in Tenant Creek (1000 km from Darwin) and Katharine. Occasionally Fr Binesh visits Tenant Creek and stays with the communities for a day in order to meet their spiritual needs. They celebrate the feast of St Thomas on 3 July with Syro-Malabar Mass and Dinner together. Fr Joseph Pullanap-

illy CMI, the parish priest of Katharine, looks after the Syro-Malabar community in Katharine.

Please accept my sincere thanks to all, for your continued prayers and support.

Happy Feast to all

For Syro-Malabar community in Darwin

**Fr Binesh Narimattathil CST**







# സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയ്ക്ക് മെൽബണിൽ ഒരു സന്തോഷവാർത്ത കൂടി

“നിങ്ങൾ ലോകമെങ്ങും പോയി എന്റെ സുവിശേഷം അറിയിക്കുവിൻ” എന്ന ഈശോമിശിഹായുടെ ആഹ്വാനം അതേപടി പൂർത്തിയാക്കി തോമാശ്ലീഹാ ക്രിസ്തുവർഷം 52-ാം ആിൽ ഭാരതത്തിൽ വന്നു. അന്നുമുതൽ ഭാരതത്തിൽ വളർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സമൂഹമാണ് സീറോ-മലബാർ സഭ. അടുത്ത കാലത്തായി ലോകമെങ്ങും നമ്മുടെ സഭാ സമൂഹം വളർന്ന് സർവ്വശക്തനായ ദൈവത്തെ മഹത്വപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. നാം നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ ചൈതന്യത്തിൽ ജീവിക്കുമ്പോൾ എവിടെ ആയിരിക്കുന്നുവോ അവിടെ ഈശോയുടെ സുവിശേഷം പ്രഘോഷിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്.

ഈ ഓസ്ട്രേലിയൻ മണ്ണിൽ സീറോ-മലബാർ സഭാ മക്കൾക്ക് ഒരു ദേവാലയം പണിയുക എന്നത് ആദ്യകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു സ്വപ്നമായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ സ്വപ്നം യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാക്കുവാൻ എല്ലാവരും അത്യധികം പരിശ്രമിച്ചു. അതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ഇപ്പോൾ ഇതാ മെൽബണിലെ തെക്ക്-കിഴക്കൻ മേഖലയിൽ സെന്റ് തോമസ് സീറോ-മലബാർ സമൂഹത്തിന് ദേവാലയം പണിയുവാൻ 31 എൽംസ് റോഡ്, ബാങ്ക്ഹോമിൽ (ഡാൻഡിനോങ്ങിന് തെക്ക്) അഞ്ച് ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം 2014 മെയ് 15 ന് വാങ്ങി എന്ന സന്തോഷവാർത്ത ഏവരും ഇതിനകം അറിഞ്ഞുകാണുമല്ലോ. പുറമേ നിന്നും കടം എടുക്കാതെ ഈ സ്ഥലം വാങ്ങുവാൻ സാധിച്ചതിൽ ഇടവകസമൂഹം ഏറെ സന്തുഷ്ടരാണ്. ഇതിന് നേതൃത്വം വഹിച്ച ഭാരവാഹികളെയും, പീറ്റർ കാവുറും അച്ചനേയും നന്ദിയോടെ അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നു.

താമസ്സിയാതെ ഇവിടെ ഒരു പള്ളിയും, പള്ളിമുറിയും ഒപ്പം കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റി ഹാളും പണിയുക എന്നതാണ് ആദ്യപടി. ഇതിനായി ഇടവകസമൂഹം ഒന്നടങ്കം അഭിവന്ദ്യ ബോസ്കോ പുത്തൂർ പിതാവിന്റെയും വികാരി ജനറൽ ഫ്രാൻസിസ് കോലഞ്ചേരി അച്ചന്റെയും നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ആരംഭിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഓസ്ട്രേലിയയിലെ സീറോ-മലബാർ മക്കൾക്ക് ഒന്നടങ്കം കർത്താവിൽ അഭിമാനിക്കാവുന്ന ഒരു പ്രധാന കാര്യമാണിത്. ദേവാലയം പണിയുക എന്ന ഈ ഉദ്യമത്തിന് ഏവരുടേയും പ്രാർത്ഥനാസഹായം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം

ജോജി ലൂക്കോസ്

ട്രസ്റ്റി, സൗത്ത് - ഈസ്റ്റ് മെൽബൺ



## BLESSED EUPHRASIA OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The life of Blessed Euphrasia was one of actions and desires fulfilled through a supreme trust in, and love of, the Lord. On 1 January 1902 she wrote, "He has called this worthless nothing into this fortunate state of life, warding off all chances of my falling into bad ways, not merely to lead a good life but to live a most virtuous life so as to become a saint" (Letter 17, p. 103). She wrote the letter when just 25 years old, in her second year in the newly established St. Mary's Convent, Ollur, Thrissur, in Kerala.

The daughter of Anthony and Kunjethy of Eluvathingal Cherpukaran, Rose Eluvathingal was born on 17 October 1877 in the village of Kattoor, in the Diocese of Trichur, India. Her mother's deep piety and great devotion to the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, had a strong influence on Rose from childhood. The stories that her mother told her, especially about St Rose of Lima, developed in her a strong desire to practice the Christian virtues, to suffer for Jesus and to be holy, but in a quiet, hidden manner.

During her formative years, interest in earthly possessions and pleasures gave way to a growing interest in prayer and spiritual matters. Such was her faith, that at the age of nine, the Virgin Mary appeared to her and requested that she become a nun. Th

is did not please her father, who wanted Rose to marry into a rich family. Nevertheless, her intense prayer life, which included the rosary, fasting and abstinence, as well as the rather sudden death of her younger sister, softened her father's heart and he gave his permission for her to enter the convent. In fact, he was the one who accompanied her to the convent of the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel at Koonammavu, the first indigenous congregation of Syro-Malabars. Despite her desire to be a Religious, Rose was often afflicted with various illnesses, which caused her extreme suffering. Once, during a particularly painful attack, the Sisters were resolved to send her away forever, but through an apparition of the Holy Family, she received a miraculous healing that convinced them to allow her to fulfil her vocation.

On 10 May 1897, Rose became a postulant and took the name Sr Euphrasia of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and on 10 January 1898, she received the holy habit of Carmel. She practised the virtues of humility, charity and renunciation and grew in holiness with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Intense spiritual joys compensated for any periods of grave illness and trials by the powers of darkness. On 24 May 1900, St Mary's Convent was founded in the current Archdiocese of Trichur, and on that day, Sr Euphrasia made her perpetual vows to God. It was a day of unimaginable joy for her, since now she belonged forever to her Heavenly Spouse.

From 1904 to 1913, Sr Euphrasia was entrusted with the duty of novice mistress and, sustained by the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit, she formed the future members of her Congregation. As their Mother Mistress, she imbued the

heroic virtues of humility, poverty, penance, obedience and total abandonment to God's will.

Although Sr Euphrasia desired a hidden life, she was chosen as Superior of the Convent of St Mary at Ollur. She accepted the post with great reluctance, and only after the insistence of the Bishop. Following an interior inspiration, she acquired a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, placed it in the centre of the convent and entrusted the duty of Mother Superior to his Sacred Heart. She held the post from 1913 to 1916.

For nearly 48 years, the convent of St Mary was home to Mother Euphrasia. Inspired by her life of prayer and holiness, the local people called her "Praying Mother", and her Sisters in community referred to her as the "Mobile Tabernacle", because the divine presence she kept within her radiated to everyone she met.

From the first years of her Religious life, Mother Euphrasia had the blessing of the spiritual guidance of Bishop John Menacherry. He ordered her to reveal to him every aspect of her spiritual life, and he wisely kept all of her letters.

Mother Euphrasia spent much of her day in the convent chapel in Eucharistic adoration and she encouraged a great love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary; as a result, she was naturally an apostle of the Eucharist and of the Rosary. She dedicated her life to love, and was continually consoled by the Crucified Lord. Without reservation, she accepted suffering, misunderstandings and rejection for the love of Christ. Her strength came from Jesus, who had become her betrothed in spiritual matrimony as her letters testify. Thus, with a



pure heart Mother Euphrasia gave her maternal love and tenderness to those who sought her help. She gave them the comforting words of Jesus' Gospel and interceded for them. For each little kindness bestowed upon her she would reply, "I will not forget it, not even after death".

Mother Euphrasia also had a profound sense of Church and she personally felt the sorrows and problems of the Church of her day. She offered her trials and penances for the conversion of schismatics and asked the novices and children to pray for them. She prayed fervently before the Blessed Sacrament

for the Holy Father, for Bishops, priests and Religious. One day, at the age of 75, Mother Euphrasia was in the chapel and suddenly fell ill with exhaustion. Her tongue paralyzed, yet with great fervour, she received the last sacraments. The news of her sickness spread like wild fire. Sisters and people came in large numbers to pay their respects to this holy nun and receive her blessing. As she had prophesied, for three days she lay in bed, her fingers moving the Rosary beads and her hands blessing the people.

Mother Euphrasia offered her life in sacrifice for love of God. She abandoned

herself to his will and finally joined him in the heavenly embrace with her holy death on 29 August 1952.

Pope John Paul II approved the Decree of the heroic virtues of the Servant of God in 2002, proclaiming her Venerable. On Sunday, 3 December 2006, she became the fifth Blessed of Kerala, India, and the sixth of the Nation of India. During a consistory on 12 June 2014, Pope Francis announced the canonisation of Blessed Euphrasia on 23 November 2014, the feast of Christ the King. Let us, here on earth and with all the faithful in heaven, look forward to that joyful day in prayer and thanksgiving.



## Letter from a Melbourne Seminarian

Irinjalakuda

09-06-2014

Respected His Excellency Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur,

I am Bro. Agnal Chekkadan, who has been selected by Bishop Mar Pauly Kannookadan for the Diocese of Melbourne. I belong to West Chalakudy Parish, which is a part of Chalakudy Forane. I'm undergoing formation in St. Pauls Minor Seminary, Irinjalakkuda. My family consists of six members – my father Mr. Baby, he is self-employed, my mother Mrs. Johncy P.I., working as principal in a Govt. School. Then, I have three siblings, two sisters and one brother.

I joined the seminary on May 6th. On that day, His Excellency Bishop Mar Pauly Kannookadan, with prayers and blessings, he had admitted me to the Minor Seminary. It was one of the happiest moments of my life. Like wise I started my seminary life with pleasure, under our Fr. Rector, Rev. Fr. Varghese Palathinkal, who guides me, supports me and nurtures my vocation. Rev. Fr. Raphael Moolan, our Spiritual Director enlightens me with spiritual thoughts. Rev. Fr. Arun Thekkineith, our vice rector plays an excellent role in our formation period. And all the above, presence of Bishop Mar James Pazhayattil is a real gift for us.

Even though I felt some difficulties first, with God's grace the opening days was ok for me, and I started to be in the track of seminary life. We got many orientation, spiritual and well as formation classes by great orators and speakers through that, I came to know many things about priesthood, challenges to priesthood and all that things, which I felt very useful for my formation. Totally I'm happy to be here in the seminary.

Please allow me to conclude my letter. And a special request, my Lord, always remember me in your prayers. If possible convey my regards to all the priests, brothers and to all the parishioners of Melbourne. I do pray for your Excellency and the new diocese.

Yours sincerely in Jesus,  
**Bro. Agnal Chakkedan**





## Catechism Department

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). Proclamation and teaching of the Gospel have been the most important priority of the Apostolic Church, ever since it was established. Catechism is 'an indispensable service... Catechists are "praiseworthy army" of lay apostles' (Guide for Catechists No 1).

Bishop Bosco Puthur, in his first Pastoral letter, has emphasised the importance of Catechesis in every community in Australia. It is a great strength that in almost every community we have Catechism classes at least once a month. Thank you Fathers, teachers and parents for your wonderful and generous service in this regard. I do not need to stress that the faith-formation of our children is so vital, especially living in a multi-cultural society. At the initial stage, we are collecting a database of the students and teachers and their curriculum, to get a better picture. We, as a Diocese, would like to have a coordination of the faith-formation from next academic year, 2015. We hope to have a two-day seminar for the priests, HMs, Secretaries and Coordinators from all communities around the Diocese in November this year. This might provide our Diocese with a vision and plan.

We listen to the words of Jesus, "let the little children come to me, do not stop them" (Matthew 19:14). In a world that tries to stop children going to Jesus, we try to make available every opportunity for the children to encounter their Master and Saviour. We pray to the Holy Spirit to lead us. We seek the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of our Diocese.

You are most welcome to write to me; [eparchy.catechism@gmail.com](mailto:eparchy.catechism@gmail.com)

**Fr Varghese Vavolil**

Director of Catechism,  
Eparchy of St Thomas, Australia.



## 1st Parish day celebration and Mother Mary's Feast Penrith Marian Community, NSW

Penrith Marian community celebrated their 1st Parish day and Mother Mary's Feast on 31st May 2014 at St. Nicholas of Myra church, Penrith. Penrith Marian Community comprises of around 60 catholic families in and around Penrith who are the part and parcel of the Syro Malabar rite in Australia.

The celebration was part of the conclusion of 'Vanakkamasam' prayer which the community had organized in different homes for 30 days in the month of May. The celebrations started with Rosary and 'Vanakkamasam' prayer at 11:30 am and followed by celebration of Malayalam Holy Mass by Fr. Mathew Antony, Fr. Jose Manjali and Fr. Joby Kadambattuparambil. After the mass the community members actively participated in a holy procession carrying a well decorated statue of Mother Mary, flags and colourful umbrellas. The procession was followed by delicious community lunch and family fun activities in the school ground. There were a variety of fun activities such as tug of war, filling the bottle etc. etc. for children, women and men separately. Prizes were distributed by Fr. Mathew Antony for the winners and all the participants. The Parish Day Celebration concluded by 4 pm with priest's blessing and word of thanks.

**Sijo Sebastian**  
Secretary



## BISHOP BOSCO'S PROGRAM DIARY: July – August 2014

### JULY 2014

#### July 3rd Thursday

Episcopal Ordination of Bishop elect  
Msgr. Columba Macbeth-Green  
Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese at Parkes, NSW

#### July 4th Friday -6th Sunday

Feast of St. Thomas, Alice Springs

#### July 7th Monday

Melbourne Priests' Gathering, Mickleham

#### July 11th Friday

Feast of St. Thomas and St. Alphonsa Townsville, QLD

#### July 12th Saturday, 16th Tuesday

Feast celebrations and community visits, Adelaide

#### July 19th Saturday:

One day convention inauguration  
Campbelltown / Ruse, NSW

#### July 20th Sunday

Feast celebrations, Campbell town, NSW

#### July 24th & 25th Thursday & Friday

Feast celebrations & visiting communities  
Newcastle, NSW

#### July 27th Sunday

St. Alphonsa Feast, Craigieburn, Melbourne

#### July 30th Wednesday

Marriage Preparation Course in Melbourne

### AUGUST 2014

#### August 1st Friday

Holy Mass at Ipswich, Brisbane

#### August 2nd Saturday

First Holy Communion at St Thomas community  
South Brisbane

#### August 3rd Sunday

St Alphonsa Feast, North Brisbane

#### August 4th Monday

Holy Mass with Confirmation, Sunshine Coast

#### August 10th Sunday

Feast at Wollongong, NSW

#### August 11th Monday

Traveling to India

#### August 18th - 30th

Syro-Malabar Synod of Bishops, Kerala

## POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS



### ON FAITH

Faith is not a private matter, a completely individualistic notion or a personal opinion: it comes from hearing, and it is meant to find expression in words and to be proclaimed. For 'how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? (Rom 10:14). Faith becomes operative in the Christian on the basis of the gift received, the love which attracts our hearts to Christ (cf. Gal 5:6), and enables us to become part of the church's great pilgrimage through history until the end of the world. For those who have been transformed in this way, a new way of seeing opens up, faith becomes light for their eyes."

Encyclical on the Light of faith: Lumen Fidei, #22

### ON PROFESSING CHRIST AS THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH:

We can walk as much as we want, we can build many things, but if we do not profess Jesus Christ, things go wrong. We may become a charitable NGO, but not the church, the Bride of the Lord. When we are not walking, we stop moving. When we are not building on the stones, what happens? The same thing that happens to children on the beach when they build sandcastles: everything is swept away, there is no solidity. When we do not profess Jesus Christ, the saying of Lyon Bloy comes to mind: "Anyone who does not pray to the Lord prays to the devil." When we do not profess Jesus Christ, we profess the worldliness of the devil, a demonic worldliness.

Homily 13/03/2013

## PRAYER TO MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mary Mother of God, Patroness of Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Australia

*Holy Immaculate Mary, help all who are in trouble. Give courage to the faint-hearted, console the sad, heal the infirm, pray for the people, intercede for the clergy, have a special care for nuns; may all feel, all enjoy your kind and powerful assistance, all who now and always render and will render, you honor, and will offer you their petitions. Hear all our prayers, O Mother, and grant them all. We are all your children: Grant the prayers of your children. Amen forever. (Prayer of Pope John XXIII)*

