



St. Thomas NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015, VOLUME 2, NO. 1

Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle of Melbourne of the Syro Malabars



EASTER GREETINGS

PASTORAL LETTER

Bishop Bosco Puthur

Dear Priests, Religious, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

May the grace of our Lord be with you!
In keeping with our Church's liturgical tradition, from Vibhoothi Thirunal the 50-days Lent is commencing. Season of Lent is the best occasion for Prayer, Penance,

Fasting and Charity. Let us observe this Lenten season with a spiritual grace. I invite you to celebrate in a salvific way the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection: the Paschal mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us commemorate the Lenten season with a spirit of Repentance, recalling our

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ancestors' great example. Let us repent of our sins. Renewed in the Holy Spirit, let us live as God's children.

Through this year's Lenten message, Pope Francis reminds us: Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all, it is a "time of grace" (2Cor 6:2). Holy Father is warning against the "indifference to others" which appears to be spreading in the world. "Indifference to our neighbours and God" is also a great challenge for us as Christians.

God is very much interested in us as his children, "For God so loved us, that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation" (John 3:16). Lord Jesus our Saviour's incarnation, His life on this earth, His crucifixion and resurrection, opened the door between Heaven and Earth. Through proclamation of the Word of God, administering the sacraments, and by various charitable deeds, the Church still holds this door open.

"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together". (1 Cor 12:26). Lenten season is the best occasion to experience God's love and to share it with others. The Church reminds us of this reality through the liturgy of washing of feet during the celebration of Holy Thursday. We can become servants



of others only by allowing Jesus to wash our feet, like St. Peter. Only those who have communion with Jesus could achieve his attitude of serving others.

Lenten season is the best opportunity to receive the salvific ministry from Jesus. Let us actively grow as living members of the Church, which is the mystical body of Christ, through listening to the Word of God, and receiving sacraments, especially devoutly celebrating Holy Qurbana. Let us get strengthened in the communion of Saints by sharing our God given gifts with each other and partaking in various charitable works, no matter how great or small.

God is asking us even today "Where is your brother?" (Genesis 4:5), similar to the question he asked Cain. We are ought to give him an answer. Are we able to see the 'Lazarus' who is waiting in front of our doorstep? Let us reach out to the poor and underprivileged within and outside the Church. God is calling us to console those who are in need - spiritually, mentally or physically - in our neighbourhood, in our school, at our workplace or wherever they

may be. We are not supposed to live our lives confined to ourselves; in the Church we all are missionaries.

We did not migrate to Australia by accident. It is God's plan. God sent us here as missionaries. In our own different life situations Jesus calls us to become His witnesses. Let us go forward by leading an exemplary family life, by responsibly fulfilling our duties in the public life, and by giving witness to Christian values and by developing genuine friendship with all.

St James advises us to "make your hearts firm" (5:8-check). Let us grow in faith and fellowship by personal prayer and by participating in the common prayers of the Church. Let us be spiritually strengthened by observing small or great penances, and advance along the salvific way of repentance. Let us also pray constantly to Sacred Heart of Jesus as "Jesus most meek and humble, make my heart like unto thine".

In response to the invitation of Pope Francis let all our communities in the Eparchy arrange on 13-14 March 24-hour adoration

in communion with all our brothers and sisters in the Universal Church. We shall observe Vibhoothi Monday and Holy Friday as days of fasting. During the 50-days fast, let us abstain from meat, and as far as possible also from fish. Let us also engage in charitable activities to help others.

I would like to remind you to send the collection from Holy Thursday liturgy to the Eparchial Chancery for the formation of our future priests. In the same manner, Good Friday collections will be sent to Rome for the maintenance of the Holy Land. Please contribute generously.

Our Eparchy will complete its first year of its existence on 25th of March. In this short period, by God's grace, we were able to achieve many things. Let us thank God for this. In God's name thanks to those who offered generous support. We have a long way to go and I expect your continuing prayers and assistance.

Thanks also for your cooperation with this year's 'Bishop's Appeal' for the development of the Eparchial Chancery, and I earnestly request you to send your contributions to the Chancery before Easter.

With the blessings and joy of the feast of our Lord's Resurrection.



Anniversary Gift

The Chancery of the Syro-Malabar eparchy of Melbourne was blessed by Most Rev Dennis Hart, the archbishop of Melbourne on 24 March 2015 on the occasion of the first anniversary of the eparchy in the presence of Bishop Bosco Puthur, Most Rev Terry Curtin, the auxiliary bishop of Melbourne, Mgr Greg Bennet, the Vicar General of the archdiocese of Melbourne, dignitaries from various departments, priests and lay representatives of the Syro-Malabar communities. The Chancery is situated at 5 Clifton Grove, Preston VIC 3072.



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 6 February 2015.



സാംഗ്ലി മിഷൻ

ഡൈറക്ടറും കർത്താവിന്റെ സുവിശേഷത്തിന് സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന ചെറിയ അജഗണ്ഡം

2015 ഫെബ്രുവരി 6 7 8 തീയതികളിൽ കല്ലാൺ രൂപതയിൽ തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ മിഷണറി സമൂഹം (എം എസ് ടി) ഏറ്റെടുത്തു നടത്തുന്ന സാംഗ്ലി മിഷൻ സന്ദർശിച്ച ശേഷം അഭിവന്ദ്യ ആലഞ്ചേരി പിതാവും പുറപ്പെട്ടുവിട്ട സർക്കുലറിലെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ തന്നെ വാക്കുകളാണിവ. സിന്ധു ദുർഗ്, രത്നഗിരി, കോലാപ്പുർ, സാംഗ്ലി എന്നീ ജില്ലകളിൽ പ്രേഷിത പ്രവർത്തനം ആരംഭിച്ചതിന്റെ രജത ജൂബിലിയോടനുബന്ധിച്ചായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സന്ദർശനം. തദ്ദേശീയരായ മറാത്തികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി കൊടോലി എന്ന സ്ഥലത്ത് നിർമ്മിച്ച ദേവാലയത്തിന്റെ കൂദാശ അഭിവന്ദ്യ പിതാവ് നിർവഹിച്ചു.

സർക്കുലറിൽ അദ്ദേഹം എഴുതി. സാംഗ്ലിയിൽ എന്നെ ഏറ്റവും

സ്പർശിച്ചത് നമ്മുടെ എം എസ് ടി വൈദികരുടെയും സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സിന്റെയും അല്മായ ശുശ്രൂഷകരുടെയും പ്രേഷിത തീക്ഷ്ണതയാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ 40 വൈദികരും 57 സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സും സാംഗ്ലിയിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നു. എല്ലാവരും ഒരേ മനസോടും ഒരേ ഹൃദയത്തോടും ഒത്തൊരുമിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നു. അച്ചന്മാരുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കു സഹകാരികളെന്നോണം സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് ചെയ്യുന്ന സേവനങ്ങൾ ഏറെ ശ്ലാഘനീയമാണ്. ഇതിനകം വികസിച്ച 36 മിഷൻ കേന്ദ്രങ്ങൾ സാംഗ്ലിയിലുണ്ട്. എട്ടു ദേവാലയങ്ങൾ പണിതിട്ടുണ്ട്. പ്രവാസികളും അവിടെ വിശ്വാസം സ്വീകരിച്ചവരുമായി 2000 കത്തോലിക്കർ സാംഗ്ലി മിഷനിലുണ്ട്. ഡൈറക്ടറും കർത്താവിന്റെ സുവിശേഷത്തിന് സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന ചെറിയ അജഗണ്ഡം.

ഭിന്നശേഷിയുള്ള വികലാംഗർ, മാനസിക വളർച്ച കുറഞ്ഞവർ, മാനസിക രോഗികൾ, എയ്ഡ്സ് ബാധിതർ, എയ്ഡ്സ് ബാധിതരുടെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കപ്പെട്ട കുട്ടികൾ, വൃദ്ധർ ഇങ്ങനെ പരായീനകളിൽപ്പെട്ടവരുടെ സംരക്ഷണമാണ് സാംഗ്ലി മിഷന്റെ മുഖമുദ്ര. അവിടുത്തെ പ്രേഷിതർ ക്രിസ്തുവിന്റെ കാര്യം ജാതിമത വ്യത്യാസമില്ലാതെ ആയിരക്കണക്കിന് ദൈവമക്കൾക്ക് എത്തിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നവരാണ്. മിഷണറിമാരിലൂടെ അവിടെ സംജാതമായിട്ടുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ, പ്രാർത്ഥനാ ചൈതന്യം, ആരാധനക്രമശൈലി, ഇതരസഭകളോടും മതങ്ങളോടുമുള്ള സൗഹാർദയയും സഹകരണ മനോഭാവവും തുടങ്ങിയ നിരവധി നന്മകളെ പ്രകീർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹം സർക്കുലർ അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

തയ്യാറാക്കിയത്: ഫാ.മാത്യു കൊച്ചുപുരയ്ക്കൽ

Eparchy, Registered Trust :

We are happy to announce that our Eparchy is a registered Trust under the Australian law. The name of the Trust is **Trustees of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas**. The Trustees is a body corporate established under the provisions of section 5(1) of the Roman Catholic Church Trust Property Act 1936 (Act) of the New South Wales Government Gazette dated 24 November 2014 confirming establishment of the Trustees.



Pope Francis condemns 'intolerable brutality' of ISIS

Pope Francis called for silent prayers for "these sisters and brothers who suffer for their faith in Syria and Iraq". At the conclusion of his March 1 Angelus address, Pope Francis renewed his call for prayers for Christians and others persecuted in Syria and Iraq. "We want to assure those involved in these situations that do not forget them, but are close to them and pray insistently," Pope Francis said, as he called upon all "according to their ability to work to alleviate the suffering of those who are afflicted, often only because of the faith they profess."

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/03/02/pope-francis-condemns-intolerable-brutality-of-isis/>

Exiled Archbishop of Mosul: "I have lost my Diocese to Islam; You in the West will also become the victims of Muslims"



Archbishop Nona was one of thousands of Catholics forcibly expelled from Mosul after Islamic State militants took control of Iraq's second-largest city in June 2014. He said: "Our sufferings today are the prelude of those you, Europeans and Western Christians, will also suffer in the near future. I lost my diocese. The physical setting of my apostolate has been occupied by Islamic radicals who want us converted or dead. But my community is still alive. Please, try to understand us. Your liberal and democratic principles are worth nothing here. You must consider again our reality in the Middle East, because you are welcoming in your countries an ever growing number

of Muslims. Also you are in danger. You must take strong and courageous decisions, even at the cost of contradicting your principles. You think all men are equal, but that is not true: Islam does not say that all men are equal. Your values are not their values. If you do not understand this soon enough, you will become the victims of the enemy you have welcomed in your home".

Formerly an ancient centre of Christianity serving the entire region, Mosul – known in the Bible as Nineveh – still counted 25-30,000 faithful in 2003. But now, after years of violence which has targeted the Church in particular, Archbishop Amil estimates that only 5,000 remain or perhaps less. But in spite of all the trials and tribulations, Amil Nona

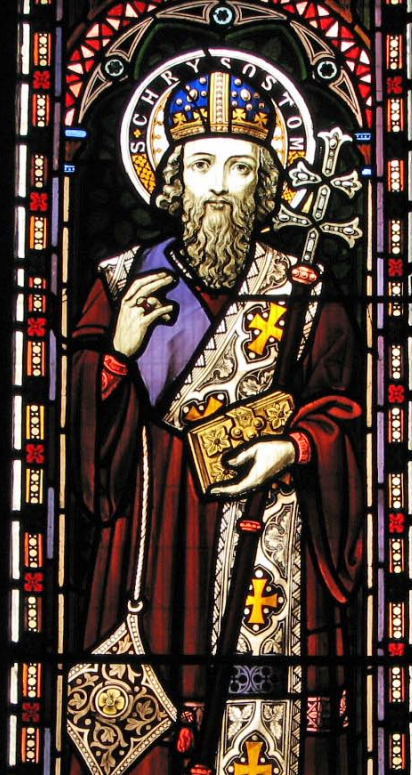


professes a faith that is rock solid. He said: "We have huge problems, nobody can deny that. **"But my faith is very strong and I want to do everything I can – with God's help – to inspire the people, to encourage them not to lose hope and to lead them in times of darkness to better days."** Archbishop Nona led the Archdiocese of Mosul since his installation in 2010 as successor to Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho, who died in 2008 after he was taken hostage by kidnappers.

Courtesy: <http://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2014/08/archbishop-of-mosul-i-have-lost-my.html>

Prayer for Peace

"Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. I beseech You to guide all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen."
(St. Ephraim the Syrian)



DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

On February 21, Pope Francis announced his decision to make St. Gregory of Narek, a 10th-century Armenian monk (950-1003) a Doctor of the Church. St Gregory of Narek, a saint in both the Catholic Church and Armenian Orthodox Church, is one of the most important figures of the medieval Armenian renaissance; Armenian theology and thought. Many of his prayers are included in the Armenian Divine Liturgy. He was a poet, monk, philosopher, translator, mystic, theologian, and above all, a lover after God's own Heart. St. Gregory brings the current number of doctors of the church to 36. <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1500824.htm>

'Doctor of the Church' - This is a very special title accorded by the Catholic Church to certain saints. This title indicates that the writings and preaching's of such a person are useful to Christians "in any age of the Church." Such men and women are also particularly known for the depth of understanding and the orthodoxy of their theological teachings. While the writings of the Doctors are often considered inspired by the Holy Spirit; this does not mean they are infallible, but it does mean that they contributed significantly to the formulation of Christian teaching in at least one area.

For a person to be proclaimed Doctor of the Church, three requisites are necessary, according to Pope Emeritus Benedict

XIV's well-known definition: (1) an eminent doctrine, (2) a remarkable holiness of life and (3) the declaration by the Supreme Pontiff or by a General Council which has met legitimately.

Following is the list of Doctors of the Church:

1. St Athanasius (297-373)
2. St Ephrem the Syrian (306-373)
3. St Hilary of Poitiers (315-368)
4. St Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386)
5. St Basil the Great (329-379)
6. St Gregory of Nazianzus (330-390)
7. St Ambrose (340-397)



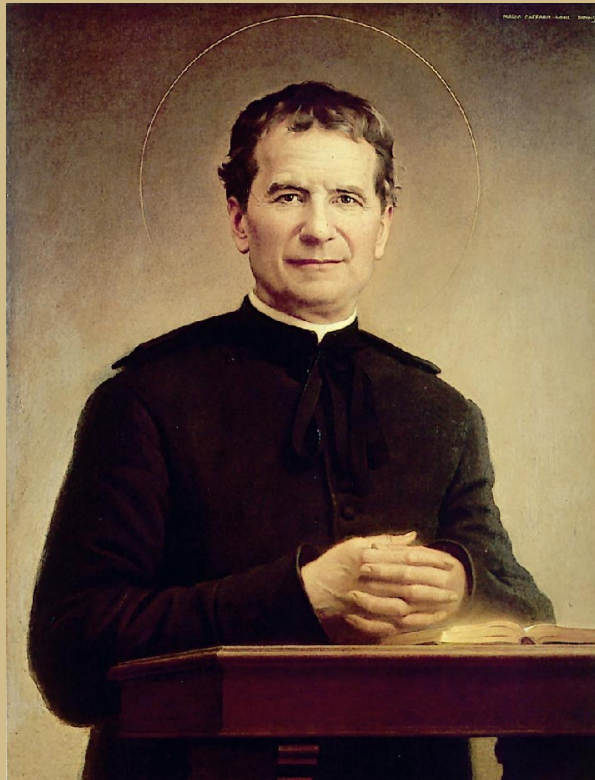
8. St Jerome (343-420)
9. St John Chrysostom (347-407)
10. St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)
11. St Cyril of Alexandria (376-444)
12. St Peter Chrysologus (400-450)
13. St Leo I, the Great (400-461)
14. St Gregory the Great (540-604)
15. St Isidore of Seville (560-636)
16. St Bede the Venerable (673-735)
17. St John Damascene (675-749)
18. St. Gregory of Narek (950-1003)
19. St Peter Damian (1007-1072)
20. St Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)
21. St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)
22. St Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)
23. St Anthony of Padua (1195-1231)
24. St Albert the Great (1200-1280)
25. St Bonaventure (1217-1274)
26. St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)
27. St Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)
28. St Juan of Avila (1499-1569)
29. St Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582)
30. St Peter Canisius (1521-1597)
31. St John of the Cross (1542-1591)
32. St Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621)
33. St Lawrence of Brindisi (1559-1619)
34. St Francis de Sales (1567-1622)
35. St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)
36. St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897)

- See more at: <http://www.uscatholic.org/church/scripture-and-theology/2008/07/chronological-list-doctors-church#sthash.IdM3OOe3.dpuf>



Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of St John Bosco (1815 – 2015)

John Bosco was born in August of 1815 into a family of peasant farmers in Castelnuovo d'Asti, Italy. John's father died when he was two years old, but he drew strength from his mother Margherita's deep faith in God. At age nine, he had a prophetic dream in which a number of unruly young boys were uttering words of blasphemy. Jesus Christ



of whom were without work or education. John's boyhood dream came to pass: he became a spiritual guide and provider along with his fellow Salesian priests and brothers, giving boys religious instruction, lodging, education, and work opportunities. St. John Bosco died in the early hours of Jan. 31, 1888, after conveying a message: "Tell the boys that I shall be waiting for them all in Paradise." He was canonized on Easter Sunday of 1934, and is a patron saint of young people, apprentices, Catholic publishers and editors.

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint.php?n=133>

"YOU CAN CATCH MORE FLIES WITH HONEY THAN WITH VINEGAR."

ST DON BOSCO

and the Virgin Mary appeared to John in the dream, saying he would bring such youths to God through the virtues of humility and charity.

In 1841, John Bosco was ordained a priest. From that time, John was known as "Don" Bosco, a traditional Italian title of honor for priests. In the city of Turin, he began ministering to boys and young men who lived on the streets, many

5th Centenary of the birth of St. Teresa of Jesus (Saint Teresa of Avila)

Saint Teresa of Ávila, also called Saint Teresa of Jesus, baptized as Teresa Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada, (March 28, 1515 – October 4, 1582) was a prominent Spanish mystic, Roman Catholic saint, Carmelite nun, and writer of the Counter Reformation, founder, spiritual thinker, contemplative and theologian of contemplative life through mental prayer. She was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and is considered to be, along with John of the Cross, a founder of the Discalced Carmelites. 2015 is the 500th anniversary, or Fifth Centenary, of her birth.

<http://www.teresa-5th-centenary.org/>



"Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices."

St. Teresa of Ávila





ANNUAL RETREATS ACROSS AUSTRALIA



2015 Lenten time witnessed a special outpouring of God's grace among Syro Malabar Faithful across Australia, through Annual / Lenten Retreats led by Fr Xavierkhan Vattayil & team, Fr Joseph Pamplany and Fr John Parokaran.



Retreats were organised in the following places.

ABHISHEKAGNI RETREAT BY FR. XAVIERKHAN VATTAYIL & TEAM,

March 13, 14, 15 (Darwin)
March 16, 17, 18 (Adelaide)
March 17, 18, 19 (Townsville)
March 20, 21, 22 (Brisbane)



RETREAT BY FR. JOSEPH PAMPLANY

March 6, 7, 8 (Melbourne)
March 9, 10, 11 (Canberra)
March 12, 13, 14 (Orange)
March 17, 18, 19 (Wagga Wagga)

RETREAT BY FR. JOHN PAROKARAN

March 17, 18, 19 (Alice Springs)
March 20, 21, 22 (Melbourne)
March 24, 25, 26 (New Castle)
March 27, 28, 29 (Sydney)
March 30, 31, - April 1, 2
(Bendigo – Shepparton)

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES!



Fr Mathew Kochupurackal, a priest of the diocese of Kothamangalam, has taken charge as the chancellor of the Syro-Malabar eparchy of Melbourne. He has served as the chancellor of the diocese of Kothamangalam for twelve years and as the president of the Syro-Malabar major archiepiscopal tribunal for ten years. He holds a doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Oriental Institute Rome and a diploma in Jurisprudence from the Pontifical Urban University Rome.



Fr Joy Thottamkara CSsR has been appointed as the National Coordinator for the Chaplains of the Syro-Malabar Communities in New Zealand by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference on the proposal of Bishop Bosco Puthur.



ST. ALPHONSA PARISH FEAST IN MELBOURNE (Feb 14th & 15th, 2015)

St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar community of North West celebrated the feast of its patron saint on 14th and 15th of February 2015 at Our lady's Church, Craigieburn with much devotion and enthusiasm.

The first day of the feast started with the Kodiyettam and Holy Qurbana by the Vicar General Rev. Fr. Francis Kolencherry. Our Chancellor Rev. Fr Mathew Kochupurackal was the concelebrant for the Qurbana and he delivered the thirunnal message. After the Qurbana, prizes for various competitions held in 2014 were distributed.

On the second day, our beloved Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur celebrated the Solemn Qurbana along with other priests. Prayerful procession, drawing of the raffle tickets, auctions and snehavarunnu made the feast meaningful and enjoyable to everyone.





GETTING TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITIES

SYRO MALABAR COMMUNITY – BRISBANE



to settle in different suburbs of north and south of Brisbane city. The increase in numbers, geographical conditions, and the distance they needed to travel for their pastoral requirements, demanded them to establish two main pastoral areas - North side and South side.

St Thomas Catholic Community – Brisbane South

In 2009, the appointment of Fr. Antony Vadakara CMI as Assistant Parish Priest of Mary Immaculate Church Annerley gave a sense of identity to the Syro-Malabar faithful in the southern suburbs of Brisbane. With the support from Fr. Antony, the community had the privilege of celebrating the First Holy Qurbana in Syro-Malabar rite at St John Fisher Church Tarragindi. This Holy Qurbana made way to the historic origin of St Thomas Catholic Community. The southern part of the community had the privilege to celebrate their first Good Friday service in 2009 at Mary Immaculate Church, Annerley and the first Easter service in 2010 at St. John Fisher church Tarragindi by the visiting priest Fr. Joseph Thottankara MCBS. At the moment St Thomas Catholic Community has more than 300 Syro-Malabar families residing in and around South Brisbane which is a solid congregation of 1100 members comprising of 620 adult members and over 400 young children and youth. There are more than 250 registered children and 15 teachers currently attending our Sunday school. There is an active unit of Mathrujyothis with more than 40 members and a Youth Group with more than 50 members. In order to facilitate the education of our mother tongue Malayalam, classes are organised

Brisbane is the capital and most populous city in the Australian state of Queensland, and the third most populous city in Australia. As Queensland government welcomed more professionals to this state, a large number of Catholics, especially Syro Malabar Catholics migrated to Brisbane and Queensland in the last 10 years.

visits etc. Fr Thomas Areekuzy MCBS took the lead role along with other priests who were serving in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, in setting up the foundation of the Syro-Malabar Community in Brisbane. The year 2007 witnessed a high rate of migration to Brisbane and many migrants (mainly healthcare professionals) began

Irrespective of where they are, the Syro Malabar Christians preserved their ancestral faith and culture. In 2004, a few Malayalee Catholic families under the leadership of Fr. Thomas Areekuzhy M.C.B.S. began Malayalam Masses at St Ignatius Church, Toowong occasionally. Fr Thomas travelled all the way from Toowoomba to nurture and nourish the faith of Syro Malabar Faithful in Brisbane through monthly Eucharistic Celebrations, prayer meetings, house





every Sunday after the catechism classes. The community celebrate the Feast of our community's Patron Saint, St Thomas the Apostle on the first Sunday in July every year with great devotion and piety.

St. Alphonsa Catholic Church – Brisbane North

The Syro-Malabar Catholics residing in Brisbane's Northern suburbs gathered together in 2007 and started occasional Masses in Malayalam and regular Sunday school classes at St Pascal's Church, Wavell Heights. This Syro-Malabar Catholic Community was incorporated and named as St. Alphonsa Catholic Community Inc in December 2012. Today the community has daily Holy Qurbana in Malayalam and the catechism classes for all grades on Sundays. A structured Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was created with an aim to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and the community to provide support for all children to develop personally and spiritually. A vibrant Mathru Jyothis and Syro-Malabar Youth Movement make the parish an active hub for the worshippers including community welfare and charity activities. The parish council ensures all



the festivals and feasts are celebrated in the traditional Syro-Malabar style so that the Syro-Malabar faith and traditions are transferred to the next generation.

Visit of Major Archbishop:

The communities in and around Brisbane had the privilege to welcome the Father and the head of our Church, Mar George Alencherry, during his first historical visit to Australia in December 2013. During his visit, the executive committees of St Thomas and St Alphonsa Catholic Communities together requested him for a chaplain appointed on a stable basis. By the providence of God, an eparchy was established on the 25th March 2014, for the Syro-Malabar faithful in Australia & New Zealand.

Catechism for children in Gold Coast, Ipswich, Springfield, Sunshine coast etc.

St Thomas Syro Malabar community acknowledges all the Syro Malabar priests with gratitude, who offered their services to the community while working in Latin rite parishes as well. The community specially remembers Fr. Thomas Areekuzhy for his generous support and guidance given to the community for the last 10 years. All of this helped the Syro Malabar Community in Brisbane to move forward with one heart and mind, living the faith of the St. Thomas Christians and transferring it to the future generation and giving inspiration even to the local Latin Catholic communities.



In July 2014 Mar Bosco Puthur, the bishop of the new eparchy, appointed Fr Peter Kavumpuram MST as the first officially appointed chaplain of the Brisbane communities and also as the Episcopal Vicar in charge of the entire State of Queensland. Since his arrival, the communities have been blessed with more services like week day Qurbanas, night vigils, regular family unit meetings, activities of the pious associations, regular catechism classes, courses for catechism teachers, etc. Fr Peter Kavumpuram started regular Holy Mass and regular



Fr. Peter Kavumpuram MST

Chaplain of the Brisbane Syro Malabar communities and Episcopal Vicar in charge of Queensland State.



EPARCHY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE OF MELBOURNE OF THE SYRO MALABARS WELCOMES THE NEW APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO AUSTRALIA



ARCHBISHOP ADOLFO TITO YLLANA

BISHOP BOSCO PUTHUR EXTENDS HIS CONGRATULATIONS AND HEARTFELT WISHES TO CARDINAL JOHN DEW, ARCHBISHOP AMEL SHAMON NONA, BISHOP PATRICK MICHAEL O'REGAN, BISHOP TERENCE CURTIN AND BISHOP MARK EDWARDS AND FOR THEIR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.



CARDINAL JOHN ATCHERLEY DEW, NEW ZEALAND

(ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON, ELEVATED TO THE RANK OF CARDINAL BY POPE FRANCIS)



ARCHBISHOP AMEL SHAMON NONA

(NEWLY APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE OF SYDNEY OF THE CHALDEANS)



BISHOP PATRICK MICHAEL O'REGAN

(NEWLY APPOINTED BISHOP OF SALE DIOCESE)



BISHOP TERENCE CURTIN & BISHOP MARK EDWARDS

(NEWLY APPOINTED AUXILIARY BISHOPS FOR ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE)

3rd National 4Life Conference, VIVO 15

St. Jude Syro Malabar Catholic Mission Church of Northern Virginia, Washington DC



On the 24th and 25th of January 2015, for the whole two days, almost 400 people from across the US gathered at St. Jude Syro Malabar Catholic Mission Church of Northern Virginia, DC area for the 3rd Consecutive National 4Life Conference, VIVO 15. The main theme of the conference was "Because I live, you also shall live" (John 14:19). The Head and Father of the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Australia (Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle of Melbourne of the Syro-Malabars), His Excellency Mar Bosco Puthur was the chief guest speaker of the conference. It was his 2nd consecutive year being the main speaker.

Bishop Bosco gave the catechetical session on 'Building up of Holy families in the

modern world' and addressed the adults & youth on how to grow "Life" in our families. The interactive mode of the presentation with the Bishop made the sessions very interesting and the youth were given excellent answers for their questions. It was like Bishop Bosco becoming one among the participants as he spent the whole Sunday with the people, taking sessions, communicating with them and celebrating the Holy Mass. The organizing team considers that it was truly a blessing to have the presence of Bishop Bosco Puthur for the conference and listen to his wisdom as well as experience his fatherly love for families.

Prepared by Fr. Tijo Joy



BISHOP BOSCO'S PROGRAM DIARY

APRIL 2015

APRIL 2
HOLY THURSDAY IN NORTH
MELBOURNE

APRIL 3
GOOD FRIDAY IN SYDNEY

APRIL 5
EASTER CELEBRATIONS IN SOUTH
MELBOURNE

APRIL 6 - 17
TRAVELING TO HOLY LAND FOR
RETREAT TILL 17TH

APRIL 19
HOLY MASS AT CRAIGIEBURN,
MELBOURNE

APRIL 26
HOLY MASS AT ARDEER,
MELBOURNE

MAY 2015

MAY 3
HOLY MASS AT CRAIGIEBURN,
MELBOURNE

MAY 7 - 14
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOP'S
CONFERENCE (ACBC)

JUNE 2015

JUNE 14
VISIT TO TOOWOOMBA

JULY 2015

JULY 5
ST. THOMAS PARISH FEAST IN
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE

JULY 10 & 11
SYRO MALABAR DIOCESAN DAYS /
CONFERENCE

JULY 18 & 19
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND
CONFIRMATION IN BRISBANE

AUGUST 2015

AUGUST 10 - SEPTEMBER 3
SYRO MALABAR SYNOD IN
KERALA



HAVING FAITH DOES
NOT MEAN HAVING
NO DIFFICULTIES,
BUT HAVING THE
STRENGTH TO FACE
THEM, KNOWING WE
ARE NOT ALONE.

@Pontifex



PRAYER TO MARY MOTHER OF GOD

PATRONESS OF SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY IN AUSTRALIA

It becomes you to be mindful of us, as you stand near Him who granted you all graces, for you are the Mother of God and our Queen. Help us for the sake of the King, the Lord God and Master who was born of you. For this reason, you are called full of grace. Remember us, most holy Virgin, and bestow on us gifts from the riches of your graces, Virgin full of graces. (St. Athanasius)

FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**JULY 10-12, 2015,
MELBOURNE.**

Syro Malabar Melbourne Diocese celebrate the first anniversary of the establishment of the eparchy on 10, 11, 12 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) July, 2015 at La Trobe University Hall, Bundoora, Melbourne. A convention preached by Fr Dominic Valamnall from Anakkara Retreat Centre and a public meeting mark the major events of the celebration. Syro Malabar faithful from Melbourne and representatives from other parts of Australia are welcome to participate in the celebration. We expect the presence of a few ecclesiastical and civil dignitaries in the public meeting.



POPE FRANCIS ANNOUNCES HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

POPE Francis has announced on March 13, 2015, an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's 'mission to be a witness of mercy. This "Jubilee of Mercy" will commence with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2015, and will conclude on November 20, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The biblical theme of the year will be 'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful'.