



St. Thomas NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016, VOLUME 3, NO. 3

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



2nd Anniversary of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
- BISHOP'S MESSAGE
- PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT
- UNNEESHOYKKORU OONNU
- NEWS

WELCOME SPEECH - BISHOP BOSCO PUTHUR

Dear friends in Christ,

It's a great occasion for us, sons and daughters of the Syro Malabar church, to be here together to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the establishment of the Syro Malabar eparchy in Australia. You might remember that it was Pope Francis who established the eparchy and appointed me as the first eparch of the Syro Malabar church in Australia and our eparchy was inaugurated on 24th March 2014 in Melbourne. Let us thank God for all the graces he has showed upon us from the last two years and with joy and gratitude, we are together here for this assembly. A word about the Syro Malabar community for the chief guests. Some of you might know that the Catholic Church is a communion of 24 different churches and the biggest and largest is the Roman Catholic Church and there are 23 smaller eastern catholic churches. So the whole 24 of them together under Pope Francis is the catholic communion.



*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*





In Australia, we have got 5 Eastern Church eparchies. Maronites, who migrated to Australia around 150, 60 70 years aback. They are the largest eastern Catholic Church in Australia. Then we have got Melkite, then Chaldeans, Ukrainians and the latest is the Syro Malabar community. We come from India from the state of Kerala which has got around 35 million people and Australia has got only 23 or 24 million. We all speak the same language, Malayalam, and our state is very populated. Imagine in a square kilometre, in Kerala we have 680 persons whereas in Australia it is just 3. Hence, out of physical suffocation, we migrated also to Australia and thank you for receiving us wholeheartedly to this great country. One more thing about our church. We believe that we are the sons and daughters of St Thomas the apostle. In the bible, especially in the gospel of John, there are three occasions when St Thomas appears explicitly.

Once in John chapter 11 when Lazar was dead. Jesus comes to the family and consoles them and he brings Lazarus to life and says 'I am the life and resurrection'. Second occasion is the farewell discourse of Jesus in chapter 14 of St John, Jesus says 'I am going to my father and I will come back and call you whenever he is ready'. St Thomas said 'We don't know where you are going so then how can we know the way'. Then Jesus said the beautiful words 'I am the way, the truth



and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.' The third occasion is that Jesus appeared to the apostles. Thomas wasn't there and when he came back, the other apostles told him that the Lord appeared. Then St Thomas said 'I won't believe unless I see him and touch his wounds'. Then after this, Jesus appears to the apostles again and calls Thomas. Jesus says to him, 'Don't remain an unbeliever. Come and believe'. Then Thomas said the famous faith confession, 'My lord and my god'. We consider that we are privileged children of St Thomas the apostle, the Syro Malabar faithful in India. In our community, though there were few migrations, massive migration of Syro-Malabar community to Australia has been in the last 10-15 years.

Consider that are there are around 50 000 of us around Australia.

Now I come to my duty of welcoming our guests. There is Most Reverend Peter Ingham, the bishop of the Catholic diocese of Wollongong. He is a very close friend of ours. As his face is angelic, so is his heart. So simple, so loving, so endearing, so welcoming. We had technical problems of establishing the diocese according to the civil law of Australia. So we approached a famous advocate who contributed. Then he advised us that traditionally in NSW, there is a law that a diocese is bifurcated from another diocese. That is the legal definition. So the best way of establishing legally the diocese was to show, technically according to law, that we are bifurcated from another diocese. Then I approached Bishop Peter and he said he can immediately solve the legal problem me and our problems were resolved by him.

Then on his left, there is the Honourable John Ajaka MSC, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability services and Minister for Multiculturalism.

I would like to add a few words about him. He is from another eastern catholic church in Australia from the Melkite catholic community. He is a lawyer and he is the minister here. We, one





day, from among you also should be in such positions. That's an invitation and a challenge and an example for all of us.

There is, next, Bishop Most Reverend Antoine-Charbel Tarabay. Bishop of the Maronite Catholic Diocese, Sydney. He looks very handsome? And not only handsome, he's very efficient. We, the five bishops, of the oriental churches have got an association and he is the chairman of it. Before becoming a bishop, he was the principal of the college run by the Maronite church. That also is a challenge to us, one day you also have to run schools and other social institutions for the good of the people, not only the Syro-Malabar church but also for other populations in Australia.

Then we have Mr. Chris Patterson, MP from the Camden constituency. So he is the local MP. I am always interested in the origins of people and I asked him where his ancestry was. He said maybe from Scotland. People might know where you get the best whisky. That's where he comes from. He has been serving as a city councillor for the last 15 years. And in the middle we have got Dr Mike Freelander, MP, Federal Parliament member for Macarthur. He is of Jewish background and from German ancestry. And he is doctor, a paediatrician. In that capacity, he has visited India. Do you remember Sanjay Gandhi? Do you remember those days? The World Health Organisation had sent him to help in that project [family planning]. So different characters, so different backgrounds all coming to be with us for

this great celebration of our eparchy's second anniversary. Australia is really multicultural, so are our guests. That is a challenge for us. We are not only here to receive from this great nation, we have to contribute to the welfare of this nation. We will give! In the name of all people here and in the name of all the Syro-Malabar population here, I promise that we will try to contribute to the welfare of this multicultural nation. With these words, I welcome all my dear brothers and sisters and children, especially the vicar-general Fr. Francis, and all the organisers of this gathering and also our dear reverend fathers.

Thank you very much. God bless you.

FELICITATION SPEECH HON. JOHN GEORGE AJAKA

MLC – PARLIAMENT OF NSW MINISTER FOR AGEING, MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURALISM

Good evening everyone. Can I firstly acknowledge and thank His Grace Bishop Bosco. Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful festival for your 2nd anniversary as an eparchy. Can I also acknowledge the bishop most reverend Peter Ingham, it's always wonderful catching up with you. Can I also acknowledge the most reverend bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay. To my parliamentary colleagues Chris Patterson, your state member for Camden, and Dr Mike Freelander, your federal member for MacArthur. Today I had the honour being

at my Melkite Catholic church, St John's at Greenacre, celebrating the feast day of St. John. It was a wonderful opportunity to be there with my family, my friends and other Catholic parishioners all celebrating together, all praying together. And today I am here with you celebrating in exactly the same way, because I believe that we are all one family, we are all one community. I have the honour of being the minister work together and you achieve what is best for your community. If I as the son of a migrant can one day attend and be a minister in parliament, I



can assure you each and everyone one of you can because it is by working hard, by putting yourself in a position where you have some influence. This is the best way to assist your family and assist your community. God bless you all.



FELICITATION SPEECH MOST REV. PETER INGHAM

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG, NSW

Bishops Bosco and Antoine, it's nice to be with you. Our other guests, John Ajaka, the Minister for Multiculturalism, Chris Patterson and also Dr Mike Freelander and to you, the clergy and the people of the eparchy of the Syro-Malabar church that's well founded and your presence here shows what a combination of people and what you bring with your family life, what you bring with your faith and what a contribution you make to the welfare of our nation and I am very pleased, Bishop Bosco, that I can be here with you today and be able to congratulate on two years since your foundation. I was at the installation of the bishop in Melbourne a couple of years ago and I visited your communities here in the diocese of Wollongong and I must say that you gather together to pray. When I see the way you help your children to understand their faith and the way you worship and the faith and the goodness, I am very grateful that you are who you are and that you are now a recognised eparchy or diocese within our country.

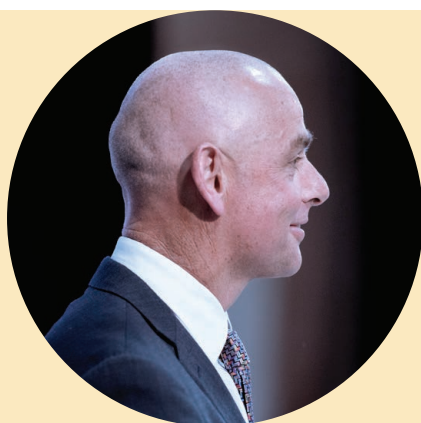
As Bishop Bosco said, we now have 5 eparchies, eastern rite churches of the

Catholic Church and we share the same faith but different cultural expressions and different liturgical expressions but it's the same one, holy, Catholic and apostolic faith and you bring the great perspective of St Thomas as you come amongst us but you also bring your goodness and your contribution to family life and to the welfare of our nation. So I want to join everybody here in thanking you and congratulating you on making this step which now, 2 years on, shows the strength and this is only really the Sydney side isn't it? In Melbourne and other parts of this country, the diocese also takes in New Zealand as well and so the population of people from Kerala and from this part of the world, you bring a richness to our country as does every ethnic group.

When I think back, and I am an old man now, 75, when I think back to my youth and when I was very young back in the 1940's and early 50's, we were very stereotyped in this country. Migration hadn't hit us to the same extent and what I see as I look back is the richness that the cultures that have come to be a part of Australia and to make Australia today. What a richness you have brought and



the simplest example of it I think often is just in cuisine. In any of our major cities you could eat from just about any country in the world and you will find examples of it in most of our major cities and that is just one example of the richness that comes to our community because of that. I just wanted to say thank you for being here, thank you for being the strength that you are to the church generally and particularly to your own diocese and I want to congratulate Bishop Bosco because you know the leader has great responsibility and the leader comes to bring his insights, to work with his clergy and with his people in order to strengthen the bonds of faith, hope and love. Congratulations Bishop Bosco on the two years and this wonderful result. God bless you and congratulate him.



FELICITATION SPEECH CHRIS PATTERSON

**MEMBER OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMDEN**

you for allowing us to be a very small part of today's proceedings, so thank you for that. Bishop Puthur said about bishop Ingham what a wonderful friend he had been of the Syro Malabar community and what a wonderful mentor he had been and can I say on a personal note that bishop Ingham is a wonderful friend, he has been a tremendous supporter of this community for many years for somebody that I personally look up to and I sincerely say that I look forward to building that relationship with Bishop Bosco and I know that we will have that relationship and it is wonderful that today for me is day one and I look forward to growing on our journey together. Finally something

bishop Bosco said and it wasn't lost on me. Your community contributes so much to our community and I thank you for that whether through a wonderful culture, magnificent food, great skills that you bring to our community from wonderfully educated and hardworking families and I thank you for that. Probably and least but most importantly I am hoping that our next generation of wonderful cricketers will come from among you so to each and every one of you, thank you for everything you contribute to our community, it is very exciting to be here today and I look forward to being here for many years to come so thank you very much.



FELICITATION SPEECH BISHOP ANTOINE-CHARBEL TARABAY OLM MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Good evening. I will try to say a few words. Allow me first to express my gratitude and my joy to be here today and to thank my dear Bishop Bosco Puthur for inviting me to this event. Also I would like to acknowledge the presence of Bishop Peter Ingham, the bishop of Wollongong, to Mr Ajaka and member of parliaments. In one of his encyclical letters, Pope John Paul II said that the church breathes with two lungs, the eastern and the western. Today I can say that these prophetic words of Pope John Paul II are very true. Today we can say that this is a reality. That we all live in this beautiful country, Australia. That the church here is in fact living with two lungs. The western and the eastern. This gathering today is a testimony of this reality of the church and the presence of the Eastern Church in Australia.

As Bishop Puthur mentioned earlier, that this gathering is for the Syro-Malabar Catholic community and he is the bishop of the Syro-Malabar Catholic community. It looks like we have a few points in common, there might be many points in common, but only I would like to highlight five of them. Firstly, both of us; both of these traditions, both of these churches; they have Syriac and we are talking about the Aramaic as the source of the Syriac and we have the Syriac tradition in our churches which we are very proud of. Secondly, both churches; the Syro-Malabar and the Syro-Maromite are

founded by the apostles. The Syro-Malabar Church is founded by St Thomas the Apostle. The Maronite church which is part of the Antiochian church is founded by St. Peter. Therefore our patriarch is the seat of Peter in Antioch as well. Both churches, the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Maromite, have endured persecution in our history. Persecution is not spoken, we endure persecution especially in our homeland in the Middle East or in India. But we say that the Lord warned us about persecution and we have to give witness to him even though we are persecuted. Also both churches we have a great presence in Australia. The diocese of Syro-Malabar church was established two years ago and our diocese was established back in 1973. Most importantly and the fifth thing we have in common is that both of us are growing churches. This is amazing to see that in 2 years' time, there is this kind of gathering around your bishop and clergy and let me congratulate you on that.

Of course, you will be asking the question about the Maronite church. What is a Maronite? The Maronite Church is one of the eastern churches and is founded by the tradition of St Maron and the Maronite monks. It was founded in the first century and founded on the traditions of St Peter and St Maron.



In 1861, the Maronites started migration to Australia and today, we have over 200,000 members. In our diocese there are 50 priests and also we have 20 parishes with schools and nursing homes. What is the biggest challenge that we are facing? I will believe the main challenge for both of us is how we can keep our identity. Bishop Puthur will be focused on keeping the identity and tradition of the Syro-Malabar church. We are being very much supported by the whole Catholic Church.

To conclude, I would like to say that this Syro Malabar church and the Syro Maronite church is growing and always expanding especially in Australia. Congratulations on this wonderful achievement and I salute Bishop Puthur and the priests. I hope that this convention may sow the seeds for the greater Syro-Malabar community that continues to give praise and glory to the Lord our God. Thank you and god bless you.



FELICITATION SPEECH DR MICHAEL FREELANDER MP, ALP MEMBER FOR MACARTHUR, NSW

It's a great pleasure to be here. I really am delighted to come along today. Bishop Bosco has taught me many things about his Syro Malabar eparchy and I am delighted to be here. Distinguished guests, Bishop Ingham, Bishop Puthur, Bishop Tarabay, parliamentary colleagues, Hon Mr Ajaka and Mr Chris Patterson. I will be brief as I possibly can because what has already been said covers what I wanted to say but I would just like to say how wonderful it is for you to be here today to be part of our community. Your history and your community is now part of something that keeps Australia together and everyone has a story and it is important that you teach your kids about where you have come from and what you bring to this country. I recently gave my maiden speech in parliament, everyone had spoken, both sides, and it was wonderful to hear where they had come from, all corners of the earth, all the regions, all the different societies and they are what make Australia great. I am just thinking about what you bring to our country; wonderful skills, wonderful culture and it is great to have you. It is wonderful to see so many beautiful children and I must say they are much better behaved than my children and my grandchildren. So thank you for having me and thank you very much.



Prot. No. MPL 92/16/6 (ENG)

BISHOP'S MESSAGE



Bishop Bosco Puthur

SYRO-MALABAR
EPARCHY OF
THE ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE,
MELBOURNE



Christmas Message 2016

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,
We are near the end of the year 2016 and close to Christmas. Here, in the middle of November, shops and public places are decorated for the celebrations, but mostly for business. Are we spiritually ready to receive Child Jesus in our hearts and in our lives? The motto of the Year of Mercy resonates in our hearts: "Be merciful like the Heavenly Father". Christmas, the birth of the Son of God as a poor little child, is the greatest experience of mercy. It is an act of self-giving for humanity. It embodies the greatness of God. I have often asked myself, who is a great person. We call Gandhi the 'Mahatma', the Great Soul. It is because he gave to his countrymen much more than he received. I consider that greatness consists in giving more than receiving. The self giving of Jesus for us, for our salvation, is the greatest event that has ever happened in human history. That is what we celebrate in Christmas. Let us try not to be mere receivers. Let us give more than we receive.

Here in Australia, most of us live in material abundance. Most people have more than they need. A good number of us live in luxury. How often do we think of other people who live in utter misery, the refugees in the war zones of Iraq and Syria, the people who suffer due to terrorism, children who have nothing to eat,

little clothing and no facility to study. Think of the people who suffer from illness. Think of people who are elderly, lonely and who suffer from want of friendship. On this Christmas night let us remember Assia Bibi who is imprisoned in Pakistan for her Christian faith and Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil SDB who was kidnapped in Yemen on 24 March 2016.

The manger in which Child Jesus was born once more reminds us not only of the birth of the Son of God, who came to redeem us, but also the poor people whom he loves and whom he invites us to love.

Dear friends, Christmas is a feast of love. It is the feast of sharing and concern for others. Let us think of others and love them, help them in whatever manner possible and above all, pray for them, entrusting them to Jesus' love. Finally, I thank you most sincerely for the little sacrifices you made during the Season of Annunciation (Advent) and offering that money as a gift to Child Jesus, a Meal for Child Jesus, 'Unnishoku oru onnu.'

I wish you a blessed and happy Christmas!

May the Year 2017 bring you abundant blessings from God.

Yours in Jesus,
+Bosco Puthur



Unnishokku Oroonu



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Circular PROT NO: 165/16/14

Unnishokku oroonu (A Meal for Child Jesus)

Dear Rev Fathers, young friends and parents,

You may remember that last year in preparation for Christmas I invited you to offer a Christmas gift to Child Jesus (*Unnikku oruduppu*). I thank you for your goodwill. Your generosity raised more than AUD\$22,000 for those cared for by the Home of Providence, founded by Sr Dr Mary Litty.

This year we plan a similar project: *Unnishokku oroonu*, A Meal for Child Jesus. Dear young friends, I invite you to make little sacrifices during the days of the Period of Annunciation (Advent) and offer money thus saved to Child Jesus during the Christmas celebrations in our community. The fruit of our sacrifice will be handed over to Mr PU Thomas of Navajeevan Trust, who is feeding thousands of poor people in the various hospitals around Kottaym. Mr Thomas is a wonderful person of great integrity and exemplary dedication. Motivated by deep faith in Jesus, he has dedicated his life for the past 40 years to serve the poor. A great example of Christian Charity!

Let us be part of this great project, by donating whatever amount, big or small, for the sake of Child Jesus.

Remember what Jesus said: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me" (Matthew, Chapter 25).

"In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of my least brothers, you did it to me" is the motto of Navajeevan Trust. Yes, let us be part of this great project. Let us offer a meal to Child Jesus. *Unnishokku oroonu!*

I invite you, dear young friends, to be part of this great divine adventure. I call upon parents to motivate their children to grow up in the Christian spirit of mercy and charity.

Invoking blessings of Child Jesus,



+Bosco Puthur

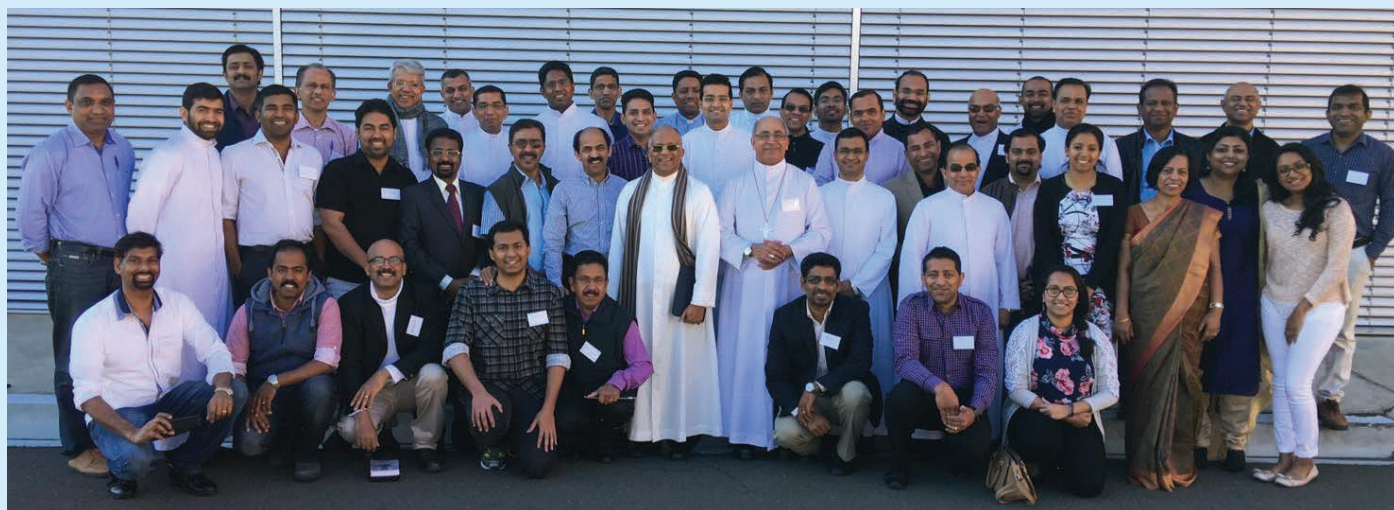
28 November 2016

This Circular is to be read out in our communities on Sunday, 4 December 2016



The Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

Third Pastoral Council report



*The Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle,
Melbourne*

Third Pastoral Council report

Dates: 16-17 of September 2016

*Venue: St Joseph Centre, 64 MacKillop Drive,
Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153*

The Third Pastoral Council of the Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne was held at St Joseph Centre, Baulkham Hills, Sydney from Friday, 16 September to Saturday, 17 September 2016 and was presided over by Bishop Bosco Puthur. Eighteen (18) priests and thirty six (36) lay representatives from the regional/interstate communities from Australia attended the Council.

The meeting started with a Holy Qurbana celebrated by Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur, who welcomed everyone to the Pastoral Council. The Council discussed mainly on the themes of:

- New Evangelisation
- Marriage and Family in the light of 'Joy of Love'
- Understand the Youth and Develop the Ministry.

Daniel Ang, Director of New Evangelisation initiatives from Broken Bay Diocese gave the keynote address on New Evangelisation. The below topics on "The New Evangelisation: The Joys and Challenges of Mission in the

Contemporary Australian Context" were presented by Daniel:

- a. A brief history of "the new evangelisation"
- b. Opportunities and challenges for renewed mission in the contemporary Australian context
- c. Principles of growing and evangelising communities

Fr. Andrew James of Sydney Archdiocese gave talk on Marriage and Family in the light of 'Joy of Love' (apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* by Pope Francis). A quick review of its contents, seeks emphatically to affirm not the "ideal family" but the very rich and complex reality of family life. The text is a close reading of family life, with spiritual insights and practical wisdom useful for every human couple or persons who want to build a family.

Sojin Sebastian, Catechism Head Master, Darwin talked on the topic: Understand the Youth and Develop the Ministry. The key points discussed were:

- a. Understand the Youth
- b. Obstacles that stop us from understanding the Youth
- c. Develop the Ministry - Creating a youth ministry is like creating a new invention

- d. Be the church, not just go to church; then only will Youth set you as an example
- e. Pope Francis said:
- i. Evangelise and educate the Young - First evangelise and then educate. Provide the personal connection between God and them first, and then educate them about it.
- ii. Urgent need for young to exercise greater leadership
- f. Role of Elders
- g. DO NOT impose old customs and structures of our time onto the youth of today
- h. Create new ideas and stay open to change

He also discussed the "Reality of the Youth today" and suggested various "Youth Action Plan".

Peter Doherty from Catholic Church Insurances (CCI) gave an update on their recent developments; new initiatives and services offered to Catholic Organisations as well as individuals in the wider community.

Fr. Sabu Adimakiyil VC, Director of Mathruvedi presented the draft bylaws of Mathruvedi. Pastoral council suggested various recommendations and corrections to make it final.



Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal, Chancellor of the Eparchy briefed on the newly promulgated Pastoral Council rules.

Fr. Varghese Vavolil, Eparchy's Catechetical Director, Fr. George Mankuzhikary, Family Apostolate Director, and Fr. Biju John, Youth Apostolate Director; updated on their respective Ministry's activities.

Representatives from communities presented reports with their success and challenges.

Eparchial Finance committee member, Antony Joseph updated on the legal structure of the Eparchy and 'SANTHOM TRUST' which is registered with DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status for donations. This means the organisation is entitled to receive tax-deductible gifts and tax-deductible contributions.

Fr. Francis Kolencherry, Vicar General briefly updated on Professional Standards & Child Protection policies from ACBC.

Election for the office bearers was held and the below people were elected:

- a. Executive committee - John Geevarghese and Gracy Puthumana
- b. Youth committee - Fr. Biju John Chulayillaplackal, Sojin Sebastian, Jestin Tom Chakkala, Ankita Joy, Joan Mary Sebastian
- c. Mathruvedhi advisory committee - Fr. Sabu Adimakiyil VC, Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal, Shiny Shaju, Dr Cyriac Mathew
- d. Agenda committee - Sojin Sebastian, Jestin Tom Chakkala
- e. Secretary - Gene Thalappillil

Bishop Bosco gave the below concluding remarks.

- a. Bishop urged everyone to work with unity and he mentioned that this will create miracles.
- b. Bishop thanked every member from the previous Pastoral Council, especially its outgoing executive members Mr. K.P. Jose and Mrs. Shani Rodney.
- c. He also reminded and requested prayers for the upcoming Bible Convention in Sydney to commemorate the second anniversary of the establishment of the Eparchy.

THE SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY
OF ST THOMAS AUSTRALIA PRESENTS

**REX
BAND**

MUSIC THAT MAKES SENSE BRAND LIVE

Halleluiah (3)
Praise the Lord and lift his name

TOUR OF AUSTRALIA 2017
8TH -20TH NOVEMBER 2017

**MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, BRISBANE,
PERTH, ADELAIDE, CANBERRA AND DARWIN.**

Bishop Bosco confirmed the below events in year 2017.

- a. Leonardo Cardinal Sandri's (Prefect of the Oriental Congregation, Rome) visit. Eparchy is organising a reception for him with Qurbana on Sunday, 7th of May 2017 from 3.00pm - 8.00pm.
- b. Major Archbishop George Cardinal Alencherry is visiting Australia in the third week of October 2017.
- c. Rexband Concert tours from 10 - 19th of November 2017.
- d. John Paul Minor seminary would be relocated to a new rented facility near the Cochin airport (Thirumudikkunnu) by the end of November 2016.
- e. Last year's Christmas Appeal collection was approx. \$22,000. The collected

amount was donated to Kunnamthanam sisters at Vilangu, Ekm. 2016 Christmas charity appeal (meal for Baby Jesus) would be donated to 'Navajeevan Trust, Kottayam', an institution run by Mr. P.U. Thomas.

There was time for open discussion with Bishop Bosco before conclusion of the Pastoral Council meeting, where many of the members participated with great enthusiasm. Various suggestions and ideas from the discussions were consolidated for future action.

Meeting ended with a thank you by Gene Thalappillil, Secretary and a thanksgiving prayer by Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur.



IN THE LAND OF KANGAROOS

It was with much anticipation that five of us, classmates of Bishop Bosco Puthur landed in Melbourne. A rather chill morning warmed up by the hearty welcome by the Bishop and colleagues. About an year ago during our batch gathering we planned the Australian rendezvous. Due to health reasons two of our batch mates had to stay back.

We arrived at Melbourne airport on 6th September 2016. Bishop Bosco, Fr. Mathew Kochurackal and team were there to receive us. It was a pleasant surprise to meet one old poona Papalite, Fr. Abraham Kazhunnadiyil from Kanjirapilly. Father Mathew, Father Francis Kolenchery (Vicar General) and the vibrant cheerful Diocesan Secretary Janine made three days stay at Mickleham comfortable. On 7th September we went around the city, visited the Melbourne Cathedral where Bishop Bosco's installation took place. Nimish Tom, Jisha Jain and others were so helpful and hospitable. On 8th, Fr. Tomy Kalathur led us for the Great Ocean Drive and the Twelve Apostles Sanctuary and 15 minute helicopter flight. All were very memorable. On 9th, a rainy day in the evening with Bishop Bosco by flight we landed in Adelaide and there in the airport a grand reception

was given by the Malayalee Association. After a delicious dinner at Seby's home, we moved to three different homes where we had a pleasant and comfortable stay. On 10th morning, we had a lovely experience with the Zoo inmates, friendly Kangaroos with the little ones in the 'pouch' looking at us with their innocent looking and sparkling eyes, the lazy Koala resting in your arms munching leaves, the dancing white peacock, colourful various birds, etc. In the evening Fr. Freddy Eluvathinkal had arranged celebration in Latin Rite where Fr. Mathew is working as an Assistant Parish Priest. On 11th Sunday morning, we had a beach experience. After lunch, bidding farewell to families of Joby & Daisy, Benny and Jiji and Seby, we moved to join the Concelebration First Holy Communion Mass with Bishop Bosco officiating. Reception later was lively and participatory. Then we had to move soon for our flight to the capital city Canberra at 5:30 p.m.

Reaching Canberra at 7:30 p.m after a delicious dinner at Benedict's home, we were taken to Narrabundah, Polish Catholic Centre for our stay. Polish Saint John Paul II was everywhere in the chapel, library, corridors, etc. On 12th Monday, after breakfast at Sunny's home

we visited the old and new Parliament Houses, both Parliament and Senate Houses were in the sessions. We watched for a while the way the sessions and the interventions were conducted, we felt our political representatives have much to learn from them.

The St. Christopher Cathedral holds the old charm, well maintained. In the evening Telstra Tower gave us a bird's eye view of the city. Followed by a delicious Onam Sadya organized by the youth. Fr. Mathew Kunnapilly was there to guide us. The following day after breakfast we moved to this War Anzac Memorial which made us think again of the futility of every battle. Meeting the Canberra Latin Archbishop Christopher Prowse was a refreshing experience. He was appreciative of our activities commenting that our people had brought with them their faith. Indeed it was a rare experience to visit the satellite tracking stadium with its larger than a football grand antennae.

On 14th September Wednesday, after breakfast at Lixon's house we had a



comfortable drive in his car to Sydney. On the way we visited the famous Berrima Pilgrim Centre, with series of chapels, big and small, dedicated to various saints from different countries. Afternoon we reached Benny Thomas Kannampuzha's house at Moorebank where we stayed till 18th September, we returned. Being Thiruvonnam Day, we had a delicious lunch with them. On 15th Thursday Sydney sightseeing - the magnificent St. Mary's Cathedral, the tower, cruising, etc. We were inspired by the visit to the only Australian Saint, Mary Mackillop's Shrine. The time we spent in Sea Life Aquarium was a thrilling experience. We saw famous Australian Landmarks - The Opera House was used for different programmes. The important Pilgrim Church of Malgoa, looked after by Shoenstatt Sisters, and the campus gave us an experience of great devotion to Our Lady.

We were lucky and happy to be with the Eparchial Pastoral Council members, many Priests and relatives, sharing a friendly dinner with them.

The 340 million years old Cavesat Leganan was a unique treat to the eyes, taking us back to the history of the continent with its myriads of rock and crystal formations, fossils of shells "worth all the trouble and expenses" was our unanimous impression. The evening was cheerful with a homely celebration of Thirtieth Wedding Anniversary of Mr. Chummar and Valsa and the Tenth Birthday of Emil Ligi's daughter.

Bishop Bosco's presence made it all the more memorable. On 18th September Sunday morning was time for us to say goodbye to the continent that has only one

country Australia unique in many ways. The sense of Patriotism, the respect towards law and environment, the social sense and responsible citizenary, care for life and people are worth emulating. We wondered would a 100 years from now make our literate state and country equal to this land. No words would suffice to express our gratitude to Bishop Bosco, the Rev. Fathers, many families who so generously and willingly gave their time and money to make our time memorable. We must thank the Divine providence of keeping us healthy and cheerful in the land of Kangaroos. May God bless everyone. We shall continue to keep one another in prayer,

Fr. Jos Thathrathil & Co.



Parish Day Celebrations: St Alphonsa Cathedral Melbourne North



The Syro-Malabar Melbourne team who won the badminton tournament organized by St Thomas Ecumenical Fellowship Melbourne



Ettunombu thirunna: St Mary's Knanaya Mission Melbourne



Feast of St Alphonsa: Shepparton



Rosary Procession at Wagga-Wagga



Feast of Our Lady at Mary Matha Mission Gold Coast



This year's Christmas collection (unnikoru oonu) from the faithful of the eparchy is for the Navajeevan Trust conducted by Mr PU Thomas.



Feast of St Alphonsa: St Alphonsa Parish Canberra



Priests working in the eparchy with Bishop Bosco and the retreat preacher Fr Raymond Schmack after their annual retreat at St Joseph's Baulkham Hills in Sydney



Mission Sunday Celebrations by St Mary's Sunday School Adelaide South



Unnikoru uduppu: Rs 11,000,00, collected from the parishes and missions of the eparchy during Christmas 2015, were handed over to the Little Sisters of Divine Providence Kunnamthanam, Kerala who look after a number of mentally and physically challenged persons



Feast of Christ the King at Christ King Mission Holsworthy, Sydney

NEW CHAPLAINS



Fr Saji John



Fr Sebastian Mandapthil



Fr Abraham Kazhunadiyil



Fr Abraham Nadukunnel



St Euphrasia Syro-Malabar Mission Adelaide North has been raised to the status of a parish



BISHOP BOSCO'S PROGRAM DIARY

JANUARY 2017

2 MON - 5 THU: MELBOURNE SEMINARIANS MEET IN KERALA
9 MON -13 FRI: SYNOD MEETING
15 SUN: TRAVEL TO ROME
23 MON: ARRIVAL IN LISBON
24 TUE: FATIMA PILGRIMAGE
25 WED - 28 SAT: ACTON CONFERENCE, LISBON, PORTUGAL
26 THU - 3 FEB FRI: VISITS IN EUROPE

FEBRUARY 2017

4 SAT: ARRIVAL AT MELBOURNE
9 THU - 10 FRI: AOS, SYDNEY
12 SUN: CATHEDRAL FEAST DAY
18 SAT: EPPING NORTH ST. SEBASTIAN'S WARD FEAST
25 SAT : EPARCHY FINANCE COUNCIL
27 MON: VIBHOOTHI

MARCH 2017

1 WED: ASH WEDNESDAY
10 FRI: ACBC PASTORAL LIFE COMMISSION MEETING, SYDNEY
19 SUN: CONCLUSION OF LENTEN RETREAT, WEST & FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH
25 SAT: ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
26 SUN: CONCLUSION OF LENTEN RETREAT, CATHEDRAL PARISH

APRIL 2017

9 SUN: PALM SUNDAY
HOLY WEEK
13 THU: HOLY THURSDAY
14 FRI: GOOD FRIDAY
15 SAT: HOLY SATURDAY
16 SUN: EASTER
23 SUN: PUTHUNJAYAR, DIVINE MERCY
25 TUE: ANZAC DAY
26 WED: ST. MARK



"JESUS KEEPS KNOCKING ON OUR DOORS, THE DOORS OF OUR LIVES. HE DOESN'T DO THIS BY MAGIC, WITH SPECIAL EFFECTS, WITH FLASHING LIGHTS AND FIREWORKS. JESUS KEEPS KNOCKING ON OUR DOOR IN THE FACES OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IN THE FACES OF OUR NEIGHBORS, IN THE FACES OF THOSE AT OUR SIDE." **POPE FRANCIS**



Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen,
 Mary, Mother of God, ever Virgin.
 You were chosen by the Most High Father in heaven,
 consecrated by Him, with His most Holy Beloved Son and the Holy Spirit,
 the Comforter.
 On you descended and still remains all the fullness of grace and every good.
 Hail, His Palace. Hail His Tabernacle. Hail His Robe. Hail His Handmaid.
 Hail, His Mother.
 and Hail, all holy Virtues, who, by grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit,
 are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that from their faithless state,
 they may be made faithful servants of God through you.

(St. Francis of Assisi's prayer praising Mary the Mother of Jesus)