



St. Thomas NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016, VOLUME 3, NO. 1

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



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

VENUE: ST JOSEPH CENTRE, 64 MACKILLOP DRIVE, BAULKHAM HILLS, NSW 2153

St Joseph Centre, Baulkham Hills, Sydney hosted the Second Pastoral Council of the Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne from Friday 23rd Oct to Saturday 24th Oct 2015. Thirteen (13) priests and Twenty four (24) elected lay representatives from the regional/interstate communities in Australia, attended the Council.

The meeting started with a Holy Qurbana by Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur, who welcomed everyone to the Pastoral Council. The Council discussed mainly on the themes of the upcoming Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis as well as the Synod focused on Family in Rome.

Bishop Bosco exhorted to reflect on the upcoming Year of Mercy which was announced by Pope Francis, referring to Jesus' command - "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36). Bishop also requested everyone to suggest

on various ways to make this Year of Mercy commemoration meaningful for our Eparchy/Communities. The Council formulated various activities to promote / reach out with this message of Year of Mercy to Eparchy's communities, families and youth.

Fr. Francis Kolencherry, Vicar General of the Eparchy welcomed the Eparchial consultant lawyer Bill DÁpice and Anna Lewis for a presentation on the legal structure of the Eparchy. Bill explained the structure was created on the basis of Eastern Canon Law and Australian Civil Law. Anna Lewis explained the steps to make various Parish/Mission communities officially registered.

Fr. Tony Percy, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, presented the various challenges faced by Marriage and Family in the contemporary world. He proposed the need for each and

every family to become the Catechetical training place for transmitting faith to the future generations.

Fr. Tim Brennan and Narelle McMahon from "Professional Standards" gave a presentation on Safe Guarding paradigm.

Sessions by Catholic Super (Anthony

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McCarthy and Max Bruins), Catholic Church Insurances (CCI) (Peter Doherty) were also been arranged. Their updates, new initiatives and services offered to Catholic Organisations as well as individuals in the wider community were presented.

Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal, Chancellor of the Eparchy briefed on the newly promulgated Palliyogam rules by Bishop Bosco. Custom variations made to adopt it for Australian situation were also discussed.

Fr. Varghese Vavolil, Eparchy's Catechetical Director, Fr. George



Mankuzhikary, Family Apostolate Director, and Fr. Fredy Elavuthinkal, Bible Apostolate Director; updated on their respective Ministry's activities.

Eparchial Finance committee member, Antony Joseph updated on the Accounting Policies which were promulgated recently.

The second day commenced with a Holy Qurbana by Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur and twelve (12) priests concelebrated the Qurbana.

Fr. Antony Narikulam, Rector Emeritus, St Joseph's Pontifical seminary, Alwaye,

gave a class on Syro-Malabar Liturgy and the Sacraments. Fr. Francis lead the discussion on formulating various action plans to observe the Year of Mercy as well as to face the current challenges against Marriage & Family. A core committee to coordinate these activities were selected, namely; Jose Kachappilly, Jestin C Tom, Gigimon Kuzhivelil, Shani Rodney, Fr. Ephrem Thadathil CMI, Fr. George Mankuzhikkary, Fr. Sabu Adimakiyil VC and other nominated members.

Bishop Bosco gave an update on the various activities of the Eparchy and progress on establishing / reinforcing

Communities around Australia with the provision of appropriate Pastoral care.

Bishop Bosco and Fr. Francis led the Questions and Answers session. Various suggestions and ideas from the discussions were consolidated for future action. Bishop Bosco explained about the current decision by the Syro-Malabar synod in relation to the working agreement with Jesus Youth Movement.

Meeting ended with a thanks note by Gene Thalappillil, Secretary and a Thanksgiving prayer by Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur.



PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Rev Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear Children in Jesus Christ,

As you may be aware, The Holy Father Pope Francis announced the Year of Mercy, from the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2015 to the Solemnity of Christ the King, 20 Nov 2016. The 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council also falls on 8 December 2015. The Gospel message "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36) is taken as the theme of this upcoming Year of Mercy. The Pope wishes this message to be a basic plan for our life. As we receive Mercy from our heavenly Father, we need to be effective witnesses of Mercy. This is the aim of the celebration of the Year of Mercy. Mercy is not just the act of God alone, but also a criterion that determines us as children of God. Mercy is the core of Christian life. It is also the cornerstone of life of the church. Wherever the church is, God's mercy needs to be witnessed and overflowed. Let us also realize that Love is the first truth and its foundation is the practice of Mercy.

The Holy Father has proposed some practical things to undertake in this Year of Mercy.

1. Make pilgrimages to Holy places during the observation of this occasion. Mercy, sacrifice, dedication / surrender, prayerful preparation, grace and fasting are necessary for pilgrimage.

2. Do not judge anyone. Try to practice the Gospel message from Luke 6:37-38 in our personal life. "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be



+Bosco Puthur

YEAR OF MERCY

EPARCHY OF ST. THOMAS
THE APOSTLE OF
MELBOURNE OF THE
SYRO MALABARS

MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE
YEAR OF MERCY

8 DECEMBER 2015 – 20
NOVEMBER 2016



given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

3. Practice 14 Acts of Mercy - Spiritual & Corporal

a. Corporal

- i. Feed the hungry
- ii. Give drink to the thirsty
- iii. Clothe the naked
- iv. Shelter the Homeless
- v. Visit the sick
- vi. Visit the imprisoned
- vii. Bury the dead

b. Spiritual

- i. Counsel the doubtful
- ii. Instruct the ignorant
- iii. Admonish the sinner
- iv. Comfort the sorrowful
- v. Forgive injuries
- vi. Bear wrongs patiently
- vii. Pray for the living and the dead

4. Solemnly receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation with thorough preparation during the coming season of the Great Fast.

5. Prayerfully visit the Church designated in the Diocese for the Year of Mercy and receive plenary indulgences. Taking inspiration from the Holy Father, we will inaugurate the Year of Mercy in our Eparchy on Sunday, 13 December. I request that all our communities officially commence the observation of the Year of Mercy from the same day. Let us recite Psalm 136 after Holy Qurbana that day, in thanksgiving for God's mercy to begin the Year of Mercy, and with appropriate ceremony. You may prayerfully visit the Chapel at Mickleham to receive the plenary indulgence, announced by the Holy Father. Below are suggestions for personal devotions and good deeds, which could be practiced each month during the Year of Mercy: December: As part of gifting a "dress for baby Jesus" plan, inviting all to donate generously to clothe the poor. During the liturgical season of the Annunciation,



children are encouraged as act of penance to set money aside. This can be collected on Christmas Day, and can be an encouragement for all. During Christmas Qurbana, collect the amount and send it to the Eparchial office. The Eparchy will forward the money collected as our Christmas gift to the "Little Servants of the Divine Providence" of Kunnamthanam.

January

26th is India's republic day of India. It is also "Australia Day". This is a special occasion to pray for our Motherland and this country, which received us.

February

11th is the day of the sick, which is also the feast of our Lady of Lourdes. Let us pray and offer Qurbana for those who are sick and visit sick people to console them.

March

The liturgical season of the Great Fast falls in this month. Let us commemorate this season with its original Lenten spirit of fasting, penance and penitential rites. Taking inspiration from Holy Father, let us spend "24 hours for the Lord" during the dates 4 & 5 March in prayer. Attend the yearly parish retreat and receive the sacrament of reconciliation for the remission of sins, and celebrate Christ's Resurrection feast with a spirit of expectant faith.

April

Let us celebrate the first Sunday after Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) as a special day of Mercy. Seek the intercession of St Faustina and St John Paul II. A great effort to form Youth Apostolate in every community of our Diocese is required especially this month of April. I cordially invite all young people in our community to come forward and take initiative to foster the growth of the church.

May

May is the month we especially pray to Mother Mary. I invite you to pray and offer Holy Qurbana for the intention of pregnant women, and those married

women who don't have children. Also, pray for babies whose lives are terminated by abortion. Let us promote the value of human life amongst our friends and community. In the month of May, another proposal is the celebration in the family unites which could promote values of the sacredness, sanctity and importance of Christian family life. I invite you all to organize it in the parishes.

June

is the month of the devotion to the Sacred Heart. Blessing of our homes and renewal of the dedication to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an opportunity for experiencing God's mercy in our life.

July

Let us become benevolent children of St Thomas the Apostle, our Father in faith, by celebrating Dukrana thirunal on 3 July as the Sabha Dhinam (Church's day). Let us personalize the proclamation of faith "My Lord My God". This will also be an occasion for us to learn and take inspiration from and imitate the saints and the blessed of our Church by studying their life histories. Let us encourage our children for this as well. Collections from 3 July are for the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church, and the amounts shall be forwarded to the diocesan office. The feast of St Anna and St Joachim is on 16 July, which could be celebrated as Grandparents day, reminding children to pray for them. Let us pray also for the success of World Youth Day at Krakow, Poland, (26-31 July) and the delegates who attend from our diocese.

August

4th is the feast day of St. John Maria Vianney, who is the Patron of priests. Let us pray for the bishops, priests and seminarians of our church. I invite you to sponsor seminarians for our Eparchy. Let us also pray earnestly for more vocations from our communities.

September

Let us offer a helpful hand to the poor and be enthusiastically involved in charitable activities, while celebrating the Feast of the

Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14 September). Preparing a soup kitchen for the poor in collaboration with associations like St Vincent De Paul Society would be a good idea. I invite you all to participate in the Kripabhishekam Convention scheduled for 23-25 September in Sydney as part of the celebrations of the second anniversary of the Eparchy.

October

Let us pray Rosary with devotion in every prayer wards and homes seeking the intercession of God's mother. In addition, I invite you to pray also the Divine Mercy chaplet.

November

We pray for the departed souls of our faithful. Let us make use of this month for the reading, study, and propagation of the Bible. We shall conclude the Year of Mercy in appropriate manner in every community on the Feast of Christ the King, 20 November 2016. I invite you to attentively read and implement the instructions and guidelines sent for the observation of Year of Mercy Dear brothers and sisters, 2015 is passing by. In preparation for Christmas, once again the season of Annunciation & Nativity has commenced. In keeping with a tradition of our forefathers, I remind you that it would be good to abstain from meat on Fridays.

Let us spiritually prepare ourselves to receive baby Jesus. Let us also pray for peace in the world, in the New Year.

Wishing you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

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 28 November 2015.

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JESUS WHO WAS BORN, LIVED AND DIED ON THE PERIPHERIES OF LIFE

Christmas Message – 2015

WHEN we think about Christmas we tend to think of it as 'merry', 'happy' and 'festive'. But for Jesus and the persons involved, it was not all pleasant. It was experience of life on the peripheries.

The Christmas story of a child in manger pushes us beyond the warm sentiments of celebration and gift giving to a view of life that makes us a little uncomfortable. It was experience on the peripheries of life, as Pope Francis would put it.

Jesus was born on the extreme peripheries of the Roman Empire. He lived in an occupied country where terrorist acts and rebellions were commonplace. Nothing was safe and comfortable in Jesus' origins. His genealogy was not one of pedigree and privilege. His relatives included all kinds of people, some from questionable backgrounds.

Jesus' birth was shrouded with controversy. Even Mary's husband could not first understand it. Jesus was from a working class family. He became a refugee in Egypt and ended up a carpenter.

During his preaching and healing ministry Jesus moved through the peripheries of society to embrace the poor, the widow, the orphan and the marginalised. He spoke and modelled the radical love of God that pushes us beyond ourselves to care for neighbour,

stranger, prisoner and refugee; an edgy kind of compassion.

One day, when Jesus was teaching, someone called out from the crowd "blessed is the mother who gave you birth". We might have expected a polite reply, like: "Thank you, my mum is the best ever". Instead he gave a deliberately challenging reply. "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Jesus shifted the focus from his family to the importance of living a life centred in the love of God and the care of others, especially those on the peripheries.

Christmas has to lead us beyond self-indulgence and self-interest to consider the needs of others and embrace the radical love of God, shown by Jesus who was born, lived and died on the peripheries of life.

With Christmas & New Year Greetings!
+ **Bishop Bosco Puthur**



PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE JUBILEE

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



Bishop Bosco Puthur inaugurating the Year of Mercy on Sunday 13 December 2015



FINAL SYNOD DOCUMENT STRONGLY BACKS CHURCH TEACHING, BEAUTY OF FAMILY LIFE

The Vatican's synod on the family was opened by Pope Francis Oct. 4, and it ended on Oct. 25, 2015. With a two-thirds majority vote, the more than 200 bishops gathered for the Vatican's synod on the family supported Church teaching on hot-button issues such as homosexuality and communion for divorced and remarried persons. The theme of the event was "The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world," and followed 2014's extraordinary synod on the family, which focused on pastoral challenges involved in family life.

This Synod discussions tended to be reduced in Western secular media to two issues: communion for divorced-and-civily remarried, and Church teaching and pastoral care regarding homosexuality. However, actual topics brought up during meetings were much broader, with synod fathers touching on themes such as domestic violence, violence against women, incest and abuse within families, marriage preparation and pornography. Also affirmed in the document was the Church's stance on homosexuality, which was one of the most contested issues of last year's synod, particularly in the final document. The document reiterated that, "every person, independently of their sexual tendency, must be respected in their dignity and welcomed with respect," but clarified

that "there is no foundation whatsoever to assimilate or establish analogies, even remotely, between homosexual unions and God's design for marriage and the family."

The final document also backed Church teaching on life issues, such as abortion and contraception. In paragraph 33, it is reiterated that all human life "is sacred because, since its beginning, it involves the creative action of God." Only God "is the Lord of life from it's beginning to it's end," the document continued. "No one, under any circumstance, can claim for themselves the right to directly destroy an innocent human being." Openness to life was also underlined as an "intrinsic requirement of married love." While an unfortunate mentality has diffused in society which reduces procreation "to individual gratification or that of the couple," the synod fathers stressed that children are always a blessing, and are especially loved by Christ.

The beauty of marriage and the family was expressed throughout the document, with strong references to marriage indissolubility from the beginning to the end. Quoting Pope Francis' Oct. 4 homily for the opening of the synod, paragraph one of the document emphasised that, "God didn't create the human being to live in

sadness or to be alone, but for happiness, to share his path with another person that is complimentary." "From the beginning of creation God made them male and female; because of this man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." It recalls how "God united the hearts of man and woman who love each other and unites them in unity and indissolubility. This means that the goal of married life is not only to live together forever, but to love each other forever!" "In the freedom of the 'yes' exchanged between a man and woman in marriage, the love of God is experienced and made present," the document continued, explaining that it is God who sustains this union through the Holy Spirit, even when it fails.

Synod fathers said they are able to see the reality of families today across the globe with "renewed freshness and enthusiasm" when looking back with the gaze of Christ. With the help of the Holy Spirit, pastors, in the knowledge that no family is perfect, can discern "the paths with which to renew the Church and society in their commitment for the family founded on the marriage between a man and woman." "The Christian announcement that concerns the family is truly a good news," they said.



ബസേലിയോസ് മാർത്തോമ്മ പൗലോസ് ദിതീയൻ കാത്തോലിക്ക ബാവയ്ക്ക് സ്വീകരണം നൽകി

മെൽബൺ: മലങ്കര ഓർത്തോഡോക്സ് സഭയുടെ പരമാധ്യക്ഷൻ ബസേലിയോസ് മാർത്തോമ്മ പൗലോസ് ദിതീയൻ കാത്തോലിക്ക ബാവയ്ക്കും ചെന്നൈ ഭദ്രാസനാധിപൻ ഡോ. യൂഹാനോൻ മാർ ദിയസ്കോറസ് മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തയ്ക്കും മെൽബൺ സെന്റ് തോമസ് സീറോമലബാർ രൂപത സ്വീകരണം നൽകി. രൂപത അധ്യക്ഷൻ മാർ ബോസ്കോ പുത്തൂർ സ്വീകരണത്തിന് നേതൃത്വം നൽകി. ഗ്രീൻവൈസ് ഷെർവുഡ് റിസപ്ഷൻ സെന്ററിൽ നടന്ന സ്വീകരണത്തിൽ മാർ ബോസ്കോ പുത്തൂർ സ്വാഗതം ആശംസിച്ചു. വികാരി ജനറൽ ഫാ. ഫ്രാൻസിസ് കോലഞ്ചേരി ബസേലിയോസ് ബാവയെ പൊന്നാട അണിയിച്ചു. വിവിധ ക്രിസ്തീയ സഭകൾ പരസ്പരം സഹകരിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തിക്കാനും സീറോ മലബാർ രൂപത നൽകിയ സ്വീകരണത്തിൽ

ഏറെ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നതും ബസേലിയോസ് ബാവ നന്ദി പ്രസംഗത്തിലൂടെ വ്യക്തമാക്കി രൂപത ചാൻസലർ ഫാ. മാത്യു കൊച്ചുപുരയ്ക്കൽ, രൂപത കൺസൾട്ടേഴ്സ് അംഗം ഫാ. സ്റ്റീഫൻ കാർപ്പിള്ളിൽ, മെൽബൺ സൗത്ത് ഹൗസ് കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റി ചാപ്ലെയ്ൻ ഫാ. തോമസ് കുന്ദയ്ക്കൽ, പാസ്റ്ററൽ കൗൺസിൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ജീൻ തലാപ്പിള്ളിൽ, പാസ്റ്ററൽ കൗൺസിൽ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് മെമ്പർ ഷാനി റോഡ്നി, പാസ്റ്ററൽ കൗൺസിൽ പ്രതിനിധികൾ, രൂപത ഫിനാഷ്യൽ കൗൺസിൽ പ്രതിനിധികൾ, മെൽബണിലെ വിവിധ സീറോ മലബാർ കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റികളുടെ ട്രസ്റ്റിമാർ എന്നിവർ സന്നിഹിതരായിരുന്നു.

Christeen Retreat 2015

The Eparchial Department of Catechesis successfully organised Christeen Retreat for children covering 15 Syro-Malabar communities in Australia from 19th September 2015 to 25th October 2015. The Christeen retreat team from Kalathipady, Kottayam including Marykutty teacher (Director of Christeen Retreat Centre), Santhosh T, Fr Anoop Joseph, Fr George Puthenchira CMI, Lissy Fernandez and Titto Kannatt conducted the retreat across all the Syro-Malabar communities in Australia.



The Retreat was a grace-filled experience for children and parents. Through songs, role plays, spiritual videos, interactive classes and praise and worship, the retreat team was able to magnetize the attention of the young minds. The retreat helped to nurture the faith of the young, and helped them to understand the gospel and to develop a spiritual life centred around Jesus Christ. The team also provided spiritual counselling to children and parents. The children gave positive feedback and reported that the retreat was fun-filled and electrifying!



എട്ടുനോയമ്പ്

മെൽബണിൽ St. Thomas Syro Malabar Western Region ആർഡീർ St. Mary's പള്ളിയിലെ പരിശുദ്ധ മാതാവിന്റെ എട്ടുനോയമ്പു തിരുനാൾ 2015 ലും അതീവ ഗംഭീരമായി കൊണ്ടാടി. 8 ദിവസത്തെ നോമ്പാചരണവും മാതാവിന്റെ തിരുനാളും ഇവിടെയുള്ള കത്തോലിക്കാവിശ്വാസികൾ അതീവ ഭക്തിയോടും ആഘോഷത്തോടും കൂടിയാണു കൊണ്ടാടുന്നത്. നാട്ടിലെ തിരുനാളുകളെ അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്ന തരത്തിൽ ചെണ്ടമേളവും ബാൻഡ്സെറ്റും രൂപങ്ങളുടെ എഴുന്നള്ളിപ്പോടുകൂടിയ പ്രദക്ഷിണവും തുടർന്നു നടന്ന ലേലവും സ്നേഹവിരുന്നും എല്ലാം നാട്ടിലെ പെരുനാളുകൂടിയ അനുഭവം തന്നെ ആയിരുന്നു. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വിൻസെന്റ് മഠത്തിൽപറമ്പിൽ അച്ചന്റെ കാർമ്മികത്വത്തിൽ നടന്ന ആഘോഷമായ ദിവ്യബലിയിൽ വികാരി ജനറാൾ ഫ്രാൻസിസ് കോലഞ്ചേരി അച്ചൻ സന്ദേശം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു. റോമി കളത്തൂർ അച്ചൻ സഹകാർമ്മികത്വം വഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു.



Class by Fr Antony Nariculum

Rev Dr Antony Nariculum, a priest of the archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly and the former Rector of St Joseph's Pontifical Seminary Aluva, gave classes on liturgy in the various communities throughout the eparchy.

Three New Parishes

Bishop Bosco Puthur established three parishes comprising the whole area of Melbourne. They are: St Alphonsa Cathedral Parish Melbourne North, St Thomas Parish Melbourne South-East and St Mary's Parish Melbourne West. The decree of the bishop establishing the parishes were read out during the Christmas Qurbana in the respective parish. The establishment came into effect on the day of Christmas. Fr Mathew Kochupurackal is the parish priest of the Cathedral parish and St Mary's parish Melbourne West. Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI is the parish priest of St Thomas parish Melbourne South-East.



സീറോ മലബാർ മാതൃവേദി

(Syro Malabar Mothers' Association)

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കർത്താവിനാൽ സ്നേഹിക്കപ്പെട്ട വൈദികരെ, സമർപ്പിതരെ, സഹോദരീ സഹോദരന്മാരെ,

ആധുനിക ലോകം ശാസ്ത്രസാങ്കേതിക മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിൽ അതിശക്തമായ പുരോഗതി പ്രാപിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. അതോടൊപ്പം സമൂഹത്തിനകളുടെ അതിശക്തമായ വേലിയേറ്റം അങ്ങയറ്റം ആശങ്ക ഉണർത്തുന്നു. ഇത്തരൂണത്തിൽ ആത്മീയ, ധാർമിക മൂല്യങ്ങളിൽ അടിയുറച്ച ഒരു സമൂഹത്തെ രൂപപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ നമുക്ക് ദാരിച്ച ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുണ്ട്. ഈ യജ്ഞത്തിൽ സംസ്കാരത്തിന്റെ കാവൽക്കാരികൾ എന്നു വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് വലിയൊരു പങ്കുവഹിക്കുവാനുണ്ട്. ഒരോ വ്യക്തിയുടെയും പ്രാരംഭ പരിശീലക എന്ന നിലയിൽ സംസ്കാരത്തിന്റെ പ്രാഥമിക നിർമ്മാതാക്കൾ മാതാക്കളാണ്. മനഃശ്ലാഭി അധഃപതിച്ചു പോകാതിരിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടി ക്രിയാത്മക സംഭാവനകൾ നൽകാൻ സുവിശേഷ ചൈതന്യത്താൽ പുരിതരായ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കും സാധിക്കുമെന്ന് വി.ജോൺ പോൾ പാപ്പ നമ്മെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. വീടിനെ കുടുംബമാക്കാനും സമൂഹത്തെ ആർദ്രമാക്കാനും, സഭയെ ദീപ്തമാക്കുവാനും സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് അഭിദീപ്തമായ കഴിവുണ്ട്. ദൈവത്തിന്റെ മാതൃഭാവങ്ങൾ സ്ത്രീകളിലൂടെയാണ് ഇന്നു സമൂഹം മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നത്. സഭക്കും സമൂഹത്തിനും മൂല്യബോധം നൽകുന്നതിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കുള്ള പങ്ക് വലുതാണ്.

45 ലക്ഷത്തോളം വിശ്വാസികളുള്ള സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിൽ മാതൃജന പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ അതാതു രൂപതകളിൽ കാര്യക്ഷമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു വരുന്നു. വളരെ ശ്രദ്ധേയമായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ കാഴ്ചവയ്ക്കാൻ അവയ്ക്ക് തീർച്ചയായും സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതേസമയം സഭ ഒന്നാണെന്നും പരസ്പരബന്ധവും കൂട്ടായ്മയും ഉൾച്ചേരുമ്പോൾ അത്ഭുതങ്ങളുടെ പുതുലോകം സൃഷ്ടിക്കാനാവാമെന്നും നാം തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു. അതിന്റെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലെ എല്ലാ വനിതാ പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങളുടേയും ഏകോപനം ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കി സീറോ മലബാർ വനിതാഫോറം രൂപീകരിച്ച് നാം പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു വരികയായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ രൂപതകളിൽ വിവിധ പേരുകളിൽ അറിയപ്പെടുന്ന മാതൃജനപ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ ഒന്നാവുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഉന്നതമായ പ്രവർത്തന മികവ് കൈവരിക്കാനാവാമെന്ന് നാം മനസ്സിലാക്കി. വിവിധ തലങ്ങളിൽ നടന്ന ആലോചനകളുടേയും പരിചിന്തനങ്ങളുടെയും വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ സീറോ മലബാർ മാതൃവേദി എന്ന പൊതുനാമം ഏവർക്കും സ്വീകാര്യമാവുകയും ജനുവരിലെ മെത്രാൻ സിനഡ് അതിന് അംഗീകാരം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു. സീറോ മലബാർ സഭ ചരിത്രത്തിന് അപൂർവ്വശോഭ പകരുന്ന ഒരു ചരിത്രം കുറിക്കുവാൻ മാതൃവേദിക്ക് സാധിക്കുമെന്ന് പ്രതാപിക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ ആരാധനാക്രമം ആരംഭിക്കുന്ന ആഗമനകാലം മുതൽ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിലെയും മാതൃസംഘടനകൾ സീറോ മലബാർ മാതൃവേദി എന്ന പൊതുനാമത്തിൽ അറിയപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിലൂടെ സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലെ മാതാക്കളുടെ ശക്തികരണവും പ്രവർത്തന കേന്ദ്രീകരണവും നാം ലക്ഷ്യം വയ്ക്കുന്നു. മാതൃവേദിയിലൂടെ ആഗോളതലത്തിലുള്ള സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലെ മാതാക്കളുടെ കൂട്ടായ്മയ്ക്ക് അവസരമൊരുക്കുകയാണ്. സഭയോട് ചേർന്നുനിന്ന് ദൈവരാജ്യസ്ഥാപനത്തിൽ മാതാക്കളുടെ പങ്ക് ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുവാൻ സീറോ മലബാർ മാതൃവേദിക്കു സാധിക്കട്ടെ.

മുന്നണിയിൽ നിന്ന് ചുക്കാൻ പിടിക്കുന്ന നിർവഹണസമിതി അംഗങ്ങൾക്കും, അവരോടൊപ്പം പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന സേവനസന്നദ്ധരായ എല്ലാ അമ്മമാർക്കും വിജയാശംസകൾ!

മാതൃവേദിയുടെ ആദിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ വിവിധ തലങ്ങളിൽ നടക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെയും മേൽ പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാദിഷേകം നേരുന്നു.

കാരുണ്യവാനായ ദൈവം നമ്മെ ഏവരെയും സമൃദ്ധമായി അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ.

ഈശോയിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം

മാർ മാതൃ അയ്ക്കൽ
അൽമായ കമ്മീഷൻ ചെയർമാൻ

മാർ മാതൃ ആനിക്കുഴിക്കാട്ടിൽ
ബിഷപ്പ് ലെഗേറ്റ്, മാതൃവേദി

മാർ റെമിജിയോസ് ഇഞ്ചനായിൽ
അൽമായ കമ്മീഷൻ അംഗം



NEWLY ESTABLISHED ST. ALPHONSA SYRO-MALABAR PARISH

A BLESSING FOR CANBERRA

On October 4 2015 the St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Community of Canberra was officially declared as a parish under the Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne. Bishop Bosco Puthur issued the official decree announcing the formation of the new parish, which was read out to the members of the St. Alphonsa community by the Vicar General Fr Francis Kolenchery during the annual celebration of the Feasts of Our Lady and St. Alphonsa at St. Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. The public declaration came during the homily of the Holy Rasa celebrated by seven priests, including Fr Varghese Vavolil who was appointed as its first parish priest.

The Syro-Malabar community in Canberra was formed a little over a decade ago. In November 2005, Fr. Vavolil and in January 2006 Fr Kolechery came to Australia to serve the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. With Fr. Kolenchery working as Chaplain and Fr. Vavolil as Assistant-Chaplain, they laid the foundation of the Syro-Malabar community. On 11 June 2006, the Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana was celebrated for the first time in Canberra at Sacred Heart Church, Pearce.

While the Holy Qurbana was celebrated only on holy days and special feasts in the early stages of the community, it came to be celebrated once every month from June 2007 onwards. In August of the same year, the community shifted its place of worship to St. Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. In October catechism commenced, as the members of our community knew the importance of passing on the Syro-Malabar faith and traditions to the next generation. From November 2008, the Holy Qurbana was celebrated every Sunday, with catechism classes on alternate Sundays. Currently the

Syro-Malabar community celebrates two Holy Qurbanas on every Sunday, with one Syro-Malabar English Qurbana on the first Sunday of every month, and has catechism on every Sunday.

In October 2008, Bishop Thomas Chakiath of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly officially named the Syro-Malabar community in Canberra after St. Alphonsa, the first Catholic saint from India, and the community chose St. Alphonsa as their patron saint. The ceremony took place during the Holy Qurbana celebrated by Bishop Thomas Chakiath and Bishop Patrick Power, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. On 22 October 2009, the community celebrated the Feast of Our Lady and St. Alphonsa for the first time. Since then, this feast has been observed on the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of October every year.

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, as it has since the earliest days of the St. Alphonsa community, continues to extend their support to the Syro-Malabar Catholics of Canberra. The faith, solidarity and traditions of the Syro-Malabar Church draw much appreciation from the Australian community.

St. Alphonsa community places the utmost importance on the spiritual development of our children and youth. In addition to catechism on Sundays, their character development is further enhanced by a variety of church-centred activities such as Bible Fest, seminars, annual retreats and special training programs. St. Alphonsa parish also became the first to form an Australian branch of Cherupushpa Mission League (CML), the largest lay missionary organisation in Asia. His Beatitude George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop

of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, inaugurated the Australian branch of CML on 1 December 2012. Children who have received their First Holy Communion are eligible to become CML members until they finish Year 12. Children who are in Kindergarten or above but have not received their First Holy Communion yet are members of the Holy Childhood.

The Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) plays an important role in aligning the youth with the Church and encouraging their spiritual growth. Despite being formed only very recently, the organisation already has proven to be a powerful influence on the young people of our community. Furthermore, the Charismatic youth movement Jesus Youth, altar service, children's choir, online prayer groups and ward prayer groups are all active in the community. The formation of lay organisations such as Pithruvedi and Mathruvedi in the parish is in progress.

Fr Varghese Vavoli is the parish priest and Fr Praveen Paul is assisting him in his pastoral duties.





BISHOP BOSCO'S PROGRAM DIARY

JANUARY 2016

7 THU SYRO MALABAR SYNOD
(7 - 12 JAN)

13 WED - DEPARTURE FOR FRANKFURT

20 - 23 (WED - SAT) - ACTON FORUM IN LISBON & PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

23 SAT - TRAVEL FROM LISBON TO ROME

26 TUE - MEETINGS IN ROME

27 WED - PAPAL AUDIENCE IN ROME

28 THU - TRAVEL TO CAGLIARI, ITALY

29 FRI - RETURN TO MELBOURNE

31 SUN - FEAST OF ST. JOHN BOSCO

FEBRUARY 2016

7 SUN - ALPHONSA FEAST
AT CHALDEAN CHURCH

8 MON - ASH MONDAY
(10 WED - ASH WEDNESDAY)

22 MON - THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW
PRINCIPAL ALTAR OF THE CATHEDRAL
- ST CARTHAGE'S CATHEDRAL, LISMORE

28 SUNDAY HOLY QURBANA AT THE
CONCLUSION OF RETREAT IN THE NORTH
MELBOURNE

MARCH 2016

6 - 10 (SUN - THU) — AOS (APOSTLESHIP
OF THE SEA), MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE
SYDNEY

11 FRI - RETURN FROM SYDNEY

20 - 26 (SUN - SAT) - HOLY WEEK

27 SUN - EASTER



"WE NEED SIMPLICITY TO PRAY AS A FAMILY: SIMPLICITY IS NECESSARY! PRAYING THE OUR FATHER TOGETHER, AROUND THE TABLE, IS NOT SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY: IT'S EASY. AND PRAYING THE ROSARY TOGETHER, AS A FAMILY, IS VERY BEAUTIFUL AND A SOURCE OF GREAT STRENGTH! AND ALSO PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER! THE HUSBAND FOR HIS WIFE, THE WIFE FOR HER HUSBAND, BOTH TOGETHER FOR THEIR CHILDREN, THE CHILDREN FOR THEIR GRANDPARENTS....PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER. THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO PRAY IN THE FAMILY AND IT IS WHAT MAKES THE FAMILY STRONG: PRAYER." – HOMILY, OCTOBER 27, 2013



Annual Retreat of Priests

Annual retreat of the priests working in the Syro-Malabar eparchy was held at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW from 9 to 13 November 2015. Retreat preacher was Fr John Flader from Opus Dei. Meetings of the presbyteral council and the college of consultors were conducted after the retreat. Various topics on pastoral care were discussed.



Prayer to Mary, Mother of God:

Father, source of light in every age, the virgin conceived and bore Your Son Who is called Wonderful God, Prince of Peace. May her prayer, the gift of a mother's love, be Your people's joy through all ages. May her response, born of a humble heart, draw Your Spirit to rest on Your people. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.