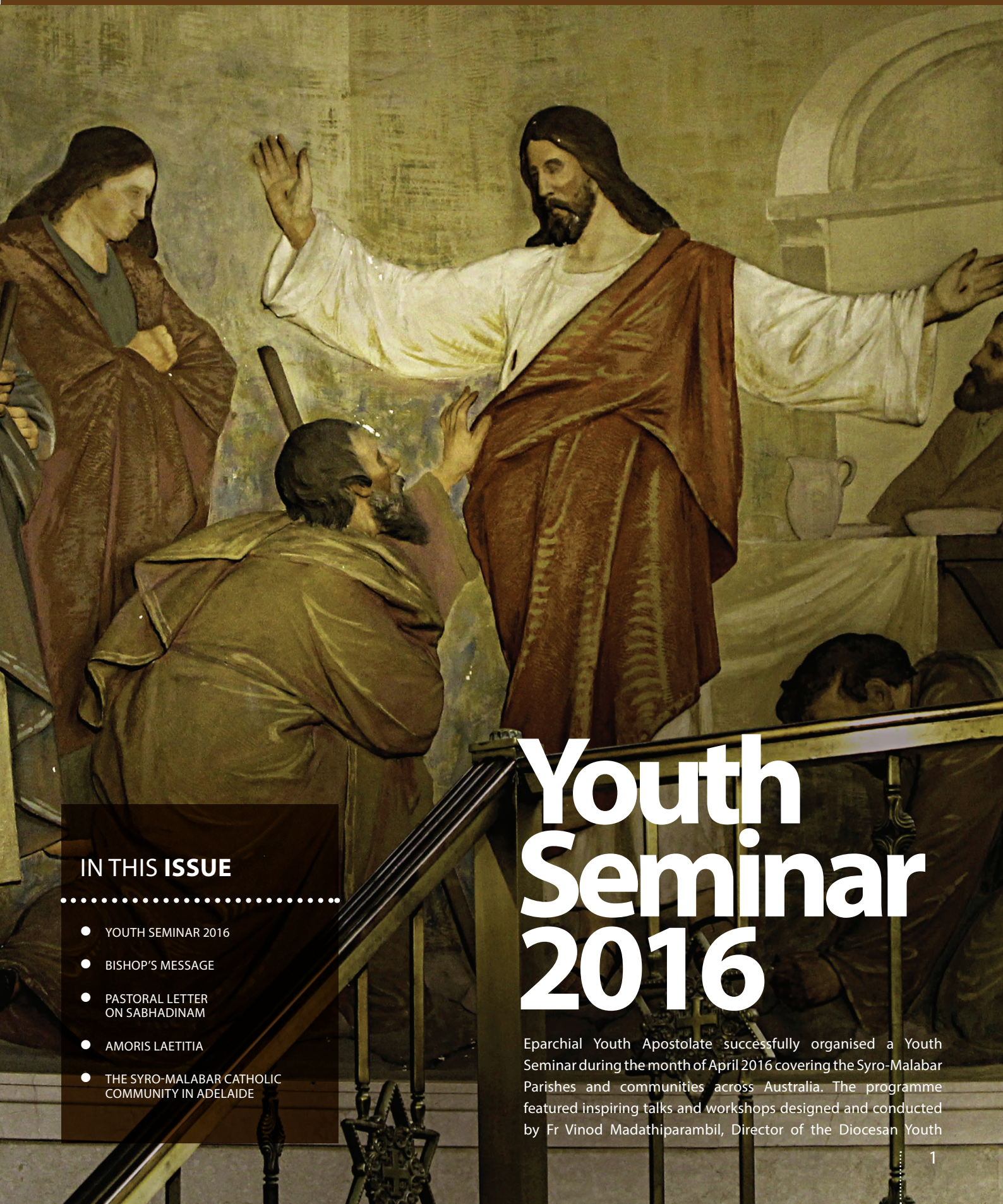




St. Thomas NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016, VOLUME 3, NO. 2

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



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Youth Seminar 2016

Eparchial Youth Apostolate successfully organised a Youth Seminar during the month of April 2016 covering the Syro-Malabar Parishes and communities across Australia. The programme featured inspiring talks and workshops designed and conducted by Fr Vinod Madathiparambil, Director of the Diocesan Youth



"[The Praise & Worship] songs really helped us to praise the lord in an open and free manner... The retreat was an exceptional experience for everyone who attended, and it gave us the inspiration to take initiative in our church community and serve our God."

DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY

"One of the main highlights of the two days was the adoration. The Holy Sacrament was placed in the middle of the room with all the people gathered around it. It was a very touching and moving experience and we all felt the amazing presence of the living God among us during that time of prayer."

TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND

"...most of all we felt like we were a part of something which made each one of us and me stronger and closer to God. It felt like I was able to open up, because the people around me were my age. I was comfortable in asking questions that I wouldn't ask in retreats for parents, because I knew that [my fellow peers] would be wondering the same questions. It helped me to improve my faith, and I had clearer answers to questions."

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

"[The seminar] contained elements of fun activities, deep thought, Adoration, Holy Mass, history of the Syro-Malabar Church, social problems [the youth] face now, friendships and much more. Brian, being the main speaker during the convention, was very interactive and friendly in his approach, quickly gaining the friendships of the youth present. The two days truly changed the youth that attended and I hope they conduct another convention soon"

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Apostolate from St Thomas Syro Malabar Diocese of Chicago, USA and Mr Brian Mundackal from the Youth Apostolate leadership group of Syro Malabar Diocese of Chicago. The goal of the seminar was to unite all young people of the Diocese and to encourage the formation of a faith-filled life that translate into genuine service to the Church and to the world.

The Seminar marked the first ever youth focused gathering of young people of the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Australia. The interactive workshops helped the church to understand the ongoing challenges faced by young people and to develop plans to nurture the faith-life in order to accomplish deep rooted spirituality. Through songs, role plays, videos, interactive classes, workshops and praise and worship, the seminar truly inspired the youth. The retreat team also conducted interactive session for parents. The participants gave positive feedback and reported that seminar helped them to understand the history of the Syro-Malabar Church and the basis of our faith. All the youth were inspired by Mr. Brian Mundakkan's testimony and they connected well with the theme. The seminar helped them to understand that they are the future of Syro-Malabar Church in Australia and expressed the desire to continue the youth initiative. As per the request of the youth, some parishes started monthly youth mass in English followed by youth gatherings to continue growing in spirituality and to participate in the evangelisation work of the parish community.



"The Q & A sessions, activities and games all received a great response and the attendees found it refreshing to attend something that was not styled like a [conventional] retreat. Over all, it was a great experience and the event presented an opportunity for all of us to learn more about the Syro-Malabar church."

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

"It gave them a new experience of the Qurbana and adoration. Moreover, they got a chance to interact with some one of their culture and language to speak about church and God...It gave them an opportunity to ask their doubts about church and other relevant matters."

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

"It was a great experience. Along the two days we were able to understand the basis of our faith, which helped us to fully participate in the English Syro-Malabar mass. We also understand that we are the future of our church and need to work towards sustaining it. [As a result of the convention], we formed a committee from among the youth to work on creation of Syro-Malabar Youth Movement."

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.



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

BISHOP'S MESSAGE



Bishop Bosco Puthur

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



Dear Friends,

Yet another issue of our St. Thomas Newsletter is before you. I would like to thank all those who work behind the scene to bring it out regularly. I request Rev. Fathers and Kaikkars and Secretaries of our communities to circulate our Newsletter as much as possible.

Let me express my sincere thanks to all those who organised celebrations on the occasion of my Sapthathi and those who greeted me personally, through phone or through letter, and especially to those who prayed for the diocese and for me.

This issue covers the programs and classes conducted for our Youth all over Australia in the month of April. Fr. Vinod Madathiprambil and Mr Brian Mundackal who gave excellent testimony of their faith commitment in the Syro-Malabar tradition, deserve our sincere thanks. I call upon our parishes and communities to give greater care for the Youth Apostolate. We have to go much ahead in the youth apostolate. Youth is the backbone and future of our Church.

You might remember that in this Year of Mercy, we made a Christmas Appeal for supporting the inmates of the Institutions run by the Sisters of Divine Providence (Kunnamthanam). I am happy to inform you from 20 communities we received AU\$ 22,124.70. Thank you most sincerely for your generosity. The amount will be handed over at the Divine Providence house at Vilangu on 28 August by the representatives of our Diocese, including the Bishop, Vicar

General, Secretary of the Pastoral Council and others to Sr. Jincy Mary the Superior General of the Congregation and to Mother Mary Litty, its foundress.

In this message I would like to bring to your attention three forthcoming events of great importance: They are World Youth Day, Canonisation of Mother Teresa and Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.

1. Kraków in Poland, the native Archdiocese of Saint John Paul II and of St. Faustina (Divine Mercy), is hosting the World Youth Day (25 - 31 July 2016) with the theme: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (Mt 5:7). The 2016 World Youth Day in Kraków will mark 30-years since the first official World Youth Day gathering. A few of you might have participated in the World Youth Day held in Sydney in 2008. I am happy that from our Diocese Fr. Biju Chulayillaplackal, Co-director of the diocesan Youth Apostolate and some of our youth will participate in this memorable experience at Kraków.

2. Another important event is the Canonisation of Mother Teresa of Kolkata on 4 September in Rome. She was a great testimony of God's mercy to humanity. Mother Teresa (Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu) was born in Skopje (modern Macedonia) of Albanian parents on 26 August 1910. She founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity. After living a great missionary life she died on 5 September 1997. Let us imitate her through our love and concern for the poor and abandoned whom Pope Francis calls people on the margins.



Let me remind you three of her quotations:

- There are no great things, only small things with great love.
- If you judge people, you have no time to love them.
- Priest of God, celebrate this Mass as if it is your first Mass, Your last Mass and your only Mass.

3. Yet another event of great importance for

us is the forthcoming Syro-Malabar Major Archbishop Assembly (25-28 August 2016) with the theme "The Response of the Church to the Challenges of Today: Simplicity in Life, Witness in Family and Mission of the Migrants". This is the fourth Assembly, held once in five years. A few delegates from our Diocese, including me, will participate in the Assembly. Let us hope and pray that the Assembly be an

occasion for conversion to the participants a catalyst for change in the Church.

Wishing you the blessings of the Feast of Dukhrana of St. Thomas the Apostle!

Yours in Jesus,

+ Bosco Puthur

1 July 2016



BISHOP BOSCO CELEBRATES SAPTHATHY (70TH BIRTHDAY)

28 May 2016 was the 70th birthday of Bishop Bosco. His day started with the Holy Qurbana offered by him in the small chapel attached to his residence with the participation of Mgr Francis Kolencherry, the Vicar General, Fr Mathew Kochupurackal, the Chancellor, and a good number of lay faithful.

Solemn celebration of the sapthathy was conducted on 29 May 2016 at St Matthew's Church, Fawkner at

4.30 pm with a solemn thanksgiving Eucharist and a felicitation meeting. Various highlights of Bishop Bosco's life were shown as a video presentation. Miss Ashley Jerome, VCE top scorer, presented a bouquet to the Bishop as a welcoming gesture. Mgr Francis Kolencherry, Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI, Mrs Shani Rodney, Mr Solomon George, Mr KP Jose, Mr Gene Thalappillil and Miss Joanne Thattil spoke on the occasion.

Various cultural programmes were presented by children and members of St Alphonsa Cathedral parish Melbourne North, St Thomas parish Melbourne South East and St Mary's parish Melbourne West. On behalf of the eparchy, a memento was presented to Bishop Bosco by Fr Mathew Kochupurackal. Bishop Bosco thanked all for their heartfelt felicitations and well wishes after the cake cutting. Dinner was served to all.

On 30 May, all Malayalee priests who serve under the eparchy and assist our eparchy joined together to wish the Bishop sapthathy greetings. The day was marked with a Holy Qurbana and a lunch. Many of those present travelled from interstate to join the celebrations and to felicitate Bishop Bosco.





Prot. No. 0648/2016

Pastoral Letter on Sabhadinam

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

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

This is the time when the Universal Church is celebrating the Year of Mercy. Let me express my joy at the observance of this Year of Mercy by all our lay faithful, priests, the religious and bishops.

Holy Father Pope Francis has published the Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of Love" in this Year of Mercy after the conclusion of the two synods on family life in Rome. Our faithful are receiving by now new directives and reflections through the writings of the bishops and of other members of our Church with regard to the renewal of family life.

The Holy Father sees the family as a field of activity of the Triune God. I would like to say that all the pastoral and missionary activities of the Church should be focused on families. There should take place a radical change in the mindset of the ministers of the Church while implementing the pastoral plans for the revitalization of family life. The perspective that should guide all our efforts of renewal in liturgy, faith formation, parish revitalization, evangelization, organizations of the parish etc should be aimed at the building up of families and of strengthening their stability and growth. Pastors are requested to convey this basic vision and programmes through family unit meetings, gatherings of Catholic Congress and seminars and meetings conducted under the auspices of parish organizations. We are celebrating the feast of the Dukrana of St. Thomas, the Father of our Faith, on July 3rd. Since St Thomas is the Father of our



Church, it is very appropriate for us to have the Church as the main theme for our reflections on this feast. The mission of the Church in this world is the same as the mission of Jesus Christ. Christian vocation involves proclaiming the love of God, bearing witness to that love and even sacrificing our lives for it as Jesus did.

I am sorry to note that we frequently hear about terrible acts of cruelty that are being perpetrated against Christians in Syria and other Middle Eastern countries. We shall offer those heroic lives to the Lord. Some of the Christian brethren in India too are experiencing violence and persecution in different parts of India. They too are ostracized and attacked because of their faith in the Lord. We have to pray constantly for the courage to bear witness to our faith. St. Thomas, the Apostle was martyred for his faith in the Lord. The children of St. Thomas should also be willing to bear witness to Jesus heroically through their lives.

We have to bear in mind that like St. Thomas who was an apostle, we too have to become apostles. St. Paul has echoed this sentiment beautifully when he said: 'Woe to me if I don't preach the

Gospel" (1Cor 9:16). We should be willing to undertake the necessary sacrifices in spreading the Gospel whether the circumstances are favourable or not. In today's context, evangelization involves translating the values of the Gospel into our lives and to align them with the values that are found in other religions and cultures. We have to collaborate in raising mankind to a common cultural humanism, in a spirit of brotherly love for all, irrespective of caste, creed or race. We have to build this culture where everyone is brother or sister to one another and not alien to them.

God loves every one of us without any personal predilections. God's love should become a model for our love. Jesus has told us that loving those who love us does not mean much. He wants us to love those who have hurt us.

The catalytic force in all our endeavors, whether in the field of education, politics or culture, should be Christian love. We have to work in those areas with a great sense of justice, transparency and mercy. Christians have to create a society without corruption and injustice.

We have to be strong pillars of support to those who are suffering, poor and sick. The Church is teaching through the life and words of Pope Francis that God is mercy. Our daily life should reflect this style of life, of being merciful in words and life.

A way of life based on love and mercy is a reflection of real faith. St. Paul too demands from us a life of faith that is active through love (Gal.5:6). In that way, we can make our faith active and fruitful through love.

This is also a good time for us to remember the migrant Syro-Malabar faithful who are living in different parts of India and abroad. They should have the same privileges of practicing their faith without any restrictions just like the faithful who live in the proper territory of



the mother Church. We have not reached any arrangement where we could provide proper pastoral care to our migrants. I would urge everyone to pray for the successful implementation of the necessary conditions to provide proper pastoral care to our migrant communities. I don't have to emphasize the need to be attentive on the part of all for implementing a successful pastoral plan for the faith formation of the children and the youths of our communities. We have to work towards forming a proper mental and spiritual outlook in them so that they could respond to the challenges of the modern culture in a Christian way. Truthfulness, justice, chastity, love of the country and merciful attitudes should be fostered in their lives. They should also have moral capability,

prudence and confidence to take upon these responsibilities at the regional as well as at the church levels. Those who are active in various Church ministries should motivate and train the young to follow them in these ministries. St. John writes in the Gospel that Thomas doubted the Resurrection of Jesus. That doubt has become redemptive for us as it became a happy doubt like the Felix culpa of St. Augustine to express the joy of the Incarnation. Similarly, I would like to call the doubt of Thomas as happy doubt as it enabled him to address Jesus as "My Lord and My God." We have to be thankful to the Apostle for his doubt as it enables us to call Jesus as "My Lord and my God".

O, St. Thomas, now your proclamation has become our proclamation. Just as the faith of St. Peter has become the foundation of the universal Church, so the faith of St. Thomas has become a corner stone in the communion of churches which is the Universal church. May the merciful Lord bless all of you! I bless you in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Lovingly in Christ Jesus,

+George Cardinal Alencherry

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St Thomas, Kakknad, on the 30th of May 2016.

Golden Jubilee Mass of Kimberley Diocese Broome, Western Australia



Bishop Puthur was one of the 14 Bishops who attended the Golden Jubilee Mass of Kimberley Diocese. Bishop Christopher Saunders, the Bishop of Kimberley was the main celebrant of the Golden Jubilee Mass. The Papal Representative in Australia, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana was present and blessed the holy celebration with his preaching.



Bishop Saunders thanked everyone who had worked to make the jubilee celebrations a success and who had travelled long distance to attend the golden jubilee mass. In this year 2016, Bishop Saunders is celebrating his 20 years as Bishop of Kimberley.

Kimberley Diocese is located in North Eastern part of Western Australia, spread across 423,517 square kilometres which is more than ten times bigger than Kerala. Kimberley region has a population of around 40,000 at least half of them with indigenous descent. The main parishes in Kimberley Diocese are Broome, Derby, Kununurra, Halls Creek, Beagle Bay, Fitzroy Crossing etc.

Kimberley Diocese has more than 20 Syro Malabar families who actively supports the local parishes around Kimberley.



Amoris Laetitia, 'The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family'

THE HOLY FATHER HAS PUBLISHED AN APOSTOLIC
EXHORTATION ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE



The Holy Father has published an Apostolic Exhortation on marriage and family life

To clearly reaffirm not "the ideal" of the family, but its rich and complex reality, in order to reflect on love in the family together with the women and men of our time. With this purpose in mind, on 19 March 2016, the Solemnity of St Joseph, Pope Francis signed the Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family.

The highly anticipated document, speaks the language of experience, offering an open and profoundly positive outlook, which feeds not on abstractions or ideal projections, but on pastoral attention to reality. The text, laden with spiritual points and practical wisdom suitable to every couple and to those people who hope to build a family, was the fruit of practical collaboration with people who have experienced many years of family life. The vast Exhortation is divided into nine chapters and more than 300 paragraphs which include the results of the two synods on the family convened by Pope Francis in

2014 and 2105. The concluding reports of the two conferences are largely cited, along with documents and teachings of his predecessors, and the Pontiff's own catecheses on the family.

Australia's Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Bishop Eugene Hurley attended the Synod on the Family in Rome in October last year. Speaking on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Coleridge said that in *Amoris Laetitia* Pope Francis speaks as a true pastor who really knows the human heart and is well aware of the pressures now facing marriage and the family.

The Holy Father is well aware of the pressures now facing marriage and the family.

"The Pope moves between the ideal and the real, offering the Church's vision of marriage and the family but also dealing with the facts on the ground, which can be messy," Archbishop Coleridge said. In the document, the Holy Father sees marriage and the family in dynamic

terms, writing of them as a journey. "The Synod process," he notes, "allowed for an examination of the situation of families in today's world", opening up "a broader vision" and a renewed awareness of the importance of marriage and the family, which is counter cultural in today's society. Francis does not shy away from complex and controversial issues including divorce, abortion, domestic violence, euthanasia, 'same-sex marriage' and gender ideology. He stresses the need to care for the most vulnerable in society, especially the elderly, people with disability and migrants.

In reference to the sexual abuse of children, Francis said, "the sexual abuse of children is all the more scandalous when it occurs in places where they ought to be made safe" (45).

On unions between homosexual persons, the Pope writes, "We would like before all else to reaffirm that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration" (250).

Archbishop Coleridge said the Pope's words were both high-visioned and home-spun, at times soaring but often down-to-earth. "They summon the Church to accompany people on their journey, listen to them and help them discern the truth of their situation, and discover where God is in the mess," he said.

On the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) website you can download the text of *Amoris Laetitia* and read the summary document and Q&A provided by the Vatican. <https://www.catholic.org.au/Amoris-Laetitia>

To watch a brief summary of the document by Archbishop Coleridge; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no0oI5dPnxo&feature=youtu.be>

Courtesy: <http://catholicoutlook.org/amoris-laetitia-the-joy-of-love-on-love-in-the-family/>



THE SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN ADELAIDE

Presence of Syro-Malabar Christians in Adelaide rose into a notable size in the last two decades. The beginning marked occasional congregation and with visiting priests and celebration of Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite. As years went by, these small gatherings progressed to initiating religious instruction for the kids and celebrating Holy Mass and other sacraments on a regular basis. The Syro-Malabar community in Adelaide gradually converged into three different centers (North, South and Central) considering the geographical features of Adelaide and the convenience of the community. In 2012, Syro-Malabar community in Adelaide received Rev Fr Francis Perumadan OFM as its resident temporary chaplain. Celebration of Holy Qurbana and other activities continued on a regular basis. Rev. Dr. Frederick Eluvathingal (Fr Fredy) was appointed the first chaplain to the Syro-Malabar community in Adelaide by the Syro-Malabar Church in May 2013. His appointment was confirmed by Archbishop Philip Wilson of Adelaide. Fr. Fredy was officially introduced to the community by the Vicar General Msgr. Philip Marshall at St. Margaret Mary's church, Croydon Park on Sunday, 23rd June 2013.

St Euphrasia Syro-Malabar Mission, Adelaide North

Year 2012 marked a significant milestone in the formation of this Mission. George Joseph with like minded members of the community took initiative to start catechism for the pupils of the North Community. Under the guidance of Fr Francis Perumadan, catechism classes started to be conducted on Sundays on a regular basis. Aneesh Thomas was the founding head

master, and nearly 100 students joined for the religious instructions. Regular Sunday Qurbana also began. In October 2015, Fr Biju John Chulayillaplackal arrived in Adelaide and took the independent charge of St Euphrasia Syro-Malabar Mission. Jose P Kurien, the current Head Master, leads a team of committed teachers to achieve this goal. Today, there are about 120 students in 12 different grades in the Catechism classes. Every year teachers prepare candidates for first Holy Communion and Confirmation. They also organise co-curricular activities like Bible Kalolsavam, outdoor activities, retreat for children, etc.

The Mission consists of six basic Christian communities (family units). These units bring together the people living in nearby areas. Unit meetings are held monthly. Fr Biju John Chulayillaplackal is the chaplain of this Mission.

The Syro-Malabar Central and South Communities

The central region is named and registered as St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission Adelaide, and the South region

is named and registered as St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission Adelaide South. St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission Adelaide has regular Sunday Qurbana and Sunday Catechism at Thebarton since July 2015: Catechism at 3.15 pm and Holy Qurbana at 4.30 pm.

St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission Adelaide South has regular Sunday Qurbana (6.30 pm) and Sunday Catechism (5.00 pm) at St. Bernadette's Church, 2 Walsh Ave, St. Mary's, SA 5042.

A committed team of 21 teachers under the leadership of head master Shaji Jacob organize 167 students in 12 years at the Centre. 20 regular and relief teachers led by head master Joshy Kizhakkemyalil teach 76 students in the South. Co-curricular activities such as Bible Kalotsavam, retreat for children, and Life Guidance Seminar are also conducted. BCC (Kudumbakootayma): BCC (Basic Christian Communities - kudumbakootayma) comprising ten to twenty families each are formed in these regions. There nine such units in the Centre and four at the South.

Fr Frederick Eluvathingal is the chaplain of both central and southern Missions.



Fr Biju John Chulayillaplackal



Fr. Frederick Eluvathingal



സ്പിരിറ്റ് ഇൻ ജീസസ് വിശ്വാസികളെ വഴി തെറ്റിക്കുന്നു.

'സ്പിരിറ്റ് ഇൻ ജീസസ്' പ്രസ്ഥാനം അഞ്ചു ദശകങ്ങളിലായ ഉപദേശങ്ങൾ വഴി വിശ്വാസികളെ വഴി തെറ്റിക്കുന്നുവെന്ന് കേരള കത്തോലിക്കാ മെത്രാൻ സമിതി വ്യക്തമാക്കി. ഇത് സംബന്ധിച്ച് പുറത്തിറക്കിയ സർക്കുലറിൽ പറയുന്നു: സ്പിരിറ്റ് ഇൻ ജീസസ് പ്രസ്ഥാനം അതിന്റെ നിലവിലുള്ള രൂപത്തിൽ കത്തോലിക്കാ വിശ്വാസവുമായി ഒത്തുപോകുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ ഈ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയിലെ എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും ഇതിനാൽ നിരോധിക്കുന്നു. ഈ പ്രസ്ഥാനവുമായി ഏതെങ്കിലും വിധത്തിൽ സഹകരിക്കുന്നത് സത്യവിശ്വാസത്തിന് വിരുദ്ധമാണെന്ന് എല്ലാ വിശ്വാസികളെയും സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.



Dukrana of St Thomas

St Alphonsa Cathedral celebrated the Dukrana of Mar Thoma on Sunday, 3 July at St Francis de Sales Church Oak Park. Bishop Bosco presided over the Raza.

Orchestra by Santhom Melodies

In connection with the feast of St Thomas, the Patron of the South East Melbourne Parish, a music night was conducted by a group of musicians of the Parish named Santhom Melodies. It was performed with all professional perfection and devotion.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Thirteen extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion were commissioned by Bishop Bosco during the Raza celebrated on 3 July. They are six for St Alphonsa Cathedral Melbourne North and seven for St Mary's Parish Melbourne West. Their names are: Beena Benny, Beena Dilip, Davis T. Aiyinikkal, Elsy Joy, Jaison Urumese, Jancy Puthussery Pappu, Jeena Jose, Saby Sebastian, Saji George, Saji Mathew, Sebastian Thattil Antony, Thomaskutty V. Jacob and Zeyona Ann Jose.



Holy Communion in St Mary's Parish Melbourne West

Kids of St Mary's parish Melbourne West who received Chrismation and Holy Communion with Bishop Bosco, the parish priest and the teachers



Bishop Bosco inaugurates 'Santhom 2016', the parish day of St Mary's Parish Melbourne West. Fr Mathew Kochupurackal, Saji Mathew, Thomas C. George, Francis Philipose, Vinu Joseph and Fr George Karakunnel.



The kids of St Alphonsa Cathedral Melbourne who received the sacraments of confirmation and holy communion with Bishop Bosco, Fr Mathew Kochupurackal, Fr Thomas Kurumthanam and the teachers: Joby Philip, Gladis Sebastian and Betsy Antony.



World Youth Day (WYD) is a Catholic event for youth celebrated on Palm Sunday each year at the diocesan level, and every few years at an international location. It was founded by St John Paul II in 1984, and has since spanned generations of pilgrims.

World Youth Day is more than just a meeting drawing thousands or even millions of young people. WYD is a testimony of a living Church that is continually being renewed. Youth are the protagonists of this meeting of faith, hope and unity. The main goal of WYD is to let youth know about the message of Jesus Christ, in the context of a joyful meeting of the Pope, young people and leaders of the Church. It is also true that through young people of faith the young 'face' of Jesus is shown to the world. In 2016 the youth of the world gather again, this time in Krakow, Poland. Krakow is where St John Paul II was Archbishop before his election to the papacy. World Youth Day in Krakow will celebrate John Paul's vision for young people, renewed again with the presence of Pope Francis.





BISHOP BOSCO'S PROGRAM DIARY

AUGUST 2016

6 SAT FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, BRISBANE SOUTH
7 SUN FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION, CANBERRA
10 WED VISIT TO OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH, HARRIS PARK, SYDNEY
11 THU DEPARTURE FROM SYDNEY TO INDIA
22 MON SYRO MALABAR SYNOD IN KERALA FROM 10.00 A.M.
25-28 AUG SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL ASSEMBLY, KERALA, INDIA

SEPTEMBER 2016

2 FRI SYRO MALABAR SYNOD ENDS AT 6.00PM
4 SUN CANONISATION OF MOTHER THERESA IN ROME
5 MON DEPARTURE FROM KOCHI
9 FRI- 12 SUN HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IN ADELAIDE
16 FRI- 17 SAT SYRO MALABAR PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING IN SYDNEY
21 WED- 23 FRI COUPLES RETREAT BY FR. DOMINIC VALAMNAL IN MELBOURNE
22 THU BISHOPS COMMISSION FOR PASTORAL LIFE MEETING
24 SAT INAUGURATION OF BIBLE CONVENTION IN SYDNEY WITH FR DOMINIC VALAMNAL
25 SUN BIBLE CONVENTION- ANNIVERSARY MEETING
26 MON BIBLE CONVENTION CONCLUDES BY 9 PM
27 TUE TRAVELING TO USA
28 WED- 30 FRI VISITS IN USA

OCTOBER 2016

1 SAT LEAVING FOR NEW YORK
11 TUE RETURN FROM USA
16 SUN FEAST OF ST ALPHONSA, PARRAMATTA
23 SUN FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, SYDNEY

NOVEMBER 2016

14 MON - 17 THU CLERGY RETREAT
18 FRI CONSULTERS & CLERGY COUNCIL MEETING AND CONCLUDES BY LUNCH
21 MON- 25 FRI - ACBC MEETING



"THE FAMILY IS THE PLACE WHERE PARENTS BECOME THEIR CHILDREN'S FIRST TEACHERS IN THE FAITH."

POPE FRANCIS,
APRIL 8, 2016, VIA
TWITTER

SAINT JOHN PAUL II MINOR SEMINARY

The Eparchy of St Thomas has started a minor seminary in Kerala on 18 June 2016 in the house of the Malabar Missionary Brothers at Pazhayannur in Thrissur district. The seminary is named after Saint John Paul II. Fr Lawrence Thaikattil, a priest of the Thrissur archdiocese has been appointed its rector. Its formal inauguration will take place on 20 August 2016.



PRAYER OF THE DAY FOR SOLEMNITY - ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.