



St. Thomas NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016, VOLUME 3, NO. 2

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

EASTER MESSAGE 2016

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Once again we are close to the Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Some of you might have heard of the death of US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, a fervent Catholic. His son, Fr. Paul, gave an inspiring homily at the funeral of his dad on 20 February 2016. For my Easter Message this year I thought of borrowing a few words from that homily.

We are gathered here because of one man. A man known personally to us, a man loved by many, scorned by others, a man known for great controversy, and for great compassion. That man, of course, is Jesus of Nazareth. It is He whom we proclaim. Jesus Christ, son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary, crucified, buried, risen, seated at the right hand of the Father. It is because of Him, because of His life, death and resurrection that we do not mourn as those who have no hope.

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Scripture says, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.' (Hebrews 13:8), In effect, we look in three directions: to yesterday, in thanksgiving; to today, in petition; and into eternity with hope.

We look to Jesus Christ yesterday--that is, to the past--in thanksgiving for the blessings of God. We call to mind all of these blessings, and we give Our Lord the honour and glory for them, for they are His work.

We look to Jesus today, in petition, to the present moment here and now, as we mourn the one we love and admire, the one whose absence pains us.

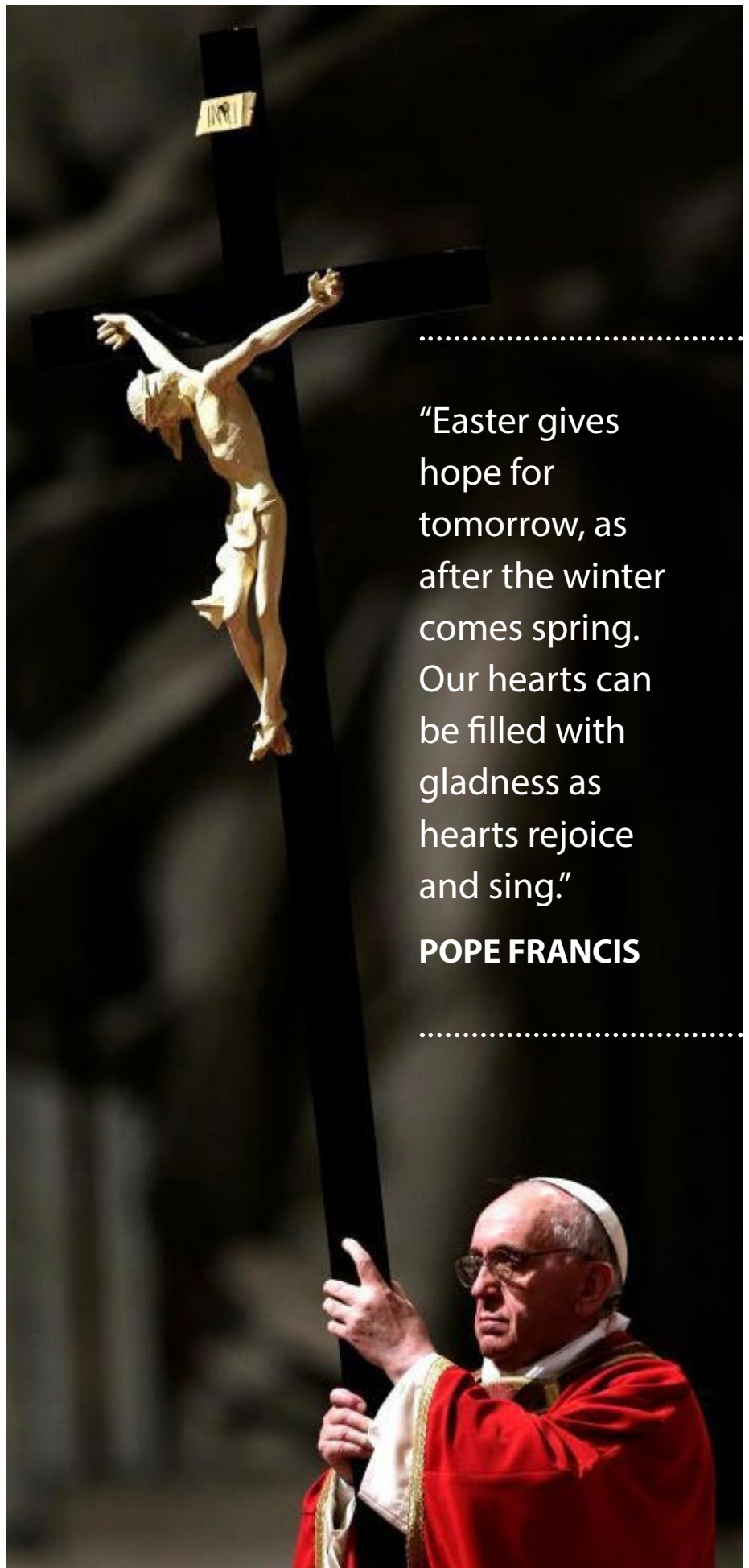
Finally, we look to Jesus, forever, into eternity-or better, we consider our own place in eternity, with the Lord. Even as we pray for the dead, we should be mindful of ourselves. Every funeral reminds us of just how thin the veil is, between this world and the next, between time and eternity, between the opportunity for conversion and the moment of judgment. So we cannot depart from here unchanged. It makes no sense to celebrate God's goodness and mercy if we are not attentive and responsive to those realities in our own lives. We must allow this encounter with eternity to change us, to turn us from sin and toward the Lord.

Dear Friends, Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. The Risen Christ gives meaning to our past, relevance to our present and above all hope to our future. That is what Easter mean to me, to us.

Jesus Christ is risen! Hallelujah!
Easter 2016



+Bosco Puthur



"Easter gives hope for tomorrow, as after the winter comes spring. Our hearts can be filled with gladness as hearts rejoice and sing."

POPE FRANCIS



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

PASTORAL LETTER



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



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

During this 50 days Lenten (Great Fast) period, as we contemplate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, I would like to discuss with you certain aspects of a very important ministry of our Eparchy: Faith formation / Catechesis.

I congratulate and express my deep appreciation to the parents, catechism teachers and the community for their efforts and willingness to foster children's faith formation and spiritual growth, in addition to the care you give to their intellectual, social, and physical growth. The Universal Church especially applauds and congratulates the tradition and process of our Syro-Malabar Church in the transmission of faith to our children. Faith formation is second only to the celebration of the sacraments in our Eparchy.

What do we mean by Faith formation / Catechesis? Catechesis is education in the faith for those who have received Baptism, including the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted in an organic and systematic way, with a view to bringing them into the fullness and maturity of Christian life. The aim of Catechesis is to grow the faith received from God during Baptism to life maturity. We need great enthusiasm to transmit the light of faith to the next generation in order for them to face their challenges and life situations and to lead a good Christian life.

The Family is the primary place for faith formation. Parents have a crucial role from the inception of

a life in the womb, through to the ongoing faith life of a child. Certainly, whatever a parent thinks, reads, sees, listens to, prays or does, all influence a child's concepts of faith.

Children learn their first lessons of faith from their parents. Contrary to the life situations of Kerala, our children grow up in the absence of their grandparents, and miss their presence and advice. For those parents who both work full-time, perhaps there is not enough time to properly educate and enhance their children's faith life.

Those children who come from families who place less importance on faith life could perhaps unwittingly influence our children in the wrong way. Modern communication systems like the internet, social media, computer games, etc. could also influence our children in a negative manner.

When you put these situations into perspective, we have the utmost responsibility to teach and transmit our faith and cultural traditions to our children!

The Syro-Malabar Church desires three types of faith formation to occur through families:

1) Doctrinal:

Through active prayer-life, parents teach children the prayers they should know. It is important to share Bible stories and other faith related stories with them, to buy books and encourage reading to increase their values of life according to their age, and to watch good videos with them that promote faith. All these assist doctrinal formation. Through this, they will come to know Jesus more clearly, to love him more dearly, and to follow him more dearly.

**2) Practical:**

Teaching is just not enough; however, children should get an opportunity to practice what they learn in their life. They should be encouraged to recite the prayers they learn on waking, while leaving for school, and before sleep. Train them to lead the family prayer at night. Encourage the tradition of saying Sthuthi (Praise to Jesus) between each other, and after the prayers. Teach them to put offerings (Nercha) while at Churches or Pilgrim centres. Also, teach them to help the poor.

3) Inspirational:

Parents should train their children in Faith formation by example. Once a Jewish Rabbi was asked a question about teaching children Torah (Jewish Written Law) and he answered, "If you truly wish your children to study Torah, study it yourselves in their presence. They will follow your example. Otherwise they will not themselves study Torah but will simply instruct their children to do so." Hence our children's Faith formation will depend on the enthusiasm shown by their parents for Family prayers, offering of Sunday Qurbana, and Bible reading.

The second venue for Catechesis is the parish, or the community of faith. We endeavour to provide an orderly and systematic faith formation. The aim of this formation is to teach the children the light of faith they received from their family in a deeper way. There are three ways of providing this:

1) Celebrative:

Sacramental life is faith formation's practical and celebrative way. Offering Holy Qurbana and other Sacraments, Adoration, reciting Rosary, Church Feasts, Stations-of-the-Cross and Novena all are part of faith formation. For the same reason, it is critically important to include children in the parish life in creative ways.

2) Doctrinal:

Currently, the Parish offers Faith formation classes up to year 12. Carefully prepared Catechism textbooks according to a students' mental growth, trained Catechism teachers, Parish priests and Chaplains are all part of it.

3) Practical:

The fulfilment of Faith formation occurs only when children practice what they offer, celebrate and study in their life situations. Groups like Thiru Bala Sakhyam (Holy Children's group), Cherupushpa (Little Flower) Mission League, CLC, Christeen and others are very helpful for the faith formation of children. As St James said, "Faith without work is dead". We need to teach children Faith, as an opportunity to show love, forgiveness and compassion through charity.

4,300 children with the help of 480 teachers, in 38 communities, attended Catechism training last year. I thank those teachers who sacrificed their time to teach children, even in their busy schedules, and the priests who provided leadership for it. The Eparchial centre has made plans to create online courses and seminars to train teachers and to deepen their knowledge of theology. As part of faith formation, Christeen retreats for children and other seminars have been organised. We need more in the future, such as a common question

paper and marking system, Eparchial Catechetical centre and conferences for Catechism teachers.

For efficient Catechesis in the parish communities, I would like to request greater participation and inspiration from parish priests. Priests, religious, lay ministers, catechetical teachers and community leaders, must come from our families for our Eparchy. I request everyone's prayers and cooperation towards this.

Let us hold strongly to the faith tradition of our father in faith, St Thomas the Apostle, who confessed his faith in Jesus by proclaiming, "My Lord and my God", and travelled to the land of Kerala, to transmit his faith and became a martyr at Mylapore, Tamil Nadu. In unison with the faith of Holy Catholic Church, let us together pass this faith to future generations.

Entrusting all our Children, Catechism teachers, Parents and Parish communities to Holy Mother of God,

Your Loving Father,

+ Bosco Puthur

From the Eparchial Curia, Preston,
Melbourne
13 March 2016.



Seminarians for the Eparchy of St Thomas, Melbourne



George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop
Syro -Malabar Church



Prot. No. 0191/2016

25 February 2016

DECREE OF CONVOCATION

The XXIII Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church in its Second Session, held from 17 to 29 August 2015, decided to convene the fourth Major Archiepiscopal Assembly of this Church from 26 to 28 August 2016 at Sahridaya College of Engineering and Technology, Kodakara, in the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda and to constitute a Committee of Bishops consisting of Bishop Pauly Kannoorkadan, Convener, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop George Rajendran SDB, Members. Fr Shaji Abraham Kochupurayil MCBS will be the Secretary. The theme of the Assembly, as decided by the same Synodal Session and later modified by the XXIV Synod, Session I, held from 07 to 12 January 2016 will be **“The Response of the Church to the Challenges of Today”** with the specification of **‘Simplicity in Life, Witness in Family and Mission of the Migrants’**.

The Central Organizing Committee of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly in its meeting held on 22 February 2016 proposed to begin the Assembly by the evening of 25th August 2016 so that all the themes could be discussed sufficiently in depth. This proposal was later communicated to all the Bishops of our Synod.

In conformity with the said decisions and presuming ratification of the change of date of the beginning of the Assembly by the forthcoming Synodal Session in August, and in accordance with Article 4 §§ 1&3 of the Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, hereby convoke the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly of the Syro-Malabar Church (2016), which will begin with the Holy *Qurbana* at 05.00 p.m. on Thursday 25 August and be concluded with Lunch at 1.00 p.m. on Sunday 28 August 2016, at Sahridaya College of Engineering and Technology, Kodakara.

The Synod Fathers are hereby requested to make this known to the People of God entrusted to their care and to do all that is required for the success of the said Assembly.

Given at Kakkanad from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas on 25 February 2016.

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



The Syro – Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia

Mount St. Thomas, P.B.No. 3110, P.O. Kakkanad, Kochi – 682 030, Kerala, India

Tel: (0484) 2424780, 2424768, 2426235; Fax: (0484) 2422727. E-mail: majorarchbishop@gmail.com, Website: www.syromalabarchurch.in



FEAST OF ST. ALPHONSA



St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Cathedral Parish celebrated the solemn feast of St Alphonsa, its patroness, on Sunday, the 7th February 2016 at Our Lady Guardian of Plants Parish, Chaldean Catholic Church, Campbellfield, Melbourne.

The Solemn Qurbana was presided over by Bosco Puthur, the Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Australia. Fr Francis Kolencherry (Vicar General), Fr Mathew Kochupurackal

(Parish Priest) and a few other priests from the Eparchy were concelebrants. It was a great day with over 800 faithful attending the feast. As a preparation to the feast, the community had nine days of Novena held at different Churches in the Northern suburbs. The celebrations came to an end with honouring of the members of the parish who have been living in Australia for the last 25 years and an agape meal.





PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA



Along with 120 Catholic Bishops from all continents, I was invited to attend a conference under the auspices of Acton Institute in Lisbon, Portugal from 19 - 23 January 2016. By the grace of God, at the request of several participants, the organisers arranged for us a pilgrimage to Fatima on 20 January. In Fatima I prayed to the Blessed Mother for our Diocese, for our families, especially children and for Australia, our country of adoption.

For us Catholics, Fatima is an important pilgrim centre. Tradition is that between May 13 and October 13, 1917, Mother of God appeared six times to three children, Lucy, Jacinta and Francis. 2017 is going to be the centenary year of the apparition of the Blessed Mother in Fatima. Now, preparations are going on for the centenary celebrations for which Pope Francis is expected in Fatima.

Pope Pius XII granted Canonical Coronation to the venerated image enshrined at the Chapel of the Apparitions on 13 May 1946. The reported apparitions at Fatima were officially

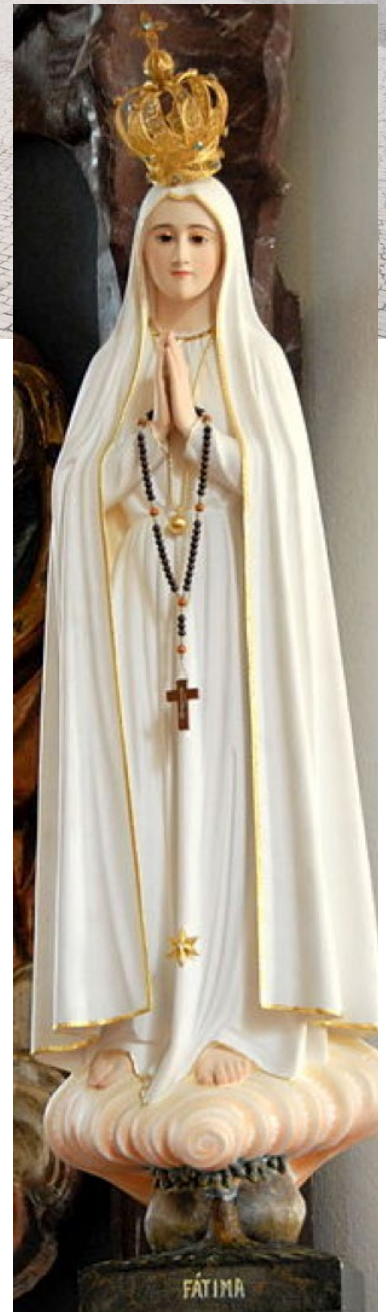
declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church, which commemorates the event on the same date.

Pope John Paul II credited Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life following an assassination attempt on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, on 13 May 1981. By divine providence, I was present at St. Peter's square in the Vatican to witness that dramatic event. Pope John Paul II donated the bullet that wounded him to the sanctuary of Fatima, Portugal and it was placed in the crown of the Virgin's statue.

It is at the request of the Blessed Mother at Fatima the prayer: "O my Jesus, pardon us, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need," was added between the decades of the Rosary.

Let us strive to be faithful sons and daughters of the Blessed Mother, by praying for world peace and for the conversion of sinners.

+Bosco Puthur
20 January 2016





LENTEN RETREATS SCHEDULE -2016

ST.THOMAS SYRO MALABAR EPARCHY, MELBOURNE

**Fr. Mathew Elavunkal VC (Divine
Retreat Centre, Muringoor) & Team
(Mr Alex Ponnat and Mr Biji)**

Fr. Mathew Elavumkal VC

Sydney: February 19, 20, 21 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Newcastle: 22, 23, 24 (Mon, Tue, Wed)
Melbourne: 26, 27, 28 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Shepparton: February 29,
March 1, 2 (Mon, Tue, Wed)
Adelaide: March 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, (Thu to Mon)
Townsville: 8, 9, 10 Tuesday to Thursday
Brisbane: North, South and Gold Coast 11
to 20 (Fri to Sun)

**Fr. Joy Chembakassery OSB
(Benedictine Retreat Centre ,
Makkiad)**

Fr. Joy Chembakassery OSB

Melbourne:
March 4, 5, 6 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Wagga Wagga: 8, 9, 10, (Tue, Wed, Thu)
Canberra: 11, 12, 13 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Campbelltown: 14, 15, 16 (Mon, Tue, Wed)
Parramatta: 18, 19, 20 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Darwin: 21, 22, 23 (Mon, Tue, Wed)
Alice Springs: , 24, 25 , 26 (Thu, Fri, Sat)

New Priests for Melbourne Eparchy

Priests arrived Australia in 2015
are Fr Sijo Edakudyil, Fr Biju John,
Fr Praveen, Fr Varghese Assin, Fr
Anto Chiriyankandathil, Fr Francis
Pullukattu, Fr Sajan Ezhunnootil and
Fr Leonse Moosariparampil. Three
more priests are expected to be in
Australia in few months time.
There are thirteen seminarians at
the moment studying in various
seminaries in Kerala for Melbourne
Syro Malabar Eparchy.

Residential Retreat for Couples

To develop an Eparchial core team to
lead parish based prayer groups, we
are organizing a residential retreat for
couples including children on 21, 22 &
23 September in Sydney. Fr Dominic
Valanmanal and team would lead the
retreat.

Recent Appointments:

- Fr Varghese Vavolil- Director, Syro-
Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM)
- Fr Biju John - Associate Director,
Syro-Malabar Youth Movement &
Catechism Department
- Fr Sabu Adymakiyl VC- Director,
Mathruvedi

- Fr Biju John - Chaplain, Adelaide North
- Fr Thomas Alukka - Chaplain, Sydney
- Fr Sijo Edakudyil - Chaplain,
Wollongong/Campbelltown & Director,
Vocations
- Fr Anto Chiriyankandathil- Chaplain,
Wagga Wagga
- Fr Sajan Ezhunnootil - Chaplain,
Ballarat
- Fr Francis Pullukattu- Chaplain,
Parramatta

New Syro Malabar Parishes:

The following communities are raised
as Parishes by Bishop Bosco Puthur:

- Brisbane North
- Brisbane South
- Canberra
- Melbourne North - Cathedral
- Melbourne South-East
- Melbourne West



Visit of Geevarghese Mor Athanasius, the Metropolitan of the Syrian Orthodox (Jacobite)

Geevarghese Mor Athanasius, the
Metropolitan of the Syrian Orthodox
(Jacobite) Church in charge of its
faithful in Australia and New Zealand,
visited Bishop Bosco Puthur in his
residence at Mickleham.





Getting to know our communities:

St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral Parish Melbourne North



The early migration of Syro-Malabar faithful in Australia is linked to the political changes in this country in the post-World War II. The end of the White Australia policy in 1966 with the introduction of the Migration Act, 1966, a watershed moment in immigration paved the way for migration by qualified people on the basis of their suitability as settlers and their possession of qualifications positively useful to Australia's economic development.

The early 1970s marked the beginning of migration by Syro-Malabarians from Kerala or others settled in other parts of India. The number of people arrived between 1970 -2000 remained marginal every year, however the number grew steadily. They were skilled people from various professions including health and engineering. Since 2003, organised migration commenced particularly professionals from healthcare and engineering fields.

The communion of Kerala Christians belonging to Syro-Malabar rite, Syro-Malankara, Latin rite, Jacobite and

Orthodox Churches formed the basis for organised gatherings as a praying community in different localities. Fr Jacob Kavungal, an SVD priest from Changanacherry who is a seminary professor in Melbourne celebrated the first Syro-Malabar Qurbana at the St Paschals Chapel, Box Hill in the mid-eighties.

In October 1998, a one day prayer service led by the visiting Vincentian Potta team accommodating all Malayalee Catholics instilled motivation and direction to become a more organised community to meet their spiritual needs. Fr Francis Adapoor O.Carm arrived in Melbourne in 1999 for his higher studies and under his leadership, the Malayalee Catholic Society of Victoria was formed in 2000 to organise regular Malayalam Qurbana at Box Hill. The first committee of the Society decided to make a request for a permanent chaplain to meet the sacramental needs of the Community in the spirit of the Eastern Canon Law. Most Rev. Denis J Hart, the Archbishop of Melbourne appointed Fr John Aravankara as a part-time chaplain to the Syro-Malabar Catholics.

Under the guidance of Archbishop Denis J Hart and the pastoral care of Fr John

Aravankara, the Syro-Malabar Community became more and more organised and attempted to follow the parish structure of their parental church in Kerala. Mar Gregory Karotemprel CMI who was the then Chairman of the Syro-Malabar Commission for Evangelisation and Pastoral Care of Migrants in consultation with the Archbishop of Melbourne granted an ecclesial structure for the Syro-Malabar Community in Melbourne. On 15 August 2004 an adhoc committee was elected to help the implementation of the structure. On 7 November 2004, Fr John Aravankara inaugurated the parish structure with the formation of a parish council.

The distribution of settlements predominantly in the South and West region and eventually in the North of Melbourne necessitated introduction of several mass centres and increased the frequency of Sunday masses at the existing centres. The visit of Mar Paul Chittilappilly in 2005 marked the first anniversary of the parish which was solemnised by Qurbana and cultural programmes. In August 2006 Most Rev. Denis J Hart assigned part use of the Oak Park Parish to our community and Archbishop Mar Mathew Moolakkattu celebrated the thanksgiving Qurbana and inauguration of the parish website (<http://melbourne.syromalabar.org.au>). This invariably assisted Fr John Aravankara to streamline the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabarians.

In October 2008 the parish celebrated its fourth parish day (Edavaka Dhinam) and feast of Saint Alphonsa. On this day Mar Thomas Chakiath and Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Prowse co-celebrated the solemn Qurbana. Visits by Mar Sebastian Vadakel MST, Mar George Valiamattom and Mar Bosco Puthur marked the parish feast celebrations in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Fr Vincent Madathiparambil CMI arrived in Melbourne in February 2008 to serve the archdiocese of Melbourne and on 27 September 2008 he assumed the charge of



part-time Chaplain for the Syro-Malabar Catholics with residence at the St Francis Xavier's Parish in Frankston. The number of Syro-Malabar Qurbana celebrated each Sunday steadily increased with the assistance of other priests from the Syro-Malabar Church then serving for the archdiocese of Melbourne.

In 2008 the parish council requested the Archbishop of Melbourne to appoint a full time chaplain for the Syro-Malabar faithful. Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the then Chairman of the Syro-Malabar Commission of Evangelisation and Pastoral Care for Migrants continued the dialogue with the Archbishop to appoint

North Community decided to gather at one centre every Sunday for their spiritual needs with the intention of organising regular catechism for children and thereby creating more community spirit. This enhanced the participation of more children in faith formation and active participation of families in the Syro-Malabar way of celebrating their liturgical life. Previously, Holy Qurbanas were celebrated and catechism provided each Sunday of the month at different locations such as Box Hill, Craigieburn, Epping and Oak Park. The generosity of Fr Stephen Kandarappilly, the then parish priest of Fawkner, geographically a central location for the Northern Community, offered his parish church for liturgical worship and

its inception in 2012 actively played a leadership role in the region. It hosted a number of major events including major retreats by spiritually gifted preachers and the first anniversary of the newly erected eparchy in 2015.

In January 2014, His Holiness Pope Francis established a new Eparchy for the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Australia and the appointed Mar Bosco Puthur as its first bishop. In February 2014, the North Community shifted its Sunday services to Our Lady's Parish Craigieburn when Fawkner Parish became no more available to the community. Fr Varghese Kurisingal cordially facilitated the church and classrooms



a Chaplain for catering to the spiritual needs of the Syro-Malabar faithful who continued to migrate in large numbers every successive year. Following this dialogue, Fr Peter Kavumpuram, a member of the Missionary Society of St Thomas, arrived in Melbourne on 3 February 2011. On 25 May 2011 the Syro-Malabar faithful purchased a property for the residence of the Chaplain as well as the administration office of the Community at 201 Lady Nelson Way, Taylor Lakes.

The Pothuyogam in July 2012 passed a resolution dividing the existing community into three different communities consisting of North region under the patronage of St Alphonsa, West region under the patronage of St Mary and the South East region under the patronage of St Thomas, the Apostle. This paved the way for increased participation of our faithful in the liturgical life celebrating their faith in the Syro-Malabar traditions with increased number of mass centres and other spiritual activities for different regions. However, in 2012, the

school classrooms for catechism. The gathering of North community at one centre helped to consolidate the scattered Syro-Malabarians in the North Region and provide greater leadership to the growth of the Syro-Malabar Church in Melbourne.

Year 2012 was a year of blessings for the faithful with the pastoral visit of the Major Archbishop His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry. On 2 December 2012 His Beatitude celebrated a solemn Syro-Malabar Qurbana at St Patrick's Cathedral, co-celebrated by a number of Latin Bishops of Australia, giving the Australian Latin Church a solemn witnessing of how our Catholic faith is practiced and celebrated in the oriental traditions.

In June 2013, the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Northern region with financial support by the West region purchased a 15-acre land in Mickleham after a series of intense search for a suitable place with existing permission for worship or land that is suitable for constructing a church in the central region of North. The North Community since

for Holy Qurbana and catechism and the community currently conducts the service at Good Samaritan Chapel at Roxburgh Park as renovation works are underway at Our Lady's Primary School Craigieburn.

In 2014 the North Community wholeheartedly accepted the offer to host the Cathedral of the Bishop at the Mickleham property. Mickleham site, now named as St Alphonsa Nagar is also the chosen place to build the Cathedral, parish hall, chancery and the bishop's residence. The existing residence at Mickleham serves as the interim residence of Bishop Bosco and the chancellor Fr Mathew Kochupurackal.



Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal (Parish Priest)



YOUTH CONVENTION 2016

Syro-Malabar Youth Movement Australia

Organized by: **Youth Apostolate of Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas, Melbourne**

Aim: This convention is primarily to gather and to empower young and youth of the Eparchy. This is meant for unmarried young/youth between 16 and 30 years old.

● Sessions will lead the young people to deep God experience, finding their role and identity in the Church and society. ● Classes will explore the youth ministry, Syro Malabar identity and tradition and organizing youth movement in each community of the Eparchy.

Convention Speakers / Leaders:

Fr Vinod Madathiparambil

(Director of Youth Apostolate, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Chicago, USA)

Brian Mundackal

(Leading Youth Speaker from USA)

Program schedule

01, 02 Apr: Melbourne South: Contact

Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI 0403553626

03, 04 Apr: Melbourne North: Contact

Fr Mathew Kochupurackal 0470768297

08, 09, 10: Brisbane:

Fr Peter Kavumpuram MST 0490037842

11, 12 : Townsville:

Fr Thomas Pulikkal 0481295210

14, 15: Sydney:

Fr Sijo Edakkudy 0451732589

16, 17: Canberra:

Fr Varghese Vavolil 0431748521

19, 20, 21: Adelaide:

Fr Fredy Eluvathingal 0418630088;

Fr Biju Chulayillaplackal 0470151749

23, 24, 25: Perth:

Fr Varghese Parackal VC 0402186459

26, 27, 28: Darwin:

Fr Binesh Narimattam CST 0466621238

For any other queries please contact Fr Biju Chulayillaplackal 0470151749 or Fr Varghese Vavolil 0431748521



In July 2014, Fr Peter Kavumpuram MST was transferred to Brisbane and Fr Francis Kolencherry, the Vicar General of the eparchy, assumed the pastoral care of the region. In August 2015 Fr Mathew Kochupurackal assumed the charge of North community. On 25 December 2015 Mar Bosco Puthur declared the North Region as a parish with the name St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral parish and appointed Fr Mathew Kochupurackal as its first parish priest.

Town Plan Application for developing St Alphonsa Nagar

Plan for a comprehensive development of St Alphonsa Nagar commenced immediately after acquisition of Mickleham property in 2013. A Cathedral designed in the oriental tradition with a seating capacity for 700 people is currently before the Hume City Council for a Town Planning Permit. Other developments at St Alphonsa Nagar included in the same Town Plan Application are a parish hall, chancery and the bishop's residence.

Visits to families of St. Alphonsa Parish

St Alphonsa Parish under the dynamic leadership of Fr Mathew Kochupurackal is focusing on members' active participation in the liturgical life of the community and enhance member's participation in their contribution for the construction of the Cathedral. Fr Mathew Kochupurackal has been visiting families since October 2015, outreaching to families with his commitment to remain focused on the spiritual growth of every member of the parish, spending time with them and blessings their houses. These visits are also utilised to develop the parish register to coordinate other pastoral needs of its members particularly when reference letters are solicited for receiving sacraments especially from members' original parishes in India.

Feast of St Alphonsa

The parish solemnises the feast of St Alphonsa every year in February though the actual feast is in July. This is due to

Melbourne's favourable summer weather in February for a solemn procession and other acts of outdoor spiritual activities. The festal celebration in 2016 marks special mention as the celebration was conducted at the Chaldean Church in Campbellfield, a turnout of nearly 900 members and the procession with all traditional expression of faith including gold, silver and wooden crosses imported from Kerala with all its grandeur and prestige. May St Alphonsa intercede for the needs of our Cathedral, may we remain united and become instruments in the hands of our Lord to become witnesses in a country that needs re-evangelisation.

Regular parish activities:

- Holy Qurbana at Mickleham on all days except Sundays
- Holy Qurbana on all Sundays
- Holy Qurbana at Epping on all wednesdays
- Catechism classes on Sundays for all Syro- Malabar school going children
- First friday Night Vigil and second Saturday Adoration by Benny Maliyakkal, Parish Secretary, St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar

Prepared by Benny Maliyakkal, Parish Secretary, St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral Parish Melbourne North



BISHOP BOSCO'S PROGRAM DIARY

MARCH 2016

6 - 10 (SUN - THU) — AOS

(APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA), MARY
MACKILLOP CENTRE SYDNEY

20 PALM SUNDAY, PERTH

24 HOLY THURSDAY - CATHEDRAL PARISH

25 GOOD FRIDAY - BACCHUS MARSH,
MELBOURNE

27 SUNDAY, EASTER - CATHEDRAL PARISH

APRIL 2016

1 FRI VISIT OF MCBS PROVINCIAL FR
DOMINIC MUNDATT

2 SAT EPARCHY FINANCE COUNCIL
MEETING

14 THU BISHOPS COMMISSION FOR
PASTORAL LIFE MEETING, NORTH SYDNEY

MAY 2016

4 WED EASTERN CATHOLIC BISHOPS
MEETING

MAY 5 THU - 11 WED

- AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOP'S
CONFERENCE (ACBC)

11 WED TRAVEL TO MUNICH, GERMANY

13 FRI FATIMA TAGUNG

15 SUN PENTECOST

16 MON - 29 SUN VISITS IN EUROPE

31 TUE ARRIVAL IN MELBOURNE

JUNE 2016

2 THU 50TH YEAR OF BROOME DIOCESE
CELEBRATIONS

3 FRI - 5 SUN WITH SYRO-MALABAR
COMMUNITY, BROOME

25 SAT PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF BAIJU
THOMAS MGL

26 SUN FIRST COMMUNION AND
CONFIRMATION, MELBOURNE WEST



"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**

2016 BIBLE CONVENTION

To commemorate the second anniversary, Eparchy is organizing Bible Convention in Sydney on 24, 25 & 26 September 2016 at St George College, 100 Badgally Rd, NSW. Fr Dominic Valamanal and team would lead the convention. A committee is working at the moment under the leadership of Fr Thomas Alukka.



PRAYER TO MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily repay you with praise and thanks for having rescued a fallen world by your generous consent! Receive our gratitude, and by your prayers obtain the pardon of our sins. Take our prayers into the sanctuary of heaven and enable them to make our peace with God. Holy Mary, help the miserable, strengthen the discouraged, comfort the sorrowful, pray for your people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God. May all who venerate you feel now your help and protection. Be ready to help us when we pray, and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it your continual concern to pray for the people of God, for you were blessed by God and were made worthy to bear the Redeemer of the world, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

(Saint Augustine of Hippo)