ST Inomas SNEWSLETTER Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle of Melbourne of the Syro-Malabars

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Family groups, many in traditional Indian dress, gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral on the evening of 25th March for the installation of the first Syro-Malabar Eparch in Australia, Bishop Bosco Puthur, and the formal establishment of the Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle in Melbourne.

Special celebrants, dignitaries and the Svro- Malabar faithful attended from around Australia and overseas. Celebrants included Major Archbishop Cardinal George Alencherry, Archbishop Paul Gallagher; Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Fr Francis Kolencherry; National Coordinator, Syro Malabar Church Australia, Archbishop Denis Hart; Archbishop of Melbourne and President of Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop John Dew, Archbishop of Wellington and President of New Zealand Catholic Bishop's Conference and Msgr Greg Bennet; Vicar General, Archdiocese of Melbourne. Over a hundred priests and bishops from the Latin and Syro-Malabar rites and parish priests from Australia and New Zealand participated in the Mass and installation, at St Patrick's Cathedral with near capacity. Following the announcement of the new eparchy by Pope Francis in January, Melbourne and Chicago are the only two dioceses of the Syro-Malabar Church outside India. Though relatively new migrants to Australia and New Zea-

and Installation of Bishop Bosco Puthur

land, the Syro-Malabar faithful now number about 40,000.

Archbishop Hart and Fr Francis Kolencherry (National Coordinator, Syro Malabar Church Australia), a Syro-Malabar priest from the Archdiocese of Ernakulam and Angamaly, made the welcoming addresses. "It is a great honour for us to welcome Bishop Puthur and to make available St Patrick's Cathedral for this significant ceremony in the life of the Church," Archbishop Hart said.

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"Dear Bishop Bosco, it is with joy and warmth on behalf of the Syro-Malabarese people, the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and of the Dioceses of Australia and New Zealand, that I welcome you as you take possession of the Eparchy of St Thomas of Melbourne. "Today we assure you of our prayers and support, of our welcome among us as a brother bishop and of our love and respect for the ancient tradition of the St Thomas Christians which you carry with you and your people into new countries and with new challenges.

"Fr Kolencherry warmly welcomed the Latin and Eastern Rites' priests and bishops and all those who travelled long distances to attend the ceremony. The origins of the Syro-Malabar Catholics, who were known as St Thomas Christians until the late 19th century, can be traced back to 52AD when Thomas the Apostle arrived in Kodungallur in Kerala, India to spread Christ's message.

Archbishop Paul Gallagher read the Papal Bull, while traditional hymns were performed by the 30-strong choir greatly enriched the two-hour service.

In his homily Cardinal Alencherry said the installation of Bishop Puthur was a great blessing for the Catholic Church. "Let us be thankful to God for this gift of the new eparchy and also for the first bishop of this eparchy, Mar Bosco Puthur. The enthusiasm of the Syro-Malabar communities in

Melbourne and in Australia deserves special mention. "The Mass ended with words of thanks from Bishop Puthur, especially for Pope Francis and Archbishop Gallagher.





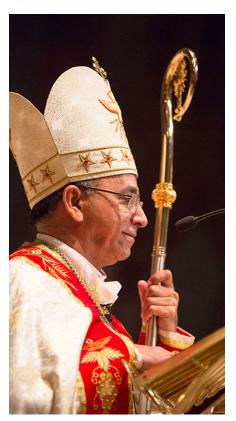


From Left to Right: Archbishop Denis Hart, Bishop Joshua Mar Ignathios Archbishop Geroge Cardinal Alencherry, Bishop Bosco Puthur and Archbishop Paul Gallagher

"It is [also] with the generous support of the Most Reverend Denis Hart,
Archbishop of Melbourne and the Catholic Bishops Conference in Australia and the Bishops Conference of New Zealand that the ceremony has been so smooth today," Bishop Puthur said. "I'd also like to express my

appreciation (and) the timely support that I continue to get from the bishops and parish priests in Australia and in New Zealand," he added.

Bishop Puthur also paid tribute to a former Archbishop in India who made the long journey to Melbourne for the ceremony. "He's 84 and yet he came enthusiastically to take part in this ceremony," said Bishop Puthur, a remark that drew loud applause.







Homily of the Major Archbishop at the Installation of Bishop Bosco Puthur

St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, Australia 25 March 2014

Dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops and my dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

This day of the Feast of the Annunciation has become a day of great blessing for the Church in Australia and in particular for the Syro Malabar Church. It was a long - cherished desire for the Syro – Malabar faithful of this country to have an Eparchy of their own and a Bishop for their pastoral care. This is being realized today. We all know that it is an act of the grace of God manifested through the pastoral solicitude of the Apostolic See and the wholehearted support of the Australian Bishop's Conference.

Let us be thankful to God for this great gift of the new Eparchy and also of the first bishop of this Eparchy, Mar Bosco Puthur. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Apostolic See, to His Excellency Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Apostolic Nuncio in Australia and to the Australian Bishop's Conference with its present President Abp Denis J. Hart and Abp John Dew, President of NZ Bishop's Conference, who have been instrumental in the erection of the new Eparchy and the appointment of Bishop Bosco Puthur.

Bishop Bosco was the Curia Bishop ever since his Episcopal ordination on 13 February 2010 and later held office also of the Secretary of the Synod of Bishops. Both as a priest and Bishop he has a rich pastoral and administrative experience and spiritual vision. All have acclaimed his appointment as Bishop of the Eparchy of St Thomas

the Apostle, Melbourne and Apostolic Visitator of New Zealand. Let us pray for the success of his apostolate here in this new Eparchy.

In St. John's Gospel itself, Ch. 17.26 we have the prayer of Jesus concluded I the words: "I made your name known to them and I will make it known so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them." So it is the same love relationship that the Son has with the Father that Jesus wishes to be in the Apostles also and it is this love that should strengthen the Apostles in their service as Shepherds.

The Church is a communion of love rooted in the communion of love that exists in the Triune God. This communion of love should be realized in the new Eparchy with its own specific Apostolic Tradition that the Syro Malabar Church has lived through 2000 years of its existence in India and now also in other countries. This communion should grow in the new Eparchy with an experience of the Word of God, the Sacraments, especially the Holy Qurbana, the Catechesis, the Family Prayer, the Family Unit Meetings, the Administration of the Church through the Palliyogam, Parish and Pastoral Councils, the Fast and Penance, the Way of celebrating liturgical Feasts and Pilgrimages. It is all these elements together that make the tradition of St Thomas Christians and that account for all the blessings of God that this Church could receive all through the centuries. This specific witness of the communion in the Eparchy of Melbourne should contribute

to the growth of the witness of faith of the whole Church in Australia in unison with the other Oriental Eparchies here and the largest community of faithful in Latin dioceses of the Country, thereby the new Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne becoming a meaningful presence and witness in Australia.

I am confident that the Church in Australia will hail the new Eparchy with great generosity and will extend every support for Bishop Bosco Puthur and I thank all the Archbishops and Bishops for their graceful presence in this historical celebration.

Finally I pray that Mary Mother of Christ, St Thomas our Father in faith, Saint Mary MacKillop, St Alphonsa, Blessed Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Blessed Evuprasiamma who are at the threshold of Canonization and the other Blesseds of the Syro-Malabar Church to intercede for the truly Christian witness of this new Eparchy and for the success of the Apostolate of Bishop Bosco Puthur.

May God bless all of us!

George Cardinal Alencherry Major Archbishop of the Syro-MalabarChurch





Bishop Bosco Puthur
Eparchy of St Thomas
The Apostle of Melbourne
of the Syro-Malabars

ഈസ്റ്റർ സന്ദേശം

ക്രൈസ്തവരായ നമുക്ക് ആണ്ടുവട്ടത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ദിവസങ്ങളാണ് വലിയ ആഴ്ച്ച (Holy week). ഓശാന ഞായർ മുതൽ നാം അതിതീവ്രതയോടെ നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവീശോമിശിഹായുടെ പെസഹാ രഹസ്യങ്ങളിലേക്ക് –പീഡാന്നഭവം, കരിശുമരണം, ഉത്ഥാനം– ആഴ്ന്നിറങ്ങുകയാണ്. വലിയ നോമ്പുകാലത്ത് പ്രാർത്ഥന, ഉപവാസം, ദാനധർമ്മം എന്നീ പുണ്യാഭ്യാസങ്ങളിലൂടെ നാം ഉയിർപ്പുതിരുന്നാളിന്റെ അനുഗ്രഹവർഷം സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ ഒരുങ്ങി വരികയാണല്ലോ.

2 കൊറി 8:9 ലെ പൗലോസ് ശ്ലീഹായുടെ ആഹ്വാനം കേന്ദ്രമാക്കികൊണ്ടായിരുന്നല്ലോ പരിശുദ്ധപിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസീസ് പാപ്പായുടെ ഈക്കൊല്ലത്തെ നോമ്പുകാല സന്ദേശം. "ഈശോമിശിഹാ സമ്പന്നനായിരുന്നിട്ടും നിങ്ങളെ പ്രതി ദരിദ്രനായി – തന്റെ ദാരിദ്രത്താൽ നിങ്ങൾ സമ്പന്നരാകാൻ വേണ്ടിത്തന്നെ". നമ്മിൽ നിന്നും എത്രയോ വ്യത്യസ്തമായ മനോഭാവം! എന്തു മാർഗം ഉപയോഗിച്ചും നാം സമ്പന്നരാകാൻ തത്രപ്പെടുന്നു. അതുവഴി നാം പലപ്പോഴും മറ്റുള്ളവരെ ദരിദ്രരാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. പാവപ്പെട്ടവരെ ചൂഷണം ചെയ്തു മുതലെടുപ്പു നടത്തുന്നത് മിടുക്കായി കാണുന്ന ലോകത്തിലാണ് നാം. ഇതിനു നേരേ വിപരീതമായ നിലപാടായിരുന്നു ഈശോയുടേത്. ലക്ഷ്യമാകട്ടെ നമ്മളൊക്കെ സമ്പന്നരാകാനും. പാപത്തിന്റെ അടിമത്തമെന്ന ദരിദ്രാവസ്ഥയിലായിരുന്നു നമ്മെ ഈശോ തന്റെ മനുഷ്യാവതാരം, പീഡാസഹനം, കരിശുമരണം, ഉത്ഥാനം വഴി ദൈവമക്കളെന്ന സമ്പത്തു കൈവരിക്കാൻ അർഹരാക്കി. ഈ മഹാരഹസ്യമാണ് വലിയ ആഴ്ച്ചയിൽ നാം കൊണ്ടാടുന്നത്.

അത്ഭുതാവഹമായ ഈ രക്ഷാകരരഹസ്യത്തിന്റെ വിജയകരമായ പരിസമാപ്തിയാണ് ഉയിർപ്പുതിരുന്നാൾ. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നാം ഉപേക്ഷിക്കാനായി മാർപാപ്പ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യം പൊങ്ങച്ചമാണ്. മറ്റുള്ളവരുടെ മുമ്പിൽ വലിയവരാകാൻ എന്തൊക്കെ പൊള്ളത്തരങ്ങളാണ് നാം കാട്ടിക്കൂട്ടുന്നത്. അത്തരം പൊയ്മുഖങ്ങൾ മാറ്റിവെച്ച് എളിമയുള്ള ക്രിസ്തുശിഷ്യരാകാൻ നമുക്ക് ശ്രമിക്കാം.

ഒപ്പം സമൂഹത്തിലെ പാവപ്പെട്ടവരെയും ബലഹീനരെയും സഹായിക്കുവാനും അവരോടു താദാത്മ്യപ്പെടാനും ഈശോ നമ്മെ ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. നമുക്കു വേണ്ടി ദരിദ്രനായ ഈശോയെ അങ്ങനെ ആത്മാവിലും സത്യത്തിലും നമുക്ക് ആരാധിക്കാം.

ആസ്ത്രേലിയ, ന്യൂസിലാൻഡ് രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ജീവിക്കുന്ന സീറോ മലബാർ സഭാമക്കളായ നമുക്ക് ഈ വർഷത്തെ ഈസ്റ്റർ ഒരു പുത്തൻ അനുഭവമാണ്. നമ്മുടെ ആത്മീയവും ഭൗതികവുമായ വളർച്ച ലക്ഷ്യം വെച്ച് പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ്

ഫ്രാൻസീസ് പാപ്പ മെൽബൺ കേന്ദ്രമാക്കി നമുക്കൊരു രൂപത സ്ഥാപിച്ചു തന്നതിന്റെ സന്തോഷത്തിലാണു നാം. നല്ലവനായ ദൈവത്തിനു നന്ദി പറയാം. ഈ രൂപതാസ്ഥാപനത്തിന് നമ്മെ സഹായിച്ച എല്ലാവരെയും നന്ദിയോടെ ഓർക്കാം.

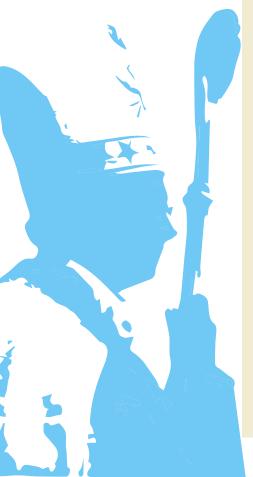
സഭാമക്കളായ നമുക്കിതൊരു ഔത്യവും ഉത്തരവാദിത്ത്വവുമാണ്. "എന്റെ കർത്താവേ, എന്റെ ദൈവമേ" എന്ന് ഉത്ഥിതനായ നാഥന്റെ മുമ്പിൽ തന്റെ വിശ്വാസം ഏറ്റുപറഞ്ഞ നമ്മുടെ പിതാവായ മാർ തോമാശ്ലീഹായെപ്പോലെ നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസം ഏറ്റുപറയാനുള്ള വലിയ ഉത്തരവാദിത്ത്വം. ഉത്ഥാനസന്ദേശം ആവേശപൂർവ്വം പങ്കുവെയ്ക്കാൻ തോമാശ്ലീഹാ കാടും കടലും കടന്ന് കേരളക്കരയിലെത്തി. അത് ദൈവം നമുക്കു നൽകിയ വലിയ ദാനമാണ്. ക്രൈസ്തവ വിശ്വാസമെന്ന ആ മഹാദാനം ഇന്നു നാം ജീവിക്കുന്ന സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ മറ്റുള്ളവരുമായി പങ്കുവെയ്ക്കാനുള്ള ദൗത്യം നമുക്കുണ്ട്. അതു നാം മറക്കരുത്.

ഒരു രൂപതയെന്ന നിലയിൽ രൂപതാദ്ധ്യക്ഷനോടും നമ്മുടെ ഇടയന്മാരായ വൈദീകരോടും ചേർന്നു നിന്ന് ഒരു ഹൃദയവും ഒരു മനസ്സുമായി നമുക്ക് സുവിശേഷത്തിനു സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കാം. എല്ലാവർക്കും ഉയിർപ്പുതിരുനാളിന്റെ മംഗളങ്ങൾ!

നിങ്ങളുടെ സ്വന്തം വത്സല പിതാവ്

ബോസ്കൊ പുത്തൂർ

12 ഏപ്രിൽ 2014









ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE PAPAL BULL

FRANCIS BISHOP SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD

To our Venerable Brother Bosco Puthur, up to now titular Bishop of Foratiana and Bishop of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church, elected Bishop of the new Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle - Melbourne of the Syro – Malabar, greetings and apostolic blessing.

As we needed to provide for the newly established Eparchy of the Syro-Malabar Melbourne, Australia, which We have established today with our Apostolic Constitution "Quo Aptius", We thought of you Venerable Brother, who are equipped with the right gifts and are knowledgeable in the ecclesiastical matters that pertain to that rite, to be the worthy person to preside over it.

Therefore, hearing the advice of Our Venerable Brother Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and with Our supreme authority, freed from the titular See of Foratiana and from the duties as Bishop of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church, we appoint you Bishop of the Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle - Melbourne of the Syro – Malabar with all the rights and duties of such office according to the Canons of the Oriental Churches.

Furthermore, We mandate that this Letter be made known to all the Clergy and the People of the Eparchy whom we encourage to gladly follow you and stay united with you.

I invoke upon you the gifts of the Holy Spirit confident that the faithful entrusted to your care may every day feed upon the evangelical and human virtues and that, at the same time, they may become strong and joyous witnesses of the Love of Christ in the world.

May the peace of Christ, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, be always with you and with this beloved, new established Eparchy.

Given in Rome, in St Peter, on the 23rd Day of December of the year 2013, the first of our pontificate.







ARCHBISHOP SALVATORE PENNACCHIO
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

DECREE FROM APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

Your Eminence,

I have the pleasure to inform you that His Holiness POPE FRANCIS has established the NEW EPHARCHY of ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE of MELBOURNE of the Syro- Malabars (Australia), and has appointed as its first Epharchial Bishop His Lordship Msgr. BOSCO PUTHUR, until now Titular Bishop of Foraziana and Curia Bishop of the Syro- Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

At the same time, the HOLY FATHER has appointed His Lordship Msgr. BOSCO PUTHUR, Epharchial Bishop of St. Thomas the Apostle of Melbourne of the Syro- Malabars as APOSTOLIC VISITATOR of the Syro Malabar faithful residing in NEW ZEALAND.

These provisions will be made public in Rome on Saturday 11 January 2014, at noon local time, corresponding to 16.30 hours, Indian standard time. Greeting your eminence fraternally, I assure you my constant prayer in the Lord.

Your sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio

Salvatore Pennachio

Apostolic Nuncio

SAINT OF THE MONTH



MAR GEEVARGHESE SAHADA (ST. GEORGE) FEAST DAY: APRIL 24TH

Mar Geevarghese Sahada was born with the name of Grigoris c275AD in the Roman provincial city of Nicomedia, Bithynia under the rule of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. He served the emperor as a brave soldier and loyal citizen of the empire. He converted to Christianity, an extremely dangerous belief during the reign of Diocletian. When this conflicted with his allegiance to the emperor, he valiantly chose fidelity to God and His Kingdom and prepared himself for martyrdom. By his prayers, may we always be faithful to our primary commitment to God through baptism.

Bible Verse of the Month

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you."

John 15:16

BESTOWED TO SAINTHOOD

Vatican has decided to bestow sainthood on the Blessed Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Evuprasiamma after approving their miracles



BLESSED EVUPRASIAMMA FEAST DAY: AUGUST 29TH

Sister Euphrasia of the Scared Heart (Evuprasiamma) was born as Rosa Eluvathingal on 7th October, 1877 at Edathuruthy (Ollur) in Thrissur district of Kerala. She joined Congregation of the Mother of Carmel and received her veil as a nun in May 1900.

She endeavoured to lead a life of constant prayer and of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, becoming known by many people as the "Praying Mother. Mother Euphrasia spent much of her day in the convent chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, to which she had a strong devotion. She also nourished a great love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. She died on 29 August 1952. Sister Euphrasia was declared a Servant of God in 1987, followed by Venerable in 2002 July 05. Sister Euphrasia was declared as 'Blessed' on 3rd Decemeber, 2006, by Cardinal Mar Varkey Vithyathil, the Major Archbishop of the Syro Malabar church.



BLESSED KURIAKOSE CHAVARA FEAST DAY: JANUARY 3RD

Blessed Kuriakose Elias Chavara was born on 10th Feb. 1805 to Kuriakose Chavara and Mariam Thoppil at Kainakary, near Alappuzha, Kerala. Inspired by the desire to become a priest, he began his studies under the parish priest of the church of St. Joseph. At the age of 13 he entered the seminary at Pallipuram and ordained on 29th November, 1829. After the ordination he was engaged for some time in pastoral ministry; however he soon returned to the seminary to teach. He co-founded with two other priests a new religious congregation, the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, undertaking a wide-ranging apostolate of priestly formation, retreats, publishing of Catholic literature, catechesis, and the care of the dying.

Blessed Chavara is gratefully remembered and acknowledged by the later leaders of the Church and by the Catholic community in general for his strenuous fight, strong stance, and effective leadership in thwarting `Thomas Rochos' intrusion and saving the church of Kerala from schism. Father Kuriakose promulgated a greater uniformity in the celebration of the Syro-Malabar liturgy by writing a book on the proper celebration of the Syro-Malabar Mass. He was the Prior General of all the monasteries of the congregation from 1856 till his death in 1871. On April 7, 1984, Pope John Paul II approved the Servant of God, Kuriakose Elias Chavara's practice of heroic virtues and declared declared him "Venerable". Venerable Kuriakose Elias Chavara was beatified at Kottayam on February 8, 1986, by Pope John Paul II, in the course of a papal visit to India.

BISHOP BOSCO'S PROGRAM DIARY

PALM SUNDAY -BRISBANE HOLY THURSDAY- SYDNEY GOOD FRIDAY - MELBOURNE EASTER - PERTH

CANONIZATION OF POPES IN ROME APRIL 24-27

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS'
CONFERENCE ,SYDNEY
MAY 5-10

WITH SYRO-MALABAR MISSION, AUCKLAND MAY 11

OCEANIA BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, WELLINGTON

MAY 12-16

EVENING RECEPTION & HOLY QURBANA FOR THE SYRO MALABAR COMMUNITY, WELLINGTON

MAY 16

PRESIDING THE KNANAYA NZ CONVENTION, AUCKLAND MAY 18

DEPARTURE TO MELBOURNE

MAY 19

VISITING SYRO-MALABAR COMMMUNITY IN BOX HILL/ WANTIRNA MAY 25

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE NEW BISHOP OF ROCKHAMPTON; BISHOP ELECT MICHAEL McCARTHY MAY 29

CONSULTATION MEETING AT MICKLEHAM JUNE 2

VISITING SYRO MALABAR COMMUNITY IN SHEPPARTON & HOLY QURBANA JUNE 15

VISITING SYRO MALABAR COMMUNITY IN BENDIGO & HOLY QURBANA JUNE 29



REST IN PEACE
MOST REV. MICHAEL PUTNEY,
BISHOP OF TOWNSVILLE

Syro Malabar Church expressing condolences on the death of Most Rev. Michael Putney, Bishop of Townsville (on Friday 28 March), a great friend and supporter of the Syro Malabar Church



Cardinal George Pell Prefect of the new Secretariat for the Economy in Vatican

The Holy Father Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Pell to a new senior role, Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, in the Vatican on 25 February. Bishop Bosco Puthur, head of the Syro Malabar Church in Australia & New Zealand extends his congratulation and heartfelt wishes to Cardinal George Pell,(Former Archbishop of Sydney) a great supporter and well-wisher of Syro Malabar Church, for the new responsibility as Prefect for the Economy of the Holy See.



Quotes from the Pope

"I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre. I am a sinner"

Pope Francis

"He who does not pray to the Lord prays to the devil. When we don't proclaim Jesus Christ, we proclaim the worldliness of the devil, the worldliness of the demon."

Pope Francis



PRAYER TO MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mary Mother of God, Patroness of Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Australia

O Mary, Mother of God, As You are above all creatures in Heaven and Earth, more glorious than the Cherubim, more noble than any here below, Christ has given You to His people, firm bulwark and Protectress, to shield and save sinners who fly unto You. Therefore O Lady, all embracing refuge, we solemnly recall Your sweet protection, and beg Christ forever for His mercy.