



YEAR OF YOUTH 2018

The Australian Bishops have identified the liturgical year of 2018, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent (3rd December 2017), as a national Year of Youth. The Year of Youth invites the church into a dialogue about the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the Church and society. It calls for dialogue and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of a new generation of young people in the life of the Church.

The Year of Youth aims:

- Prayerfully discern the Australian Bishops vision for ministry with young people, Anointed and Sent;
- Authentic and personal engagement by Church leaders in the challenges and success in young people's lives;
- Acknowledging the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of young people, and young people acting upon the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church;
- Upholding the dignity of young people, ensuring a safe environment from physical, emotional and spiritual harm.

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Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment

At World Youth Day 2016, Pope Francis called young people and the Church to 'open new horizons for spreading joy'.

'My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal "more". Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons

capable of spreading joy, born of God's love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy. To take the path of the "craziness" of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbours who feel abandoned. To take the path of our God, who encourages us to be politicians, thinkers, social activists."

Pope Francis, World Youth Day Vigil with Young People, 30 July 2016

These words of the Holy Father challenge us to welcome new opportunities for

sharing the joy and hope of the Risen Christ. You have dreams for your future. Jesus also has dreams for you and your future. We want to accompany you as you discern the path that God has for you.

This issue of our Eparchial newsletter is focusing on youth and year of youth celebrations. With immense joy, I am inviting you all to join and participate in the various activities and initiatives across the Eparchy by the youth apostolate.

Since the Year of Youth is focused on local renewal and engagement the Youth Apostolate of Syro Malabar Eparchy of





St Thomas the Apostle carries out the following major initiatives in the Year of 2018.

1. iSPEAK- Syro Malabar Youth Survey which invites the people aged 14 to 35 to engage in the Eparchial conversation.
2. Youth Leaders Summit (YLS) – At Melbourne in May. The first Eparchial youth leaders and animators gathering to discern, design and develop the strategic plan of the Youth Apostolate.
3. National Syro Malabar Youth Conference (NSMYC) – At Brisbane in October.
4. EQUIP – Share your treasure and support the ministry: The pilot project for gathering financial resources.
5. iPRAY – National intercession network will be launching in the first week of April.

As Pope Francis states “Wherever there are dreams, there is joy, Jesus is always present.” We are dreaming about a revolution of love, open up new horizons for spreading JOY and carries out the acts of mercy. Encouraging all of you to pray, partner and support with the initiatives of the Youth Apostolate in the Eparchy.

History:

I would like to explore the brief history of the youth apostolate, SMYM (Syro Malabar

Youth Movement) in Australia and also the year of youth celebrations with you in this cover story.

There were youth groups and meetings at mission level prior to the installation of the Eparchy. From the beginning of the Eparchy, youth ministry was one of the key areas which attracted more focus. In the past years, various activities led by Rev. Fr. Varghese Vavolil and Rev. Fr. Biju Chulayillaplackal with the support of the clergy and the pastoral council members helped SMYM to grow in different parishes and missions. The last two Eparchial Pastoral council meetings have taken more time to discern and discuss to

strengthen the SMYM. As a result, SMYM is significantly operational in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide and Canberra.

The youth apostolate champions and lives out its mission to follow the tradition and beliefs of the Syro Malabar Church for the Kingdom of God and Society, to strive for the holistic development of teens, youth, young adults and young couples in the Eparchy. Get excited and be on knees. God Bless.

Sojin Sebastian

Director, Youth Apostolate
Syro Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle





BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE



Bishop Bosco Puthur

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



EASTER AND THE STORY OF THE TWO DISCIPLES TO EMMAUS



The story of Emmaus tells us of two disciples who were walking away from Jerusalem, from the Holy city, from the fellowship of the disciples of Jesus, in fact from the centre of the faith community. The sun was sinking, and the setting sun so dazzled them that they did not know their Lord.

The story tells us of the ability of Jesus to make sense of things to those who are confused and frightened. The life of Jesus seemed to these two disciples to have no meaning. Their hopes and dreams were shattered. "We were hoping that he was the one who was going to rescue Israel." They were the words of men whose hopes were dead and buried. Then Jesus comes to them, walks with them, talked to them and ate with them, and then the meaning of life of Jesus became clear to them. With Jesus darkness becomes light. It is only in Jesus we learn what life means.

The story tells us of the courtesy of Jesus. He made as if he would have gone on. He would not force himself upon them; he awaited their invitation to come in. God gave to men the greatest and the most perilous gift in the world, the gift of free will; we can use it to invite Jesus Christ to enter our life and change it. The story tells us how Jesus was known to them in the breaking of the Word and breaking of the Bread. He is not only the host in his Church; he is the guest in every home. The story tells us how these two men, when they experienced the Risen Jesus, hastened back to Jerusalem to share it. The Christian message is never fully ours until we have shared it with someone else. The story tells us how, when they reached Jerusalem, they found others who had already shared their experience. It is the glory of the Christian that he lives in a fellowship of people who have had the same experience.

"Do you remember your Jesus experience?"

Do I experience the RISEN JESUS in my everyday life?

With Easter Greetings,

+ Bosco Puthur

FROM THE EPARCHIAL CURIA, PRESTON, MELBOURNE



BISHOP BOSCO'S CIRCULAR ON SYRO-MALABAR YOUTH MOVEMENT (SMYM)



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Dear Rev. Fathers,

Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

As you aware, the Australian Catholic Church 2018 is dedicated to youth. The Year of Youth invites us enter into a dialogue about the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the Church and society. The Year of Youth calls for dialogue and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of a new generation of young people in the life of the Church. At the Pastoral Council meeting of our Eparchy we decided to plan more activities and programs for youth across our Eparchy.

St John Paul II, patron saint of the Syro Malabar Youth Movement, urges the young people, "Dear young people, the future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the civilization of love. (Saint John Paul II, WYD Night Vigil, Toronto 2002). I believe God is entrusting this task to us in this present scenario.

Youth Apostolate:

Youth Apostolate is the communion of youth groups, ministries and initiatives of our Syro-Malabar parishes and missions in Australia. Youth Apostolate is for all teens, youth, young adults and young couples who belong to the Eparchy who are studying in Grade 9 to Generation Y (Millennials) people. Teens: From those who are studying

in Grade 9 to under 18. Youth and Young Adults: Those who are between the ages of 18 to 30. Young Couples: Married couples under the age of 35.

Over the next five years, our Eparchy will reach out to its teens, youth, young adults and young couples through the Youth Apostolate Strategic Plan (Vision 2022). Setting our road map over the next five years is paramount in helping address the needs, expectations and aspirations of the teenagers, young people and young couples in the Eparchy and to ensure they are consulted and ministered to in a more participatory and coordinated manner and with high participation and involvement.

3 Goals

1. INVITE & IGNITE

Encourage them to have a deeper encounter experience

LEARN: To know Jesus

2. INVOLVE & INTEGRATE

Draw them into the life, mission, and work of the Catholic Church

LOVE: To love Jesus

3. INSPIRE & INFLUENCE

Empower them to be a disciple and make disciples

LIVE: To serve Jesus

Focus Areas

2018: Year of Initiation

2019: Year of Formation

2020: Year of Identity & Relevance 2021: Year of Celebration

2022: Year of Mission

2018 - Year of Initiation: An invitation to start and nurture the Syro Malabar Youth Movement throughout the Eparchy

2019 - Year of Formation: Formation of youth leaders, ministers and mentors who can promote the Catholic faith and challenge the peers with their leadership quality.

2020 - Year of Identity & Relevance: In the current Australian context Learn, Love and Live our Catholic faith

2021: Year of Celebration: Celebrate the faith through active participation in the life of the church

2022 - Year of Mission: Live out the mission of the church in the world. In our Eparchy we need to develop a parish-based youth ministry to make our parishes more vibrant. Let us try to start a youth ministry in our parishes and missions before we come together for our Pastoral Council meeting in September 2018.

As you know, I have appointed Mr. Sojin Sebastian as Youth Apostolate Director of the Eparchy. He is available to come and initiate dialogue with you and youth in your parish/ mission. He will be in touch with you to discuss the possibilities in your parish/ mission.

As part of the Vision 2022 strategic plan for the eparchy we are conducting a youth survey in March 2018 and there will be a national youth leaders gathering in Melbourne on 08-10 June 2018. The survey would give us a chance to reflect upon where we are now and how we can progress. I encourage you all to take some concrete steps together to build the Syro Malabar Youth Movement in our Eparchy. I pray for all the youth in Australia, especially in our Eparchy. Yours in Christ

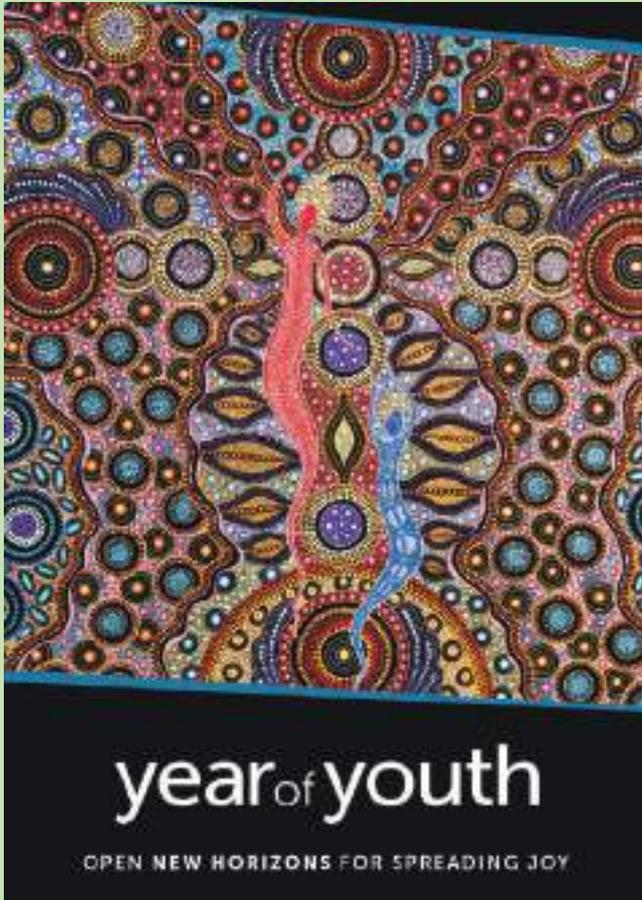
Bishop Bosco Puthur

27 February 2018

PS: Please publicise this circular in your parish/ mission in the month of March.



YEAR OF YOUTH IMAGE



Artist: Amunda Gorey, Alice Springs.

“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him”

Hebrews 12:2

The central figure of Jesus, risen and glorified, has an arm pointing to God the Father. His other arm reaches toward Mary His Mother, and to the Church, drawing us to Him. The central pink circle represents the Heart of God. Storylines of different lengths and shapes lead to and from the central Heart of God, representing our differing journeys and pathways to God. The many dots and circles represent young people and the Church. The size, shapes and colours of the dots are as many and varied as young people, their backgrounds and stories. Some young people (dots) are sustained around communities through sacrament and the Holy Spirit (water, fire and light). Others may be isolated or distant, closer or further away from the central figures. All are integral to creating one vibrant image of Church. The Cross extends to the borders of the painting. At its centre is the Heart of God, Jesus and Mary. It reaches all young people, those in communities and those in-between. The Cross breaches the edge of the painting, calling us into the peripheries, to New Horizons.

SMYM AUSTRALIA LOGO

Five youth: The five youth shown in the globe stands for the presence of Syro Malabar youth in different continents.

St. Thomas cross: It represents the unique identity of the Syro Malabar Church and the youth and world at large seeking solace at the cross.

Dove: The symbol of the Holy Spirit, show the strength and vitality of the youth empowered by the Spirit.

Colours: Blue stands for faith, green for hope and red for love and martyrdom. Meaning: Syro Malabar Youth from differ continents are called together to gather under the shelter of the Holy Cross and



to practice faith, hope and love in the modern world, by the grace of the Holy Spirit and to work like martyrs for the kingdom of God and to free and uplift the society from various bondages.

SMYM Way of Action

Learn: To acquire in depth knowledge of God and Church through constant prayer and research and to impart it to others. **Share:** To share the talents of youth through activities based on Gospel values and to use them to build a better society. **Live:** To practice the learnt and shared values of faith and morality in life for the growth of the church and society.



Prot. No. 0184/2018

CIRCULAR OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP AFTER THE XXVI SYNOD

of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, Session 1, held from 8 to 13 January 2018 in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Twenty sixth Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church was held at the time of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the declaration of the Church as a Major Archiepiscopal Church. The Synod congratulated and welcomed at the beginning of the session Mar Joseph Pamplany, the Aux. Bishop of Tellicherry, Mar Sebastian Vaniapurakal, the Curia Bishop, Mar Tony Neelankavil, the Aux. Bishop of Trichur and Mar Sebastian Pozholiparambil, the Bishop of the newly erected eparchy of Hossur who were attending the synod for the first time. The appointments of Fr. John Nellikunnel, Bishop-elect of Idukki, and of Fr. James Athikalam MST, Bishop-elect of Sagar, were declared during the Synod. Please keep the new bishops in your prayers. The Synod also expressed its gratitude to late Mar James Pazhayattil and to the present administration of the eparchy of Irinjalakuda for the great effort they had put in for the growth and development of the newly established eparchy of Hossur.

The Synod also offered its congratulations to Mar Raphael Thattil, the newly appointed bishop of the newly created Shamshabad eparchy. With the establishment of this



eparchy, the Syro-Malabar Church has got jurisdiction all over India for evangelization and pastoral care. The Synod gratefully acknowledged the services of late Cardinal Mar Antony Padiyara, Mar Gregory Karotemprel CMI, and Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI, the former Apostolic Visitors, for all the preparatory work they had done for the provision of jurisdiction all over India for evangelization and pastoral care. The Synod requests all the eparchies and religious congregations in Kerala to extend their generous support for the new eparchy. The right for evangelization and pastoral care throughout the Country given to the Syro-Malabar Church is a great opportunity for intensification of the evangelization mission of the Church in India and to strengthen deep bonds of relationship with other *suri juris* Churches in India. It is very gratifying to note that the all-India jurisdiction was given to the Syro-Malabar Church in its Jubilee year.

The Synod offered its greetings to Mar Jacob Murikan and Mar Tony Neelankavil who were celebrating the silver jubilee of their priestly ordination. I remind you of the need to pray for these Bishops on this occasion. The synod expressed its deep anguish at the suffering experienced by Christians in the eparchies of Satna, Sagar, and Jagdalpur for the suffering and persecutions they experienced in the recent past.

The details of the Jubilee celebrations were discussed during the Synod. On Jan.13, Holy Qurbana was celebrated in thanksgiving with the participation of all the Bishops. The public meeting held in the afternoon at 2.30p.m. was inaugurated by His Beatitude Luis Raphaël Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Church. Most Rev. Dr. Giambattista Diquattro, Apostolic Nuncio, presided over the meeting. His Beatitude Baselios Mar Cleemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church and President of CBCI, Abp. Cyril Vasil, the Secretary, Congregation for Oriental Churches, Abp. Francis Kallarakal, the former Archbishop of Verapoly, His Excellency Bishop Dimitrios Salachas, Exarch emeritus of the Greek Catholic Church, Justice Kurian Joseph, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Sr. Siby, CMC Mother General, Adv. Biju Parayannilam, President, Catholic Congress, Mrs. Gigi Sebastian, Secretary, Matruvedi, and Mr. Arun Davis, President SMYM offered their congratulatory messages. Besides the Bishops attending the Synod, Major Superiors of religious congregations, representatives from all the Syro-Malabar Eparchies including priests, consecrated men and women, and lay representatives, especially the youth also participated in the Jubilee celebration.

The Synod discussed seriously the problems experienced by the people engaged in agriculture and emphasized the need to offer security to their lives and work. The need for special protection from the attacks of wild animals encroaching the farmsteads was pointed out. The Synod requested the Government to come to the aid of farmers by constructing protective walls around their farms. The unsympathetic attitude of the Government looks as if the Government is more interested in protecting wild animals than the lives of the people. The Government and the political parties have to devise strong and sustainable programmes for the protection of the farmers. INFARM and AKCC have to pay special attention in this matter and plan



suitable programmes. In order to protect the produce of the farmers and to secure their lives, new financial projects have to be envisaged. The Synod views with anxiety the tendency among farmers to abandon agricultural work. This will definitely create a new form of migration.

You may be well aware that the Synod has formed a new commission for the promotion of vocations. The Synod has viewed with anxiety the decrease of vocations especially for the religious congregations of women. All are requested to cooperate with this commission for the promotion of vocations at the parish and eparchial levels. The parish priests and the religious communities in parishes have a major role to play in fostering vocations. Organizations like the Mission League should take the initiative to encourage religious vocations among students and the youth. During the years of their formation in the seminaries, they should be made aware of their missionary responsibilities.

The newly ordained priests should be provided with opportunities for working in the missions and the same arrangement may be done for the seminarians during their years of regency. It is also good to encourage the laity and the members of voluntary organizations to work in mission eparchies. Similarly mission-appeals on the part of those who work in mission eparchies should be encouraged in home eparchies in Kerala. The Synod has specially requested the eparchies to help the vocation promoters who come to different eparchies to preach about the missions. There was a suggestion that there should be a special arrangement for the admission and formation of seminarians under the direction of the Major Archbishop to work in the missions.

The following are some of the proposals

of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly approved by the Synod to be implemented in all eparchies:

1. When bishops come for various functions in various parishes and institutions make the receptions simple at the entrance of the parish church. Avoid reception from the parish boundary or from the church gate or with flexes and arches along the road.
 2. All celebrations are to be simple. Any kind of publicity is to be merely informative and simple.
 3. Institutions run by eparchies/parish churches and institutes of consecrated life are not to ask compulsory donations for admissions and appointments.
 4. Education institutions run by eparchies/parish churches and the institutes of consecrated life are to give concession to poor students as well as to the fourth and following children of Catholic parents.
 5. The Catholic Aided schools or schools in the public sectors are to be fostered.
 6. Every financially sound parish is to adopt a mission centre and keep a regular contact with it.
 7. Skills of senior citizens are to be made use of in every parish.
 8. A percentage of the amount of family celebrations is to be set apart for the poor.
 9. When some fees /contributions are fixed in a parish, the amount shall be fixed according to the financial status of the families. No compulsory fees/contribution shall be demanded.
 10. The data of those who go away from the home parishes for education and jobs are to be kept in the offices at parish/eparchial levels. They should be helped to connect with the local Syro-Malabar Catholic communities where they live or go for studies and do not demand donations as prerequisite for the administration of the sacraments in their local parishes.
- The Synod made an evaluation of the steps involved in the sale of the property of the Ernakulam-Angamlay Archeparchy and offered helpful suggestions for the resolution of the problems that arose from the sale of the property.

The Synod drafted a Pledge Form that the seminarians have to sign before their ordination to Diaconate. Synod approved the Safe Environmental programmes for Church personnel which would make the priests more aware of their moral responsibilities concerning the children entrusted to their care. There was a suggestion to strengthen AKCC especially in this year when its Jubilee is being celebrated.

The Synod discussed seriously the pastoral needs of the Syro-Malabar faithful living outside India and decided to continue the discussions in this regard with the authorities concerned. The Synod considered the proposal to make the Syro-Malabar parish in Doha, Qatar an independent parish. The Synod also elected the representatives to participate in the next Synod of the Youth in Rome which has the theme "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment". The Synod remembers with gratitude the interactions with the Chaldean Patriarch Luis Sako, Apostolic Nuncio Giambattista Diquattro, Archbishop Cyril Vasil, the Secretary of the Oriental Congregation, Fr. Lorrenso Lorusso OP, the Under Secretary, and Msgr. Pascal Gollnisch, the Director General and Mr. Dominic Bletry, Chargé d'Affaires of l'Oeuvre d'Orient during the Synodal sittings. The Synod also discussed the theme of the CBCI plenary session "United in Diversity for a Mission of Mercy and Witness" and made preparatory studies on the theme.

Wishing all of you a fruitful season of Lent,

Yours cordially in Christ,

+George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

N.B. The contents of this circular shall be made known to the Priests, Religious and Laity of all the Archeparchies/Eparchies of Syro-Malabar Church.



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

Youth Apostolate Prayer

Heavenly Father, I praise and worship you for your great glory. I love you from the depths of my heart for giving Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I proclaim that your son Lord Jesus Christ incarnated and became one among us. Through His passion, death and resurrection, He saved me from the fires of hell. I thank you for entrusting immense heavenly treasures and talents in me and help me to use them for your glory.

Father, I am your dearest child and I will live in this dignity. Send your Holy Spirit upon me to live this life according to your will. Please guard my thoughts, words and deeds so that I always reflect your love. Give me your heavenly wisdom to know the truth, to discern your will and to speak truth courageously.

I pray for the Catholic Church and Pope Francis. I pray for the Syro Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle Melbourne, Bishop Bosco Puthur, my parish, and all priests who serve us here in this land. I pray for all youth, young adults and young families in Australia to be filled with your love so that they may serve the Church with passion and commitment. This we pray through the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary. Amen

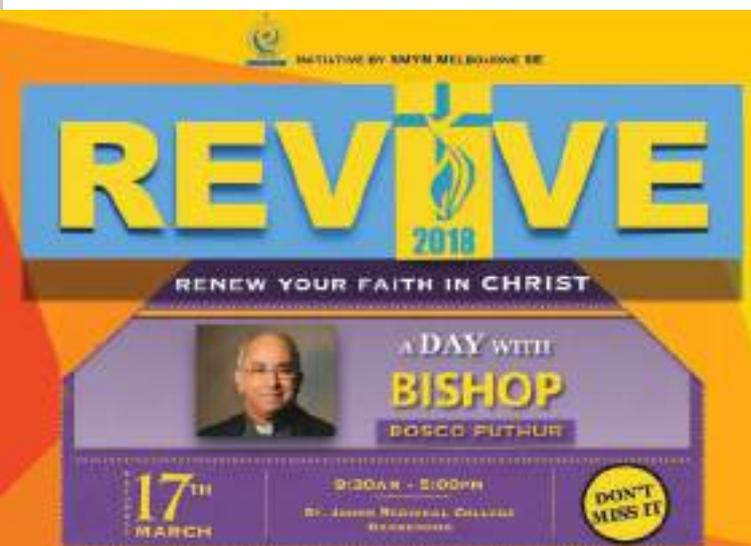
Saint Thomas, Pray for us

Saint Pope John Paul II, Pray for us

Saint Mary of the cross MacKillop, Pray for us

Events

1. Australian Catholic Youth and Youth Ministry Research Seminar, March 9 - 10
(Delegation from the Youth Apostolate attended the 2 day research seminar organised by the ACBC Office for Youth and Australian Catholic Youth Council.)
2. REVIVE – One day Gathering at Melbourne SE, March 17 Sat
3. ALIVE – Let go and Let God: Youth Retreat at Melbourne North, March 23 - 25
4. ILLUMINATE – One day gathering at Canberra
5. The Greatest Shave – Team SMYM Canberra: Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) (Canberra is ready for the World's Greatest Shave!!! On March 31st, the team will shave their hair to show their support to people affected by blood cancer and to raise awareness.)
6. Feed the Homeless - SMYM St. Mary's Adelaide
7. SMYM YLS Youth Leaders Summit - Inviting all young minds with a fire to start a movement! Please contact your Parish Priest or the youth apostolate to attend.
8. iSPEAK – Youth Survey
9. CHOSEN YOUTH CONFERENCE, 12 - 15 July 2018, Melbourne





LENTEN RETREATS 2018



Four Retreat Preachers helped Syro Malabar Eparchy to coordinate Lenten Retreats in 2018.

1. Bishop Joseph Pamplaniyil: Sydney, Townsville, Brisbane South, Cairns, Brisbane North and Adelaide
2. Fr Joseph Puthenpurayil OFM Cap.: Penrith, Hornsby, Parramatta, Campbelltown, Orange and Wollongong
3. Fr Jaison Kanjiramparayil MCBS: Perth, Darwin, Alice Springs, Canberra, Wagga Wagga, New Castle, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast
4. Fr Benny Mundanattu: Ballarat, Melbourne South East, Melbourne Cathedral, Melbourne West, Shepparton and Bendigo



All shall give
as they are able,
according to the blessing
of the LORD your God
that he has given you.
Deuteronomy 16:17



EQUIP

share and support

Share your Treasure and Support the Youth Apostolate
Calling everyone to partner with the youth apostolate to initiate
and equip the youth activities across the Syro Malabar Eparchy of
St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne.

A: Youth Apostolate, Sydney, Diocese of St. John the Evangelist, Sydney, NSW - 2012
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An
OPPORTUNITY

PARTNER WITH US

  **SMYMAUSTRALIA**





BISHOP BOSCO'S PROGRAM DIARY

APRIL 2018

1 SUN: EASTER SUNDAY
 11 WED: TRAVELLING TO PORT MORESBY
 12 THU - 17 TUE: OCEANIA BISHOPS CONFERENCE, PORT MORESBY, PNG
 25 WED: FAMILY DAY OF SHEPPARTON COMMUNITY

MAY 2018

3 THU - 10 THU: AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE (ACBC) PLENARY
 18 FRI - 19 SAT: PASTORAL PLANNING MEETING, MELBOURNE

JUNE 2018

8 FRI - 10 SUN: SMYM LEADERS SUMMIT (NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERS GATHERING), MELBOURNE
 15 FRI - 17 SUN: YOUNG FAMILIES GATHERING, MELBOURNE

JULY 2018

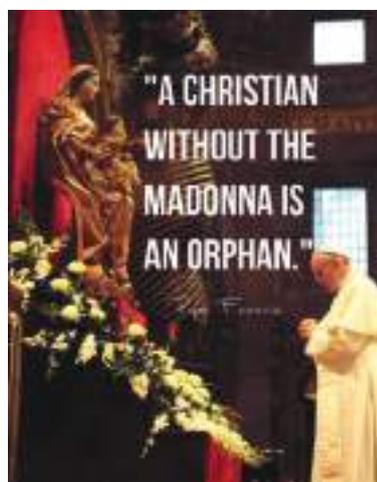
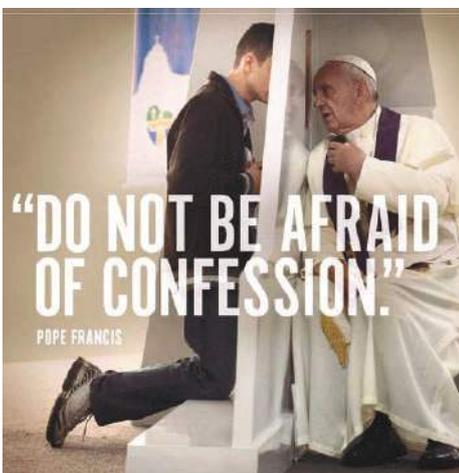
3 TUE: DUKRANA OF SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE (SABHADINAM)
 14 SAT: CHOSEN YOUTH CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE



'Be brave!' Pope tells participants at Vatican pre-synod on youth

<https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2018/03/19/be-brave-pope-tells-participants-at-vatican-pre-synod-on-youth/>

ROME - Pope Francis greeted the hundreds of young people gathered in Rome for the pre-synodal meeting for the bishop's general assembly in October on youth by asking them "to speak bravely" and inject a dose of creativity to a Church "in need of young prophets." The meeting - themed "We talk together" - welcomed youth from every part of the world and from many different cultural and religious realities. They were selected from dioceses, seminaries, associations and movements, schools and universities and from many walks of life, including arts, sciences, politics, sport, volunteering and young people with disabilities. The document that will emerge from the weeklong gathering March 19- 24 will be presented at the Synod of Bishops themed "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment."



PRAYER TO MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. AMEN.