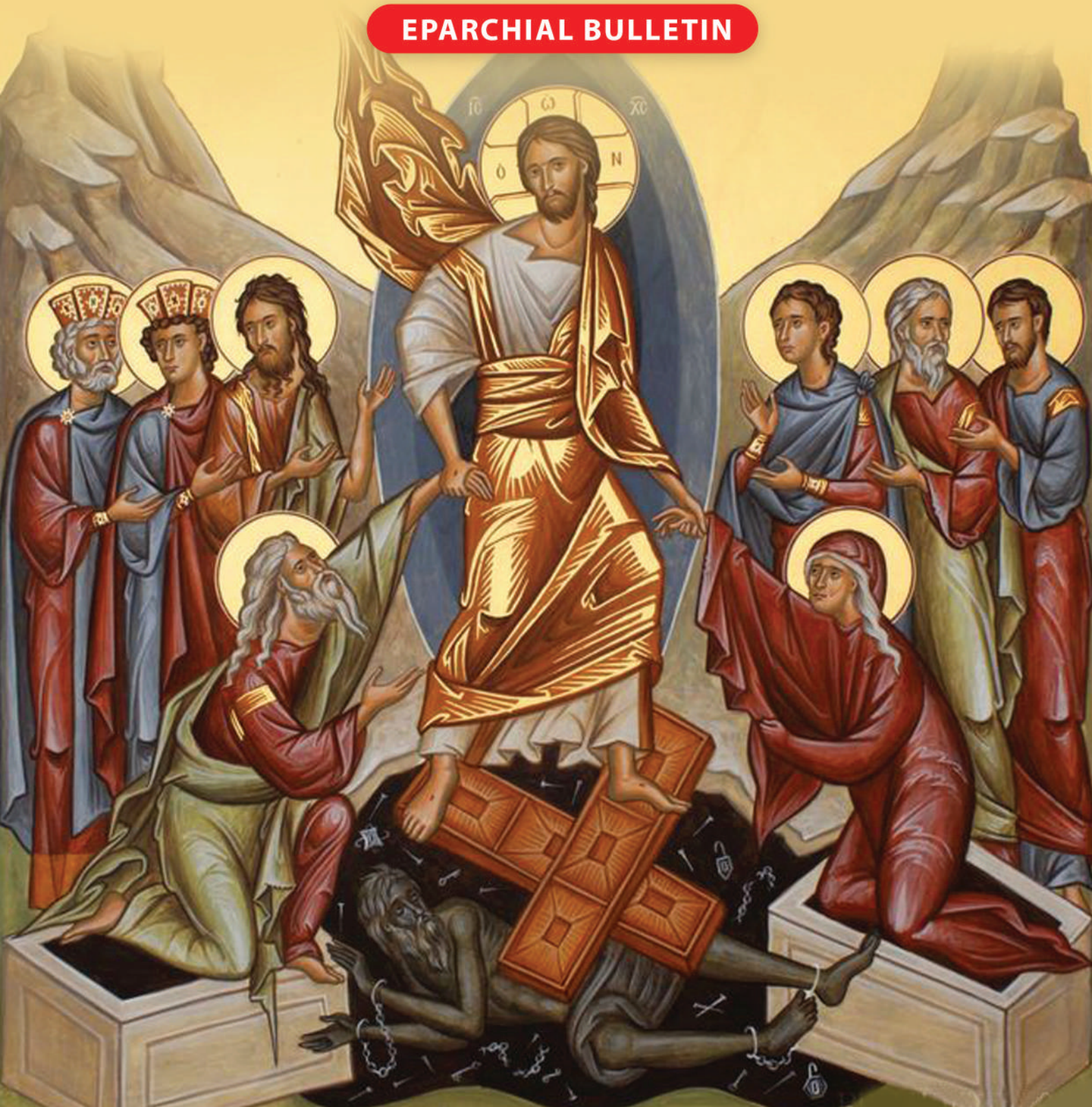


Marthoma Vision

VOL 5 APRIL 2025

SYRO- MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE MELBOURNE

EPARCHIAL BULLETIN





This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance. [4] This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality.

*Pope Francis,
Lenten Message 2025.*

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Editorial

This edition of Marthoma Vision gathers the stories, moments, and reflections from across our Eparchy over the last four months. It's been a significant time. Our parishes and missions have been vibrant with activity. Across all departments — catechism, youth apostolate, nurses ministry, evangelisation, safeguarding — there's been movement, new initiatives, and genuine momentum.

One of the most exciting developments at the Eparchy level is the initial steps toward taking over Pallotti College in Melbourne. The vision is for this space to become our Eparchial Pastoral Centre — a central hub to coordinate the growing and diverse ministries of our Church here in Australia. It's early days, but it's an exciting chapter that could help us serve more effectively into the future.

May the Risen Lord continue to walk beside us — in our parishes, in our families, in our daily lives. And may our hearts recognise Him again and again in the breaking of the bread.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and grace-filled Easter.

Christ is risen! He is truly risen!
With prayerful wishes,

**Fr Thomas Pezhumkattil
and Editorial Team, Marthoma Vision**

The Road to Emmaus and the Heart of Our Faith

Dear friends,

Easter isn't just an event we commemorate — it's an invitation. An invitation to live differently, to walk in hope even when the road is heavy with confusion or despair. The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus captures this perfectly. Two disheartened followers, walking away from Jerusalem, burdened by shattered expectations... and yet, Jesus chooses to walk with them. Quietly. Patiently. Step by step.

It wasn't until they sat down to eat that they truly recognised Him. That moment — that shared meal — was the turning point. It was Eucharistic. And from that moment of encounter, their hearts burned again, and they returned with purpose. That's Easter. That's our life as Christians.

We often say, "We are Easter people." That phrase — popularised by St. John Paul II — isn't about shallow optimism. It's about knowing that even in death, there is resurrection. And if we are truly Easter people, then we are also Eucharistic people. Because the Eucharist is not just something we receive — it's the source and summit of our Christian life. The Emmaus experience reminds us of that: the Risen Christ is made known in the breaking of the bread.



Easter Message

Questions about life after death have intrigued people for centuries and these queries dig deep into the essence of humanity. The resurrection of Jesus offers powerful answer that affirms the life continues beyond physical death. This belief not only brings comfort, peace and purpose but encourages us to give profound meaning to our spiritual journey in this world.

The resurrection of Jesus serves as a powerful example of hope, proving that death is not the end of life. It tells a story of renewal and everlasting joy. For instance, Jesus' words in the Holy Bible remind us that faith in Jesus leads to eternal life. In John 11:25, Jesus states, "I am the resurrection and the life." This promise assures that even in death, there is a continuation of existence. It transforms fear into faith, allowing individuals to face life's final moments with peace and confidence.

Furthermore, the Scriptures paint a vivid image of heaven as a place of belonging. John 14:2-3 tells us, "In my Father's house there are many rooms." This promise of a heavenly home offers comfort to those grieving the loss of loved ones. It instills hope that death is merely a passage to a joyful reunion, where we will be together once again. The belief in a prepared place creates a sense of security and encourages us to live with purpose and love while on earth.

In a world often dominated by scientific explanations, the resurrection challenges the notion that only physical evidence matters. While science provides valuable insights, it cannot measure love, hope, and faith. The resurrection of Jesus invites people to explore the unseen aspects of life. It encourages a deeper understanding of spiritual existence that goes beyond tangible proof. Embracing this perspective allows individuals to find meaning in their lives that transcends ordinary measurements.

The resurrection not only influences thoughts about life after death but also enriches the journey of living. It inspires individuals to find inner peace amidst life's chaos. By focusing on spirituality, people can shift their attention from distractions to what truly matters. This transformation leads to a deeper connection with oneself and others. The message of the resurrection encourages everyone to seek stillness, allowing them to experience the beauty of life in a profound way.

In conclusion, the resurrection of Jesus offers hope and purpose, confirming that life continues beyond death. As Pope Benedict has written: "The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life." The resurrection invites us to cherish our faith and anticipate a joyful reunion in heaven. While science may explain much of the world, it cannot capture the essence of love and spirituality that the resurrection embodies. Embracing this truth enriches everyday life and encourages people to live with intention and love. Ultimately, the message of the resurrection is one of joy, urging everyone to share this incredible truth with others.

Bishop John Panamthottathil CMI
Syro Malabar Eparchy of
St Thomas the Apostle Melbourne





MY LORD MY GOD

Circulars Pastoral Letters



Circular



Dear priests and brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are entering the holy season of Great Lent. Tomorrow we will begin the days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving by applying ashes to our foreheads. There is a question that our children ask: Why do we mark our foreheads with ashes?

The Holy Scriptures give three main answers:

First, ashes and dust indicate our mortality. In Genesis 3:19, God says: "For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

Secondly, the Holy Scriptures present the anointing with ashes as a sign of repentance. In the Book of Job 42:6 we read: "I repent in dust and ashes."

Thirdly, the anointing with ashes is interpreted as a sign of fervent prayer for ourselves and for others. In Daniel 9:3 we read: "I prayed earnestly to the Lord God in sackcloth and ashes."

In short, this ash invites us to reflect on our mortal life in this world, to be more united with God and our brothers, and to 'pray earnestly' with repentance.

In our daily lives, we pay great attention to our physical and mental health and growth. An example of this is eating our favourite food every day. We never allow our body and mind to get tired. But in the midst of our busy lives, we often forget to pay attention to our spiritual health and growth.

The best food for spiritual growth is prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. When we talk to God through prayer we deepen our relationship with God, and through fasting we are able to control our body and mind and subdue temptations. The best example of this is the life of Jesus. Even though He was the Son of God, Satan tempted Jesus

in many ways. But Jesus teaches us through the forty days of fasting in the desert that the best weapon to face all temptations and sinful situations is fervent prayer and fasting.

The Spirit is taking us to the desert of fasting. Desert life means a disciplined and orderly way of life. Many of you have experienced and testified that miracles will happen in your life when you participate in the Holy Eucharist for fifty consecutive days, attend family prayer without fail, read the whole Bible once, and fast.

If we set aside just two hours out of 24 hours a day, we can do all these things. I think that if at least one of the parents does this from our homes without fail for these 50 days, it will be the best catechism that parents can give their children. This Lent is a time to rediscover the Christian values that our parents gave us through their example and to embrace them in our lives

We work day and night for the material well-being of our children and families. It is essential to set aside some time for the spiritual upliftment and blessing of the family. This Lent is also an opportunity to listen to the voice of conscience that we need to improve a little more.

Last year, during Lent, you all sincerely cooperated and helped in the Bishops' Appeal that we conducted for the seminary students, youth, and other activities of the diocese. The total amount we collected was \$ 176660.43. I thank you in the name of God for all the help you have given as members of the diocesan family.

In this year's Bishops' Appeal, a pamphlet containing the photos and names of our seminary students and information about the courses they are studying will be delivered to all your homes. They should become members of our families. Therefore, it is our responsibility to pray for them and help them with their educational needs. I am confident that you will all sincerely cooperate and pray for this year's appeal.

Ours is the fastest growing church in Australia and New Zealand. Our worship, catechesis and related activities are viewed with great respect and admiration by other church members in these countries. We can never forget the generous cooperation and assistance of the Latin Church. Each of our communities is going through many hardships. But I sincerely congratulate you for recognizing these adverse circumstances and hardships and preserving and living our rich faith life and traditions.

Our 63 small and large communities have only 6 churches to call our own. Recognizing the needs and limitations of our growing church, the Pallottine Congregation in Australia is willing to transfer their 200 acres of land in Melbourne and a large building that can accommodate 200 people to our Eparchy for a subsidized price. Our priests and members of our community used to regularly hold retreats in this Centre. They are ready to offer this valuable institution and land for four million

dollars only. The reason for entrusting us with such a small amount is to continue the Catholic mission that the Pallottine congregation has been carrying out through this institution.

Every year we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on retreats and seminars for priests, adults, youth and children. Therefore, this center is necessary for all the activities of our diocese, especially for our retreats and seminars for children and young people, for the residential program that we conduct several times a year, as well as for our children's vacation program, for the Marian pilgrimage that we plan to conduct annually, etc.

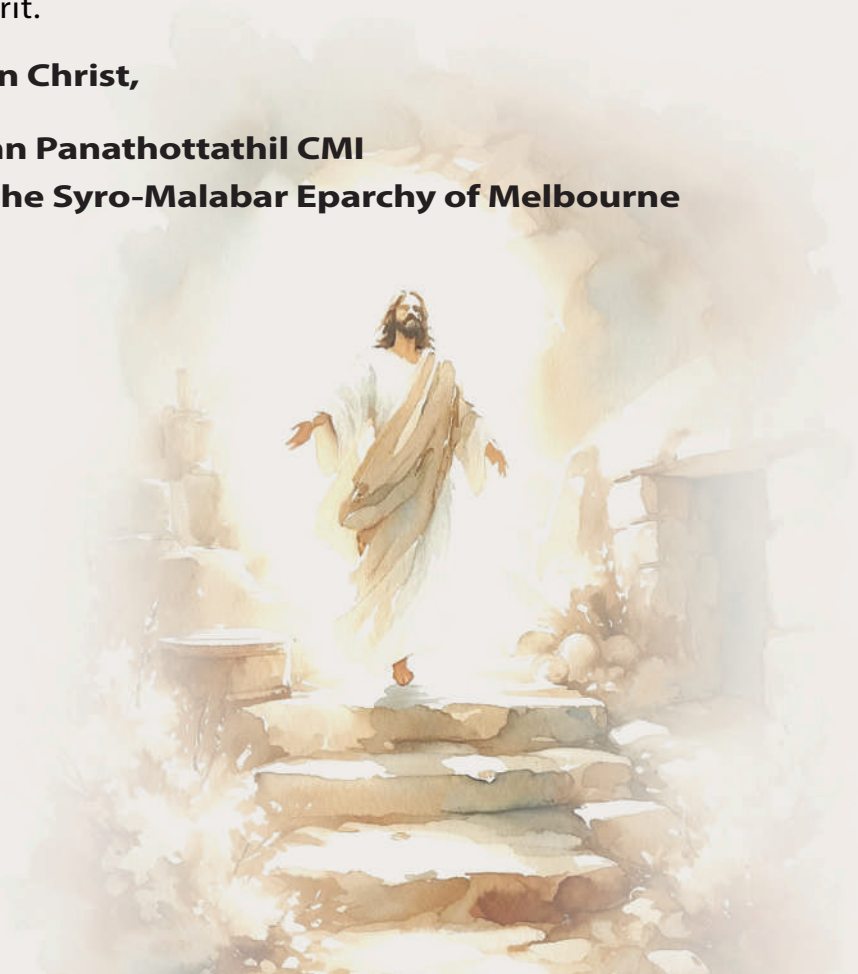
There is no doubt that this institution will be a great investment for our future generations. This is not my personal project but the dream and desire of our representatives throughout the diocese. This project that we dream for the diocese should be of each of us. There will be no compulsory collections for this. Rather, I cordially invite those who recognize that this is God's will to become partners in this divine project through donations, interest-free loans, or deposits. Those who are unable to help financially in any way, please pray for the success of this project.

Once again, I sincerely pray that this Lent that God has given us for the renewal of life may be fruitful. I bless you all with all my heart in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

With love in Christ,

Bishop John Panathottathil CMI

Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne





Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

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Greenvale, Victoria 3059, Australia
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bishop.melbourne@syromalabar.org.au

Prot. No. 17/25
2025

12 February

Subject: Election of New Pastoral Council Members

Dear Fathers,

Greetings and prayerful wishes from Santhome Chancery!

I write to convey the following directives regarding the election of the Pastoral Council members for the term 2025–2028:

1. Pastoral council is a **consultative body** consisting of clergy, religious and especially laity, established under the authority of the eparchial bishop (Art. 2).
2. It is entrusted with the responsibility of studying, evaluating, and providing practical recommendations on matters pertaining to pastoral activities within the eparchy (Art. 3).
3. The tenure of elected Pastoral Council members shall be **three years**, and **no elected member shall be re-elected for two consecutive terms**.
4. The election of the members is to be conducted as per Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Rules of the Pastoral Council of the Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne.
5. The election must take place no later than **15 March 2025**, and the details of the elected member(s) (name, parish/mission, email address, and phone number), along with the date of the election, should be submitted to the Pastoral Council Secretary by **20 March 2025**.
6. Only **elected Pastoral Council members** from the respective parishes/missions shall be eligible to be members of the *Pradhinidhi Yogam* (Parish Council).
7. The elected Pastoral Council members shall assume their rightful membership in the *Pradhinidhi Yogam* (Parish Council) effective from 1 April 2025.

You are hereby directed to ensure that all procedural norms governing the election process are diligently and meticulously observed.

With prayers and blessings,

+John Panamthottathil CMI
Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne

APPOINTMENTS



FR. ANISH JAMES VC

Dear Anish Acha,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your dedicated service to our eparchy. Your exceptional kindness, wisdom, and devotion have profoundly blessed our community.

As you embark on the next chapter of your ministry, may you be empowered by the abundance of divine blessings and guidance from the Almighty.

EPARCHY FAMILY



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

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to Rev. Fr. Thomas Pezhumkattil as the new Director of the Eparchy Media Commission. Congratulations and Prayerful Greetings!

REV. FR. THOMAS PEZHUMKATTIL

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

A portrait of Rev. Fr. Thomas Pezhumkattil, a man with glasses, wearing a white clerical shirt. The background is a green and yellow gradient with the word 'WELCOME' written in large, white, block letters.

THANK YOU

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank Rev. Fr. Ajith for his dedicated ministry as the Director of the Eparchy Media Commission and for his invaluable contributions. May God continue to bless and guide him in his ministry as the parish priest of the St. Joseph Syro Malabar Church, Perth, WA..

REV. FR. AJITH CHERIAKKARA

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

A portrait of Rev. Fr. Ajith Cheriakkara, a man with a beard, wearing a white clerical shirt. The background is a green and yellow gradient with the words 'THANK YOU' written in large, white, block letters.



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

MR-1/Feb-2025

TRANSFERS & APPOINTMENTS

1. Fr Mathew Areeplackal - Parish Priest, St Alphonsa Cathedral, Melbourne North - VIC
2. Fr Denni Nedumpathalil -Chaplain, St Alphonsa Forane Church, Parramatta NSW
3. Fr Ajith Cheriakkara -Parish Priest, St Joseph's Church, Perth WA
4. Fr Joseph Ezhumayil -Parish Priest, St Mary's Church, Melbourne West VIC
5. Fr Abraham Kazhunadiyil -Parish Priest, St Euphrasia Parish, Adelaide North SA
6. Fr John Puthuva -Parish Priest, St Alphonsa Church, Darwin-NT and
Chaplain of St. Mary's Mission, Alice Springs- NT
7. Fr Manoj Chanakkattil -Parish Priest, St Alphonsa Church, Townsville, QLD
8. Fr Joyis Kolamkuzhiyil CMI -Chaplain, St Mary's Mission Newcastle
9. Fr Jinu Kurian CMI -Asst Parish Priest, St Thomas Parish, Melbourne South-East
- 10.Fr Varghese Vavolil -On Leave
- 11.Fr. Anish James VC - Relieved

Msgr Francise Kolencherry
Proto Syncellus





SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
MELBOURNE

EPARCHY OF
MELBOURNE



BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL 2025

Our Seminarians are in formation for priesthood for 12 years - Minor Seminary for three years (one year of initiation into the seminary and spiritual life and two year Higher Secondary course and spiritual formation); three years of Bachelor degree in any subject. Major Seminary formation includes two-year course on philosophical subjects and four-year

course on Theological subjects. We have 21 Seminarians at various stages of their priestly formation including in Kerala, Bangalore and Rome. These seminarians will be the future priests of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Australia, who will shepherd you and your children for all pastoral and sacramental needs. It would be a holy endeavour to be part of the priestly formation of our Eparchy.

The average annual expenses for one seminarian is more than AUD 3,000 (INR one and a half lakh), which includes costs for boarding, lodging, travel, personal expenses, tuition fees and medical expenses. These costs are met with the partial support of sponsors. It is expected that the annual expenses would increase by 15-20% annually due to inflation.



With your kind support, you ensure the future of our faith through ordained leadership. You remind our seminarians in formation that they have a large community of the faithful carrying them in prayer as they discern God's calling in their lives. Daily, or whenever possible, pray for our seminarians. Regular offerings be made towards the support of seminarians – the amount could be given either monthly or quarterly or annually or as a one-off donation.

You will always be included in the daily prayers of seminarians and staff at St John Paul II Minor Seminary. Our Eparchy prays for the benefactors regularly. The priests of the Eparchy offer one Holy Qur-bana every year for the benefactors.

Please make your gift to support seminarians using the envelopes provided. Alternatively, scan the QR code or go to <https://syromalabar.org.au/donate/>



**Paypal, Credit Card and Account Transfer options are available.
We are very grateful for your continued support.
May God bless you and your family abundantly.**



**Syro-Malabar Eparchy of
St Thomas The Apostle, Melbourne**
6 Greenock Ct, Greenvale VIC 3059
Tel: 03 8313 3678



Rev. Dr Lawrance Thaikattil
Rector, St John Paul II Minor Seminary
Thirumudikunnu, Koratty East
Thrissur - 680308, Kerala - India
Tel: 0480 2731311, Mob: 9847923332
Email: stjohnpaulseminary@hotmail.com



PRAYER FOR THE SEMINARIANS

Lord Jesus, I ask Your special blessing on all young men preparing for the priesthood in our seminaries. I pray that they will grow in faith, hope, and charity.

May their hearts overflow with Your compassion, understanding, and generosity, and may their desire to serve You inspire others to answer Your call.

Lord, give our seminarians the grace to follow You more perfectly.

When they are lonely or discouraged, fill them with Your peace.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make the hearts of our seminarians like Yours.

Amen.

(Prayer courtesy of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska)

OUR SEMINARIANS



BRO. AGNEL CHAKKEDAN
MME Major Seminary, Rome
Third Year Theology



BRO. ROBERT PUNNAPPARAYIL
MME Major Seminary, Rome
Second Year Theology



BRO. FRANTO KUNNAMKUDATH
MME Major Seminary, Rome
Second Year Theology



BRO. JOMIN JOJO THEKKEKUMBALAVAYALIL
Dharmaram Major Seminary, Bangalore
First Year Theology



BRO. JOJIN JOSE AYNIKKAL
Dharmaram Major Seminary, Bangalore
First Year Theology



BRO. JIBIN KARUTHE DAM
Kunnoth Major Seminary
First Year Theology



BRO. PRINCE PADAYATTI
Aluva Major Seminary
First Year Theology



BRO. ABIN SIBY KOKKAPPILLY
Aluva Major Seminary
Third Year Philosophy



BRO. RONALD VARIKKASSERY
Kunnoth Major Seminary
Third Year Philosophy

OUR SEMINARIANS



BRO. AMAL ROY NEERNAKUNNEL
Vadavathur Major Seminary
Second Year Philosophy



BRO. MATHEW THUMBUNGHAL
Aluva Major Seminary
First Year Philosophy



BRO. DAWN ARAKKAL
Aluva Major Seminary
First Year Philosophy



BRO. BENNET THEKKEL
Aluva Major Seminary
First Year Philosophy



BRO. ADELIO JOEL JOSE CHIMMINIKATTU
Kunnoth Major Seminary
First Year Philosophy



BRO. JOSEPH XAVIER KADUMBARATHARA
Mar Aprem Seminary, Pala
Third Year Degree



BRO. ALBIN SHAJI PLACKAL
Mar Aprem Seminary, Pala
Third Year Degree



BRO. ANTONY CHENNOTH
Mar Aprem Seminary, Pala
Second Year Degree



BRO. GEOWIN VERGHEESE PELLISHERRY
St John Paul II Minor Seminary
Third Year



BRO. TOMIN KURISUNKAL
St. John Paul II Minor Seminary
First Year



BRO. JOEL BIJU OLLICKAL
St. John Paul II Minor Seminary
First Year



BRO. AMAL GEORGE ANCHUKANDATHIL
St. John Paul II Minor Seminary
First Year



MY LORD MY GOD

Department Update





Department of Catechesis

YEAR-BEGINNING LETTER

At the beginning of the catechetical year, the Department of Catechesis issued a comprehensive letter to all catechism centres. The letter outlined essential guidelines and preparatory measures for the successful reopening of catechism classes.

Key inclusions were:

- Holy Hour with the Lord
- Volunteer agreements.
- Staff meeting schedules.
- Catechism class inaugurations.
- Preparation of Budget for the academic year.
- Student council formation.

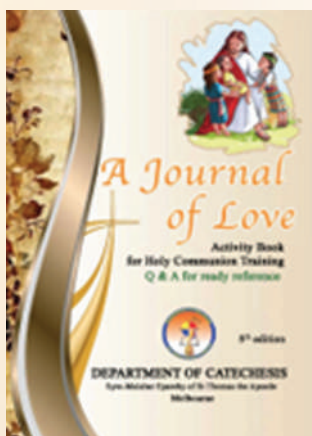
The letter served as a foundational resource for ensuring smooth operations across all centres.

BIBLE WRITING CHALLENGE: PENTATEUCH PROJECT

Launched on 8th December 2024, the Pentateuch Writing Challenge invites participants to engage in a meaningful and reflective exercise of writing out the Pentateuch. This initiative spans six months, concluding on 8th June 2025, developing a deep connection with scripture through this sacred activity.

RELEASE OF NEW CATECHISM TEXTBOOKS

The Department proudly released an updated series of catechism textbooks in 2025,



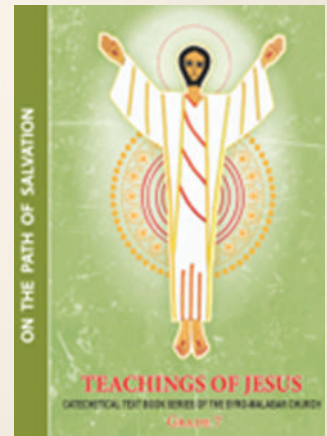
Year 5 Text book -
1st Edition



Year 6 Text book -
Second edition



Year 7 Text book -
Second edition



Holy Communion work
book - Fifth Edition

LUMEN FIDEI 5.1 QLD REGIONAL CATECHISM TEACHERS CONFERENCE

The QLD Regional Catechism Teachers Conference took place on 22nd February 2025 at St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Forane Parish, Brisbane South. The full-day event welcomed 175 participants representing 10 catechism centres across Queensland. Highlights of the conference included:

- Training on High-Impact Teaching Strategies by Noby Joseph.
- Group discussions enhancing team work and knowledge -sharing.

The conference provided an invaluable platform for catechism teachers to enhance their pedagogical skills and share experiences.



TEACHER TRAINING FOR NEW TEXTBOOKS

On 1st March 2027, the Department conducted its inaugural training session for teachers on the newly introduced textbooks. Anu Paul led a demo class to exemplify effective teaching techniques, drawing attendance from approximately 70 teachers. The session aimed to equip catechists with the knowledge and tools needed for implementing the new curriculum effectively.

This comprehensive series of initiatives reflects the Department's commitment to empowering our catechists

**LAUDATO SI 5.1 PRINCIPALS MEETING:
FIRST QUARTER 2025**

The Q1 Principals Conference was held virtually on Saturday, 15th March 2025, via Zoom. The meeting was graced by the presence of Fr. Mathew Areeplackal, Catechism Director, who extended blessings to all participants.

Meeting discussed events planned in the first quarter of 2025 and welcomed 16 new principals to their roles & expressed gratitude to all outgoing principals.

A total of 38 principals representing various catechism centres participated in the meeting.



**MAJOR FORTHCOMING EVENT –
CATECHISM PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE -PHYSICAL**

The Catechism Principals Physical Conference is scheduled for 17th and 18th May 2025, in Melbourne. This event marks the second physical gathering of catechism principals since the formation of the Eparchy, the first having taken place in 2019.

This much-anticipated conference aims to facilitate fruitful discussions, strengthen teamwork among principals, and foster shared visions for the growth of catechism education within the Eparchy. It provides an opportunity for principals to exchange ideas, address challenges, and explore innovative strategies to enhance the impact of their teachings.



Department of Evangelisation

“He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4) — It is based on this verse that all the activities of the Syro-Malabar Evangelisation Ministry are guided by the Lord.

Each week, in the **Evangelisation Prayer Group**, special prayers were offered for each state — including the celebration of the Holy Qurbana, and reciting **15,000 Hail Marys** — specifically praying for ways to be opened so that everyone in this nation may encounter and experience the Lord. Additionally, the team prayed by reciting the Rosary while driving around various suburbs, and with the **Blessed Sacrament**, travelled across **Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales**, praying to the Lord to open paths to bring the Gospel to many in this land who do not yet know Him.

In February, it was also possible to organise an **Evangelisation Retreat** in Melbourne to spiritually prepare the community for the Gospel outreach led by **Fr. Daniel**.

These were days when we could truly recognise **God’s love and care**. In a short span of time, the Lord, who is faithful to His promises, accomplished many things through the Evangelisation Ministry. Many people have participated in this blessed ministry of grace.

The Lord also prepared **strong intercession teams in every state** to pray for the Church.

When people live without pain for the souls perishing, only worrying about their own lives and their own communities — while the **Lord’s Church lies in ruins and souls are lost** — God’s grace departs, and both individuals and communities gradually perish. Therefore, let us strive more earnestly to take the **Gospel of salvation** to all nations, so that **none may be lost and all may attain eternal life**.

Let us become instruments to proclaim the Gospel to the **millions who have yet to experience the love and salvation of Jesus**, and to fulfil God’s **burning desire that no one should perish but that all should be saved** (Matthew 18:14).

Let us thank the Lord who has guided us so far without lacking anything and let us continue to pray together for the good days that are yet to come.

Jaison Joseph
Secretary, Evangelisation Ministry



Department of Safeguarding

What's Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is a set of practices, procedures, and policies that aim to protect children and people at risk from any abuse, exploitation, and neglect. It's a way to ensure their rights and well-being are a priority.

What's Safeguarding?

- Safeguarding protects children and people at risk from harm, abuse, and distress and make them aware of their rights.
- Safeguarding ensures that children and vulnerable people's rights are respected and their well-being is a priority.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and safeguarding practices create awareness and education among wider community around keeping our community safe from abuse or exploitation.
- Safeguarding mandatory in accordance with the recommendations Royal Commission into institutionalised child abuse and Australian legislations.
- Safeguarding practices make our community safe and create a confidence among its members whilst attending parish activities.
- Safeguarding practise identifies and mitigate various risks associated with parish activities also protects the community/ parishes from any future litigations and liability thereafter.
- Safer churches initiatives support and assist our volunteers to gain knowledge and skills to deal with safeguarding matters.

Safeguarding involves?

1. PREVENTING ABUSE:

The Syro-Malabar Eparchy along with its various parishes and missions do everything we can to prevent any abuse and exploitation of children and adults at risk.

The Eparchy has established a Professional Standards Division at national level and Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) at local levels to implement safeguarding policies and procedures across the Eparchy.

Safeguarding also is a permeant agenda for all parish council meetings and PSO attend these meeting to plan and implement various parish activities.

2. RESPONDING TO ABUSE:

The Eparchy has a zero tolerance policy towards any abuses and is well equipped to respond to abuse should they occur. It ensures that all our volunteers are regularly trained and supported in identifying safeguarding issues and responding to them.

3. SAFEGUARDING POLICY:

The eparchy has a robust policies and procedures in place to prevent abuse and protect rights of child children and adults at risk. These policies and producers are developed in accordance with state and federal legislations and Catholic Professional Safeguarding standards Ltd. (CPSL)

4. STAFF TRAINING:

All our volunteers/ staff are adequately trained and supported to do their job. The Eparchy offers a one- day's face to face training (Safer Churches) to all its staff in staff/volunteers. This training is mandatory and has a validity of three years.

We have so far provided the Safer churches training to over 1000 volunteers since the beginning of the eparchy.

5. STAFF RECRUITMENT:

All our volunteers and staff are recruited in accordance with Eparchy's recruitment policy. Prior to the commencement of employment, staff are given a job offer and code of conduct to sign. They all must have valid working with children/ blue card.

6. AUDIT:

The Eparchy conducts regular audits of various parishes and missions to ensure that they operate in accordance with our safeguarding policies and procedures. Audit also helps to identify issues and mitigate risks.

(For further assistance and support with any safeguarding matters, kindly contact your Parish safeguarding officer at local level / the eparchy's professional standard's team or visit website: <https://syromalabar.org.au/safeguarding-children/>)

Department of Safeguarding

Know Our Team



Hi I'm **Feby John**, PSO at St Thomas Mission in Cairns and I'm also a Queensland Health senior social worker. My guiding mantra is "Be the voice of the vulnerable," and I passionately embrace every opportunity to support and uplift our community. Through my work, I aim to empower individuals, helping them navigate challenges and find hope. I am committed to making a positive impact and being a beacon of hope and resilience. I believe that, together we can create positive change in our community.



Arun, a Social Worker by profession, has served as the Parish Safeguarding Officer for St. Thomas Syro Malabar Mission Cairns since April 2022. He previously held the same role at St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Parish Darwin for nearly four years. Currently, he also serves as the Cultural Safeguarding Officer for the Cairns Diocese. With over 20 years of Social Work experience predominantly in Child Protection, Arun is deeply committed to ensuring children's safety and advocating for their rights and needs.

Department of Family Apostolate

A three day residential marriage preparation course (MPC) took place in Melbourne from Feb 25th to Feb 27th , 2025.

The course attracted a total of 20 participants, hailing from different regions across Australia. The diversity of the attendees contributed to the enriching experience.

Our resource persons comprised individuals from a wide range of backgrounds.

We were fortunate to have our Rev Bishop John, priests, medical professionals, and married couples leading various sessions throughout the course along side the guidance of Fr Joseph Ezhumayil and Fr Tijo Devasia .

The course featured meaningful spiritual components, including the sacrament of reconciliation, daily Holy Qurbana which added a profound spiritual dimension to the preparation process.

We had Eucharistic adoration, providing a moment of reflection and reverence for all participants, deepening their spiritual connection and understanding of the sacred commitment of marriage.

The residential marriage preparation course in Feb 2025 was a valuable experience for all involved , fostering not only practical knowledge but also a strong sense of spiritual readiness for the journey ahead.

Next 3 days weekend residential MPC at Melbourne is scheduled for May 2025 23rd to 25th (Fri to Sun).

UPCOMING MPC RESIDENTIAL COURSES IN 2025 ;

- May 23 to 25 (Friday to Sunday)
- August 26 to 28 (Tuesday to Thursday)
- November 28 to 30 (Friday to Sunday)

FOR ANY COURSE ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Santhosh Jose
Mob: 0423 450 768

Email:

Email: office@familyapostolate.syromalabar.org.au

Rev. Dr Joseph Ezhumayil - Director
Rev Fr Tijo Devasia , Associate Director.



Department of Youth Apostolate

FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES

This year, our Eparchy is blessed with three full-time Sliha daMsihas who have dedicated a year of their lives to the mission needs of our Church.

Aakash Joseph, Seena Sebastian, and Anstev Shaju have answered Isho's call to serve as full-time missionaries for the Youth Apostolate of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne.

From January 28 to December 14, 2025, the three Slihas are fully committed to spreading Christ's love, fostering faith, and building community among young people across the Eparchy. Their mission involves traveling to various parish and mission communities where they will lead faith formation programs, fellowship initiatives, and evangelization efforts through personal witness and service.

Through their work, they will serve as living apostles of Christ, supporting the Eparchy in its ongoing mission, and empower all to boldly answer Christ's call to mission and purpose.



EMBRACE PROGRAMS

Embrace is a weeklong, transformative retreat designed to renew the hearts and minds of pre-teens, teens, and young adults across Syro-Malabar parishes and missions. Led by the Sliha daMsihas, the program aims to rekindle faith, inspire discipleship, and deepen personal relationships with Christ.

To date, Embrace has been successfully held across the three parishes in Adelaide as well as in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, and Wodonga. With more retreats lined up for the remainder of the year, the program will offer young people a chance to reignite their faith and be equipped to live out their discipleship with greater purpose and passion.



GALA DINNER 2025

On February 5, 2025, Youth Apostolate Australia hosted their first-ever Gala Night, a vibrant occasion dedicated to celebrating and empowering the Sliha daMsiha mission. The event recognized and introduced our new full-time missionaries, marking a significant moment in the growth of the Sliha daMsiha portfolio.

The evening featured powerful talks and performances, namely from cine actor Sijoy Varghese and Chicago-based Christian rapper Prodigyl. The Gala Night beautifully blended the richness of our **Syro-Malabar heritage** with the dynamic energy of our youth, celebrating their ongoing commitment to the mission of Christ.



UNITE 2025

UNITE 2025 was held between February 6th to February 9th. It was the largest Syro-Malabar youth conference in the Southern Hemisphere, gathering young adults from across our eparchy for four powerful days of faith, fellowship, and formation. With the theme Hear – Heal – Herald, the event featured world-class speakers, vibrant music ministry, creative performances and Eucharistic celebrations, all joining together to ignite hope and empower youth to live out their Catholic faith boldly in today's world.



Nurses Ministry

Australian Nurses Ministry

The Australian Nurses Ministry (NM) has made significant strides in its mission to provide spiritual support to nurses, their families, and patients. This report highlights the ministry's key activities and achievements from January to April 2025.

Overview

January was a quieter period for the ministry as many members were on holiday with their families. Despite this, regular ministry activities continued uninterrupted. In February, engagement and participation increased with the resumption of state and unit meetings. Under the leadership of National Coordinator Sophy Shaji and the spiritual guidance of Rev. Fr. Abraham Nadukunnel, the ministry now operates in 37 parishes and missions across six states and two mainland territories.

Key Activities

- Bible Reading Initiative – Nurses Ministry units in each state undertook a mission to read the entire Bible during Lent. Beginning on March 17th, each state was assigned specific sections to read, successfully completing the full reading by March 25th.
- Way of the Cross – Every Friday during Lent, the ministry conducted the Way of the Cross via Zoom, with active participation from many members.
- Harvest of Grace – The Divine Mercy Novena and Adoration will commence on Good Friday and continue for nine days. This program includes Adoration and Divine Mercy Novena prayers. The tentative date for the event in Australia is Thursday, April 24th.
- Regular Spiritual Practices – The ministry continues to strengthen faith and community through prayer meetings, a 24-hour chain rosary on the 13th of each month, quarterly night vigils, and monthly formation classes.
- Outreach & Support – Providing spiritual and emotional assistance to sick nurses while actively participating in parish activities.
- Regular Meetings – Bimonthly meetings are held at state, national, and unit levels to ensure effective coordination and communication within the ministry.
- National Leadership Support – Ministry leaders visit various units to encourage nurses and conduct spiritual formation sessions.

Hearts & Hands in Action: A Photo Journey of Our Nurses' Ministry



Holy hour adoration on the 13th of each month



Marian valley pilgrimage by Queensland Nurses ministry group



Various State leaders get together



Inauguration of the 37th unit of Australian Nurses Ministry, Sydney Knanaya Ministry



Victoria regional meet

The Australian Nurses Ministry continues to expand its reach, fostering a strong foundation of prayer, service, and community engagement. With ongoing initiatives and future plans, the ministry remains committed to bringing the healing presence of Christ to nurses and their communities, ensuring a lasting impact in the years to come.



MY LORD MY GOD

Parish Updates





MY LORD MY GOD

NSW Forane



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HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Forane Parish Parramatta

CATECHISM INAUGURATION AND CLASSES COMMENCEMENT

The Catechism 2025 program was inaugurated during the Holy Qurbana on 9th February 2025. A total of 410 students, spanning Kindergarten to Year 12, enrolled for this year's catechism classes. Principal Sherin Jose alongside Secretaries Jisha Thomas and Anu Paul led the teachers during the offertory marking the commencement of the academic year.

PRAVESANOTSAVAM FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

On 16th February 2025, Pravesanotsavam, for Kindergarten students, was observed during the Holy Qurbana. This event included a special offertory Holy Qurbana, symbolising the start of their spiritual and catechism educational journey.

YEAR 12 INITIATION HOLY QURBANA AND SMYM INFORMATION SESSION

The initiation Holy Qurbana for Year 12 students was conducted on 16th February 2025. Following the ceremony, newly graduated Year 12 students participated in an information session about SMYM Parramatta. Their transition into the next phase of community involvement was celebrated during this event.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME: PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

The parish expressed heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Mathew Areepalackal for his leadership and guidance over the past 4.5 years. The community warmly welcomed Fr. Denni Thomas Nedumpathalil as the new vicar, embracing his pastoral role with great enthusiasm.

VIBHOOTHI THIRUNAL

On 3rd March 2025, Ash Monday was observed with the celebration of Holy Qurbana and the Vibhooti liturgy, enriching a sense of reflection and repentance marking the beginning of 50 days period of fasting, prayer and penance in the parish community.

ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT AND CONFESSION

The Lenten retreat, held on 14th, 15th, and 16th March 2025, enriched the faith community through spiritually uplifting sessions led by Fr. Shijo Kumminiyil, CSsR. The retreat prepared the parishioners for Holy Week. Additionally, the annual confession took place on 15th March 2025, providing a time of reflection and repentance.

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH CELEBRATION

The parish celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph on 19th March 2025 with great devotion. The observance included a Holy Qurbana, followed by Ladinju, Pradakshinam and Nercha.

TRAINING ON HOLINESS AND CHASTITY

Year 9 and Year 10 students participated in a training session on Holiness and Chastity, held on 9th March 2025. The session followed their offertory Holy Qurbana, enriching spiritual growth and moral guidance among the youth.

FORMATION OF STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

On 23rd March 2025, student representatives were selected from Year 4 to Year 12 to form the new Student Council. A special offertory Holy Qurbana, blessing, and pledge ceremony was conducted to inaugurate the council's activities, empowering students to take an active role in Sunday school initiatives.



St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Wagga Wagga

The St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission in Wagga Wagga has had a spiritually enriching start to the year, marked by several key events and initiatives.

Catechism Updates

The academic year for catechism classes was inaugurated on February 9th, followed by a Parent-Teacher Association meeting on February 16th. Weekly catechism classes continue to thrive, with over 120 students actively participating. This year, the mission introduced Year 11 and Year 12 catechism classes, providing advanced spiritual education for senior students.

Embrace Program by Sliha daMsiha

From March 9th to March 14th, the SMYM team joined us for a week-long program called Embrace. Focused group sessions were held for preteens, teens and youth, offering interactive activities and personal testimonies that helped children deepen their relationship with God. The program was a transformative experience for all involved.

Holy Pilgrimage on Jubilee Year

On March 2nd, the mission organised a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy in Berrima, NSW on occasion of Jubilee Year 2025. Participants engaged in the Way of the Cross and concluded the day with the Holy Qurbana, fostering spiritual reflection and community bonding.

St. Joseph's Feast

The feast of St. Joseph was celebrated on March 23rd with great devotion, followed by Oottunera-cha (community dinner) prepared by members of the mission.



St Thomas Syro-Malabar Wollongong

FAMILY DAY

Family Day was celebrated on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 10 AM to 3 PM at Berkeley Hall. Families from the parish gathered to enjoy a variety of games and fun activities. The event was a success, with participants engaging in and thoroughly enjoying the day.



CATECHISM INAUGURATION

The inauguration of the Catechism classes took place on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at 11:30 AM. Fr. Sebastian Madapathil administered the pledge to the teachers and officially welcomed new students to the Catechism program. This event marked the formal commencement of Catechism classes for the year.



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

St. Joseph's Day was celebrated on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. The occasion honored St. Joseph, the patron saint of families, workers, and the universal Church. The celebration included prayers, reflections, and community activities to remember St. Joseph's virtues and contributions to Christian life.



ANNUAL RETREAT

The annual retreat for the parish was held from April 4 to April 6, 2025. Fr. Saiju Thuruthiyil, MCBS, led the retreat, providing spiritual guidance throughout. The retreat refreshed and rejuvenated the attendees, preparing them spiritually for Holy Week.





MY LORD MY GOD

Queensland Forane



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HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

Ave Maria Syro Malabar Mission Ipswich

FEBRUARY CATECHISM PROGRAM



In February, AMCM Ipswich joyfully inaugurated the catechism program, followed by a Mass. This event marked the beginning of a new journey in faith, aimed at strengthening the spiritual bonds within the community. It was truly a blessed day.

ALTAR SERVERS



At AMCM Ipswich, children enthusiastically joined as altar servers. Anto Achan commissioned new altar servers to serve the community.

ASH MONDAY CELEBRATION



The community came together to celebrate Ash Monday at AMCM Ipswich.

CELEBRATIONS WITH SPECIAL GUEST

The AMCM Community celebrated the Silver Jubilee of our dear Anto Achan and the Sunday school anniversary in the presence of beloved Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil, Bishop of the Syro Malabar Eparchy, St. Thomas Apostle, Melbourne.



SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

AMCM Ipswich commemorated the Solemnity of St. Joseph with vibrant community participation and devotion.



Marymatha Syro Malabar Catholic Mission, Gold Coast

CATECHISM INAUGURATION

Began the 2025 Sunday School year with a special blessing from Fr. Prince, welcoming new Prep students.



ASH MONDAY

Observed Lenten Season with Holy Mass and Ash Distribution on 3rd March

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEAD

Special Holy Mass and prayers offered for the departed souls, with floral tributes from the community on 28th February.



The St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Catholic Parish Brisbane North

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

On February 2, 2025, St. Alphonsa Parish Sunday School celebrated its inaugural day, welcoming Jiji Joseph as the new Principal and bidding a heartfelt farewell to Marina Mathew Shauryamackal, who served for 16 years. We express our deep gratitude for Marina Teacher's selfless contributions and wish her blessings ahead, while extending our best wishes to Jiji Joseph in this new role.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS GRADUATION CEREMONY

A graduation ceremony was held to honour the graduation batch of Year 12 students on March 23rd as they completed their journey in catechism classes, marking a significant milestone in their spiritual growth

ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT

Our Annual Lenten Retreat took place from March 14th to 16th, led by the inspirational Fr. Joy Chencheril, MCBS. Fr. Joy guided the parish through prayer, reflection, and preparation for the holy season. The retreat offered parishioners a chance to deepen their faith, experience spiritual renewal, and gain a greater understanding of the Holy Qurbana.

SYRO MALABAR YOUTH MOVEMENT (SMYM) UNITE 2025

The Syro Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) has been actively involved in various events, showcasing the enthusiasm and dedication of our youth. Highlights include a youth hike to the scenic Mount Coot-Tha Trail, promoting fellowship and physical well-being, as well as representing our parish at the prestigious. These activities reflect the youth's commitment to living their faith actively.

AWARD DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY – BIBLE KALOL-SAVAM 2024

St. Alphonsa Parish was delighted to host the Award Distribution Ceremony for the winners of Bible Kalol-savam 2024 on Sunday, February 2nd. This year, we proudly celebrated the achievements of around 76 students who demonstrated dedication and excellence.



ST Joseph's Syro Malabar Mission Springfield

SOME OF THE MAIN HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY ARE

- Registered families – 250
- Regular Malayalam mass on Tue and Sundays.
- 230 students attending catechism classes on Sundays after mass.
- Almost 400 people attending Sunday Malayalam mass on every week.

EVENTS HELD IN 2025

Bishop John's Visit for Baptism: Bishop John visited on March 2nd to baptise Peter, born at 2:52 AM on January 1st 2025. His parents, Brijeetha and Shaju from our Springfield Parish, were overjoyed to have Bishop John baptize their fifth child into the Christian faith. Nearly 500 parish members attended the event, which concluded with a lunch. During the visit, the parish council members and other committee representatives had an opportunity to meet with Bishop John to discuss future plans for the parish, including the possibility of having a full-time parish priest. Furthermore, a blessed Holy Mass and Year 12 2024 graduation and catechism, academic and attendance award presentation ceremony was celebrated.
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Catechism teachers attending Queensland Regional Conference. This is a valuable gathering aimed at strengthening faith education and enhancing teaching methods. This event provides opportunities for professional development through workshops, guest speakers, and discussions on effective catechesis. It also fosters community building among educators, allowing them to share experiences and best practices. With a focus on deepening both personal faith and instructional skills, the conference serves as an inspiring and enriching experience for all attendees.

Feast Day of St. Joseph: The Feast Day of St. Joseph was celebrated on Tuesday, March 18th, at 6:30 PM, with Holy Qurbana and a litany, followed by a Nercha Sadya generously provided by parishioners named Joseph in our community.

Lenten Retreat: A Lenten retreat led by Fr. Roy Chencheril MCBS was held from March 23rd to March 25th, running from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM each day.



ST. MARY'S SYRO MALABAR MISSION, SUNSHINE COAST

NEW YEAR AND DENEHA THIRUNAL

This year we welcomed the new year with a New Year Day Holy Mass on 1 st January. Celebrations for this year commenced with Denaha Thirunal which was celebrated on the 6 th of January. Following the Holy Mass, a procession was held and as a final act of reverence, the congregation participated in the lighting of the **Pindi**, symbolizing our collective prayers and intentions. It was a beautiful day of worship and fellowship, reminding us of the importance of tradition and the power of shared faith.

CATECHISM INAUGURATION AND PREVESHANOLSAVAM

The Catechism Academic Year 2025 of St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Sunshine Coast, was inaugurated on February 2 at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Caloundra, following the Holy Qurbana. Fr. Tijo Puthenparampil delivered an inspiring address, highlighting the importance of faith formation and the Catechism Motto: "To Know Jesus, To Live in Jesus, and To Give Jesus." He emphasized the family's role in catechism and echoed Pope Francis' words on guiding children to encounter Jesus. The event featured a Lamp Lighting ceremony, the Catechist Oath, and 'Praveshanotsavam', welcoming 24 new students. The day concluded with Eucharistic Adoration led by the students.

FEAST OF SAINTS

Our Parish also celebrated many feasts during this period which includes Feast of **St. Chavara** and **Feast of St. Devasahayam Pillai**. The Feast of **St. Sebastian** was celebrated in a grand manner this year as well. The celebration started with the Holy Qurbana, Ladeenju, Solemn Procession and end up with a Nercha. In addition, we also celebrated Feast of Our lady of Lourdes on February 12 th and Feast of Blessed Rani Maria on February 23 rd . We also had special Mass for the departed souls on the 28 th of February which is the annual Commemoration of the dead.

Our parish launched a **Bible Reading Challenge** through a dedicated WhatsApp group, inviting parishioners to read the entire Bible over the course of a year. The initiative aims to deepen the spiritual lives of the participants. The participants will receive daily scripture readings, along with reflections and prayer prompts, to help guide their reading.

On March 19th, we celebrated the **Feast of St. Joseph**, a day that highlights his quiet strength, unwavering commitment to his family, and his vital role as the protector of the Holy Family. In addition to this celebration, we also continued the beloved tradition of the Ootu Nercha Sadya, a long-standing custom within the Syro-Malabar Church, marking the feast of St. Joseph with fellowship and community.

On March 23, Fr. Tijo welcomed the newly appointed **Student Council representatives in their first meeting**, outlining their roles and stressing the importance of leadership, service, and active support for catechism activities. He encouraged them to be role models and to foster a faith-driven environment.

On March 30, following the Holy Qurbana, twenty student representatives from Years 4 to 12 took their **oath of commitment**. Fr. Tijo addressed them, emphasizing the importance of Christ-like values and their responsibility to lead with integrity, compassion, and service—marking a significant step in their journey as catechism leaders.



St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission Cairns

A YEAR OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, & SERVICE

The St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission in Cairns, Australia, has seen a vibrant and transformative beginning to 2025. This Catholic community, known for its deep-rooted spiritual heritage and strong sense of unity, continues to make remarkable strides in serving the faithful, particularly through their ongoing commitment to faith education, community celebrations, and charity work. This year, the mission has been a center of several meaningful events, including the Catechism Day Inauguration, Ash Wednesday celebrations, and a St. Joseph's Day charity collection organized by the Men's Forum.

CATECHISM DAY INAUGURATION - A MILESTONE FOR FAITH EDUCATION

The year 2025 marked a significant step forward for the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission with the inauguration of the Catechism Day on February 9, 2025 with 185 students and 25 teachers on board and blessed by FR. Roy Neervelil CFIC. This initiative aims to promote the spiritual education of the younger generation and strengthen their knowledge of the Catholic faith. The Catechism Day focuses on engaging children and youth in the study of religious teachings, Bible stories, and the moral values integral to Catholic life.

The inauguration event, which took place at St. Joseph Church, was filled with prayer, song, and reflection. Catechism teachers, students, and parents gathered to celebrate this important occasion, affirming their commitment to building a strong foundation of faith for the children of the mission. The mission is focused on nurturing spiritual growth through educational programs, prayer services, and the involvement of both parents and the community in the learning process.

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CHARITY COLLECTION - A CALL TO SERVE THE NEEDY

March 19, 2025, marked the Feast of St. Joseph, the patron saint of the universal Church and the protector of families. On this special day, the Men's Forum at the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission took the lead in organizing a charity collection to assist the underprivileged in the Cairns region.

The Men's Forum, a dedicated group of parishioners, has been at the forefront of charitable initiatives within the mission. On St. Joseph's Day, they spearheaded a fundraising drive to support local charities, providing food, clothing, and essential items to families in need. The charity event was also an opportunity to reflect on St. Joseph's role as a provider and protector, embodying the mission's call to serve others with love and compassion.



St.Thomas the Apostle Syro Malabar Forane Church, Brisbane South

Priesthood and Birthday Celebration of our parish priest: We celebrated Fr. Abraham Nadukunnel's 29th anniversary of his priestly ordination on January 1, 2025, and his birthday on January 3, 2025, with celebrations organized by the Trustees and parish council.

Feast of St. Sebastian: Celebrated the feast of St. Sebastian on 19th January 2025.

Sunday School & Malayalam Classes: The Catechism and Malayalam language classes for the 2025 academic year were inaugurated on Sunday, 26 January after the Holy Qurbana at 9.00 am in the presence of a large gathering of children, parents and parishioners. The Parish Priest Rev.Fr.Abraham Nadukunnel extended a warm welcome to all the teachers, children and parents.

Year 12 Students Catechism graduation: Conducted on Sunday, February 2, 2025 and officially welcomed them into the SMYM youth community.

Year 12 Students Recognition: Parish recognized the students who achieved an ATAR of 95% or above in Year 12 on Sunday, February 9, 2025, The high performers have received mementoes from the Vicar Fr.Abraham Nadukunnel.

Catechism Teachers Conference (Forane Level): Held on Saturday, February 22, 2025. 140 catechism teachers participated.

Ash Monday: We celebrated Ash Monday on the 3rd of March starting with Holy Qurbana at 6:30PM.

The feast of St Joseph: St.Joseph's feast was celebrated solemnly on the 19th of March starting with Holy Qurbana at 7 pm followed by ലഭിഞ്ഞു and നേർച്ച by St.Joseph Ward.

Evangelisation Ministry: Evangelisation Ministry conducts 24 Hour Adoration on every first Friday of the month in collaboration with all other ministries and pious organisations.

SMYM: Actively participates in church activities and conducts Faith & Friends program every Sunday from 11:30AM- 12:30PM. Also 27 youths from our parish participated in SMYM Unite Conference

Pothu Pani: We have conducted Pothu Pani on Saturday 25th January 2025 and on Saturday, March 15th, 2025 to clean our church, catechism centre and its surroundings. Many parishioners contributed to this event with their time and effort.

Chithravarnam: The Chithravarnam Show on Saturday, March 22, 2025, was a resounding success! The Santhom Cultural Forum organized the show as a fundraising event for our new church project.





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HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

St. Euphrasia Syro-Malabar Catholic Parish, Adelaide North

PINDIKUTHI THIRUNNAL (FEAST OF EPIPHANY/DENHA)

The parish began the year with a solemn celebration of Pindikuthi Thirunnal, marking the Feast of Epiphany. Fr. Ajith led the faithful in a traditional Ramsha prayer at the church foyer, where the Pindi was beautifully decorated and lit. He shared the historical roots of the feast, explaining how this celebration is the Saint Thomas Christian counterpart of Denha (Baptism of Jesus) and the Western tradition of Epiphany. Families participated with reverence and joy, making it a spiritually meaningful start to the year.

INSTALLATION OF NEW ALTAR SERVERS

A special ceremony during the Sunday Holy Qurbana saw 12 new altar servers solemnly installed into service. Clothed in altar server vestments and filled with devotion, these young members of the parish pledged their commitment to serve at the altar. It was a proud and prayerful occasion, witnessed by family and fellow parishioners.

FAREWELL TO FR. AJITH AND WELCOME TO FR. ABRAHAM

The parish gathered to express heartfelt gratitude and bid farewell to Rev. Fr. Ajith, who faithfully served the community with dedication and compassion. On the same day, we joyfully welcomed our new Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Abraham Kazhunnadiyil, with a warm reception and blessings for his pastoral leadership. The event was filled with emotional farewells, songs, and a spirit of welcome and hope.

ANNUAL FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT

Led by Rev. Fr. Robin Chittooparampil VC, the parish hosted its annual Lenten retreat, drawing families together for a spiritually enriching week. The sessions focused on reflection, repentance, and renewal, with powerful talks, praise and worship, adoration, and confessions. The retreat helped the parishioners prepare their hearts deeply for the upcoming Holy Week.

SLIHA DA MISHIHA MISSION WEEK

The Sliha Da Mishiha Mission Team brought an energetic and inspiring week-long program for pre-teens, teens, and youth. With a vibrant mix of music, interactive sessions, games, and spiritual guidance, the mission week rejuvenated young hearts and strengthened their faith journey. The youth responded with enthusiasm, forming deeper connections with each other and with Christ.

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

The parish commemorated the Feast of St. Joseph with a solemn Holy Qurbana and special prayers. As the protector of families and the universal Church, St. Joseph was honoured with love and devotion by the community. The event included a short procession and reflections on his virtues of humility, obedience, and strength.



St. Mary's Syro Malabar Aparish, Adelaide South

DENEHA THIRUNAL

Deneha Thirunal Qurbana is celebrated by Fr Shibu Jacob MSFS. It Commemorates the revelation of holy spirit at baptism of Jesus Christ at Jordan River. The event included various liturgical celebrations and prayers that strengthen the unity of faithful.

PARISH FEAST

St. Mary's Syro Malabar parish joyfully celebrated the joint feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Sebastian on February 23rd Sunday. Rev. Fr Tijo Puthenparambil was the main celebrant for the solemn Holy Qurbana, with the participation of Rev Fr. Johnson Thaliath CMI and Rev. Fr.Siby Pulickal. Very Rev.Fr.Dean Marin -Vicar General Adelaide Archdiocese carried the sacred relic for procession followed by the Holy Qurbana. Approximately 675 faithful joined in the feast celebration and Snehavirunnu. The celebration fostered a sense of unity and solidarity among parishioners and everyone took part of it proudly and got blessed.

FEAST OF ANNEEDHEE

On February 28th St.Mary's Parish paid tribute to the departed souls in a solemn ceremony. A replica of the tomb was placed at front of the ALTER, it was beautifully decorated with Cross, flowers and candles. At the beginning of Office of the Dead, family members of the deceased,carried the candles and processed to the tomb alongside with family unit representatives, placing it on the on the tomb. At the conclusion of service all parishioners came forward to place petals on the tomb and to offer their prayers to the loved ones.



LENTEN- RETREAT

Parish Annual Lenten Retreat Led by Rev. Fr.Robin Chittuparambil VC.The Parish Retreat was a blessing for the entire parish community. It gave a unique opportunity for spiritual growth and reflection for the parish community.Adoration was a real blessing and initiated the Church Intercession group which is very active now.

EMBRACE

Catechism Pree Teens and Teens Retreat led by Sliha daMsiha Missionaries from youth Apostolate of Syro Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne. It was a holy Success! We witnessed so many Kids and Teens having encounters with Jesus. On March 24th Sunday SMYM officially welcomed year 12 graduates from the parish to Syro Malabar youth Movement, which is a new journey in their faith life.



St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Forane Parish– Adelaide Central

From January to March, St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Forane Parish organized a series of spiritually enriching events, strengthening faith, unity, and fellowship within the community.

DENEHA-THIRUNAL

In celebration of Deneha Thirunal, committee members, representatives from Mathruvedi, Pithruvedi, and the youth, solemnly lit the Pindithiri, symbolizing the revelation of the Holy Trinity at the baptism of Christ. The event included a reverent liturgical celebration, uniting the faithful in prayer and reflection on this divine manifestation.

CATECHISM INAUGURATION

The Catechism Year 2025 was inaugurated with a solemn Holy Qurbana. The Nila Vilakku was lit by Father Siby, along with the principal, deputy principal and student leaders, marking the beginning of the academic year. The catechism teachers took their pledge, reaffirming their commitment to faith formation. Following this, the Annual General Meeting elected the Parish Catechism Committee (PCC) for the new year.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEAD

A replica of the tomb was placed at the front of the church, with a cross set on a table. The tomb was beautifully decorated with flowers and candles. At the beginning of the Office of the Dead, family members of the deceased carried lit candles and processed into the church alongside family-unit representatives, placing it on the table and the tomb. At the conclusion of the service, parishioners were invited to place petals on the tomb as an offering and to offer prayers for their loved ones.

HOLY QURBANA CLASS

The event began with an introductory session on the Holy Qurbana, followed by a talk by Father Siby about its spiritual significance, symbols, and liturgical elements. The evening concluded with the Holy Qurbana and Eucharistic Adoration, offering a time for reflection and prayer in reverence of the sacrament.

ST. JOSEPH FEAST

The celebration began with Pithruvedi members processing into the church, presenting offerings and petitions. The statue of St. Joseph was placed beside the altar, and parishioners offered fruits and vegetables from their gardens as a symbol of gratitude. The ceremony concluded with the ootu nercha, a traditional act of offering and prayer.

LENTEN-RETREAT

The Lenten Retreat, led by Father Robin Chittuparambil, included inspiring talks, and opportunities for confession. First Holy Communion children participated by offering flower petals during the Eucharistic procession and special blessings were offered during Eucharistic Adoration for young parents, youth, and families, helping deepen the parish's faith, foster spiritual growth, and strengthen the sense of community.





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HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Cathedral Melbourne North

The start of 2025 has been a true blessing for us. It is a year of many firsts for us as we are now able to hold all our services in our new Cathedral. We started the year by celebrating the Feast of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara alongside our first First Friday Night Vigil of the year on 3rd January 2025. Then on January 6th 2025, we celebrated the feast of Deneha and were able to put up a pindi in our Church for the very first time.

On 31st January, a special adoration was held at 9pm, to pray for all students as they return to schools and universities, but also as they prepared to return to Catechism classes. On February 2nd, the new Catechism year officially started with an inauguration ceremony. Representatives from among the teachers, Parish Council and the student body came together to light the lamp and pray for the well conduct of Catechism classes for the upcoming year. This year also saw the introduction of a new Catechism leadership team, including Principal: Riji George, Assistant Principal: Betsy Antony, Secretary: Boppin John, Academic Coordinator: Evelyn Sebastian and Assembly, Choir, Altar Servers, Readers Coordinators: Sheryl Varghese and Tony Santhosh.

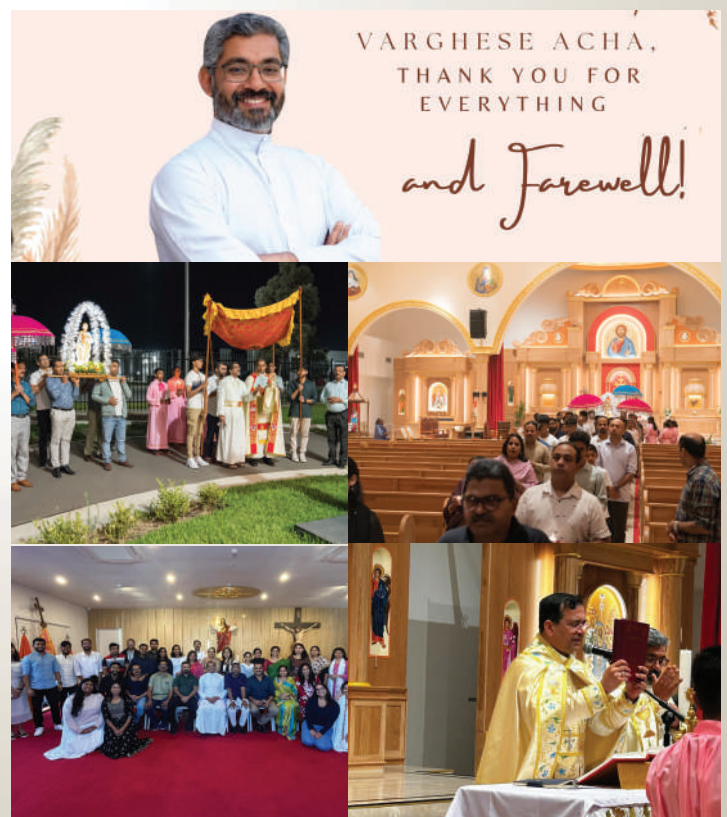
One of the major highlights in the first three months of this year was being able to celebrate our very first Parish Thirunal at the new Cathedral. We were fortunate to have one of our first Vicars, Fr John Aravanakara for Kodyettu and also to offer the thirunal Qurbana on 23rd February 2025, alongside our main celebrant, Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil, and other co-celebrants including Fr Manoj Chanakkathil, and Fr Varghese Vavolil. We celebrated all couples who had married in 1999 and completed their silver jubilee of marriage during our Feast Day celebrations. This year, we had 12 couples who achieved this milestone. Our new Kaikkarans and Parish Council members were also commissioned on the thirunal day.

We welcomed our new Vicar, Fr Mathew Areepplackal on March 2nd 2025 and he offered his first Holy Qurbana at the Cathedral on this day. Then on March 3rd,

we observed Ash Monday (Viboothi). On March 8th, we were blessed to have our Bishop, Mar John Panamthottathil offer Holy Qurbana and join us for a CNews session following Holy Qurbana. The session was very informative and helped to provide guidance on how Catholics are able to use the media to our advantage to propel Christian values and morals to a wider audience. Lizy Fernandez and Prakash Joseph joined as special speakers for the event.

On March 19th, we celebrated the Feast of St Joseph and gave oottu nercha (ഊട്ടു നേർച്ച) following Holy Qurbana and Procession. An overnight Adoration, "Hours of Grace" took place at our Cathedral from 7:00pm on Friday, 28th March to 10:30am on Saturday, 29th March. All new and interested Altar servers were given a training session on Saturday, 29th March following 9:30am Holy Qurbana. Fr Mathew Areepplackal joined the session and was able to help all children understand the importance of their role as altar servers.

Being in the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, the Cathedral parish cordially invites all parishes to visit the Cathedral and join us in this journey of hope.



St Sebastian Syro-Malabar Mission Geelong

PARISH FEAST

The Feast of St Sebastian was celebrated from 24th January 2025 to 2nd February 2025. On 2nd February 2025, the day of main Perunnal - Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil CMI celebrated the Solemn Holy Qurbana and gave the Perunnal Message.



SOLEMN HOLY COMMUNION

9 children in the mission received Confession and Solemn Holy Communion on 22nd February 2025. Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil CMI was the main celebrant of the day.



PARISH BULLETIN RELEASE

A monthly parish Bulletin was released by Bishop Mar John on 2nd February 2025.



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

A full day training was conducted by the Eparchial Safeguarding department for the volunteers in the mission on 8th March 2025



13 HOUR ADORATION

On 21st March 2025, the mission conducted a 13-hour Eucharistic Adoration in commemoration with the season of Lent. There was a greater participation from Parishioners as well as members of nearby Latin parishes.



VISIT OF LSDP SISTERS

Sr Malini and Sr Claris of Little Sisters of Divine Providence congregation visited the mission on 23rd March 2025 and did a sharing.



St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission Wodonga

Catechism inauguration of Academic year 2025-2026 was conducted on 08/02/2025 at 6pm with Adoration, Holy Qurbana and lamp lighting ceremony. Parish priest Fr. Siby, Trustees, Catechism principal, teachers, parents and students actively participated in the event. Students who have completed the power challenge were honoured by Fr. Siby.

Embrace – Pre teens, teens and youth renewal retreat conducted by the Sliha da Misiha Mission team on 08/03/2025 from 4-9pm. Wodonga youngsters actively participated in the renewal retreat and event concluded with Holy Qurbana and Adoration.

Lental Pilgrimage –on 22/03/2025 parishioners of St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission Wodonga, Wagga and Griffith joined for the lental Pilgrimage to Berrima Shire in the headship of Fr. Siby who celebrated the Holy Qurbana, station of the cross with the parishioners at Berrima Shire concluded with sneha virunnu.

Feast of St Joseph: St Mary's Syro Malabar mission Wodonga mission celebrated the St. Joseph feast on 29/03/2025 with Holy Qurbana novena ladeenju and nercha payasam



St Thomas the Apostle Syro-Malabar Parish Melbourne South East

CATECHISM INAUGURATION – 2025

On the 16th of February 2025, after the solemn celebration of Holy Qurbana, the Catechism year was joyfully inaugurated at St. John's Regional College, Dandenong. A similar celebration was later held at the Forest Hill Centre, where hearts gathered once again in faith and fellowship.

As part of the occasion, Year 12 students were honored with certificates, a heartfelt tribute to their years of dedication, learning, and spiritual growth.

We are deeply grateful and delighted to share that over 900 children have enrolled in this year's Catechism program—a beautiful sign of the living faith that continues to flourish within our parish community.

BIBLE CONVENTION WITH FR. DANIEL POOVANNATHIL

From February 21st to 23rd, our hearts were uplifted by the powerful gospel proclamation of Fr. Daniel Poovannathil. More than 1,500 faithful gathered to partake in this Spirit-filled retreat—a time of deep renewal, healing, and grace.

The atmosphere was charged with the presence of the Holy Spirit, touching souls and kindling a renewed passion for Christ. Attendees came from across Melbourne, united in faith and longing for a closer walk with the Lord.

Separate sessions for children and teens were beautifully led by Divine Kids, nurturing young hearts in the light of the Word and planting seeds of faith for generations to come.



FAREWELL AND WELCOME – A GRACEFUL TRANSITION

On the 2nd of March 2025, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Rev. Fr. Joyis Kolamkuzhiyil CMI, who concluded three years of devoted and praiseworthy service in our parish. With gratitude and warm wishes, we send him forth to his new mission at St. Mary's in Newcastle, NSW, where his pastoral journey continues.

As one chapter gently closes, another begins. We are overjoyed to welcome our new Assistant Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Jinu Kurian CMI. A dedicated member of the CMI congregation, Fr. Jinu previously served as Chaplain at St. Mary's Mission in Newcastle.

With open hearts, we embrace his presence among us, trusting that God will continue to guide and bless our parish through his ministry.





MY LORD MY GOD

WA Region



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HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

St Joseph Syro-Malabar Perth

The new year began with a spiritually enriching family renewal retreat, guided by Fr. Binoy Karimaruthinkal PDM. This retreat was a true blessing for our parish, guiding us back to the Lord and helping us deepen our love for Him.

The feast of St. Sebastian and St. George was celebrated with great spiritual preparation, as families took home the 'ambu' to seek the patron's intercession for themselves and the entire parish community. We also inaugurated our newly erected kodimaram (flagpole), with the blessing and hoisting of the festal flag by Very Rev. Fr. Francis Kolencherry, Vicar General of our Eparchy. The much-anticipated Unite Conference, held in Melbourne, brought together 38 youth from Perth for a vibrant celebration of faith. It was an inspiring opportunity for them to connect with likeminded individuals, build lasting friendships, and experience the beauty of living in community.

The Joseph Syro-Malabar Parish gratefully bid farewell to our long-standing and beloved parish priest, Fr. Anish James, who had faithfully served our community for eight years. The profound impact of his ministry was evident in the heartfelt farewell, marked by the presence of many parishioners who came to honor him.

Our new parish priest, Fr. Ajith Cheriakkara, received a warm and heartfelt welcome as he stepped into his new role, following the handover of the baton from our former parish priest. The parish is filled with excitement and anticipation, eager to witness the plans the Lord has for His people through the guidance of His servant, Fr. Ajith.

Our parish was truly blessed to hear the word of God and be spiritually rejuvenated during the Lenten retreat led by Fr. Robin Chittuparambil. It was inspiring to witness Fr. Robin's youthful energy and vibrant spirit, as he zealously works for the advancement of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The feast of our heavenly patron, St. Joseph, is always a joyous occasion in our parish. In addition to the novena leading up to the feast, parishioners come together the night before, bringing their home-grown harvest and joyfully assisting with the food preparation for the feast day. The celebration was marked by a solemn Holy Qurbana, a procession, and the traditional Ootunercha, filling the day with reverence and communal joy.



DAYS TO REMEMBER

April

11 - Friday
നാൽപതാം വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച

13 - Sunday
ഓശാന ഞായർ

17 - Thursday
പെസഹ വ്യാഴം

18 - Friday
ദുഃഖ വെള്ളി

19 - Saturday
ദുഃഖ ശനി (വലിയ ശനിയാഴ്ച)

20 - Sunday Easter
ഉയിർപ്പ് തിരുനാൾ

25 - Friday
ഉയിർപ്പ് ഒന്നാം വെള്ളി - സകല വിശുദ്ധരുടെയും തിരുനാൾ

25 - Friday
വിശുദ്ധ മർക്കോസ് സുവിശേഷകൻ

27 - Sunday
പുതുഞായർ

May

1 - Thursday
തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥനായ വിശുദ്ധ യൗസേപ്പ്

3 - Saturday
വിശുദ്ധ പീലിപ്പോസ്, വിശുദ്ധ യാക്കോബ്

6 - Tuesday
വിശുദ്ധ ഡോമിനിക് സാവിയോ

18 - Sunday
മാർ അദ്ദായി

29 - Thursday
സ്വർഗ്ഗാരോഹണ തിരുനാൾ

21 - Saturday
മെത്രാപ്പിത്താൻ ദിനം **Bishop John** പനംതോട്ടത്തിൽ

June

1 - Sunday
വിശുദ്ധ ജൂഡിൻ

8 - Sunday
വിശുദ്ധ മറിയം ത്രേസ്യ, ശ്രീഹാക്കാലം ഒന്നാം ഞായർ

9 - Monday
മാർ അപ്രേം

11 - Wednesday
വിശുദ്ധ ബർണ്ണബാസ് ശ്രീഹാ

13 - Friday
ശ്രീഹാ ഒന്നാം വെള്ളി - സ്വർണ്ണവെള്ളി, പാദുവായിലെ വിശുദ്ധ അന്തോണീസ്

15 - Sunday
പരിശുദ്ധ ത്രിത്വത്തിന്റെ തിരുനാൾ

19 - Thursday
പരിശുദ്ധ കുർബ്ബാനയുടെ തിരുനാൾ

21 - Saturday
വിശുദ്ധ ജോൺ ഫിഷർ, വിശുദ്ധ തോമസ് മുർ

24 - Friday
വിശുദ്ധ യോഹന്നാൻ മാഝനയുടെ ജനനം

27 - Monday
ശ്രീഹാ മൂന്നാം വെള്ളി - ഈശോയുടെ തിരുഹൃദയ തിരുനാൾ, മാതാവിന്റെ വിമലഹൃദയ തിരുനാൾ

29 - Wednesday
വിശുദ്ധ പത്രോസ് പൗലോസ് ശ്രീഹന്മാർ



He is Risen



MY LORD MY GOD

EPARCHY MEDIA COMMISSION

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

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

COORDINATOR : GAVEEN GEORGE

മാർത്തോമി
MELBOURNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN