

Marthoma Vision

VOL 4 DECEMBER 2024

SYRO- MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE MELBOURNE

EPARCHIAL BULLETIN



The sanctuary of the newly consecrated Cathedral of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne



“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth”.

(John 1:14)

Wishing You

A Blessed FEAST Of The
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

and a joyful, grace-filled

New Year



Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil CMI

Syro-Malabar Eparchy
Of St. Thomas The Apostle, Melbourne

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Editorial

This year, our Eparchy has geared up for the celebrations of the Jubilee Year 2025—an eventful year ahead! Many exciting initiatives are planned throughout the year at all levels of the Eparchy. We are looking forward to witnessing the biggest youth gathering, Unite 2025, as we come together to celebrate and strengthen our faith. The Department of Catechism, the Family Apostolate, the Department of Evangelization, and all other departments are planning a number of initiatives during the coming year. Exciting times lie ahead as we prepare to journey through this special year together. May the joy, peace, and hope of this holy season fill your hearts and homes. Have a blessed, holy, and hope-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Blessed Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father” (John 1:14).

On this blessed Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, we extend our warmest wishes for a blessed and joyful Christmas to everyone!

In his message for the Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope, the Holy Father confidently assures us, “Hope does not disappoint!” (Rom 5:5). Echoing these powerful words, I encourage you: “Be brave, take courage, all you who put your hope in the Lord” (Ps 31:24). The opening of the Holy Doors of St. Peter’s Basilica serves as a reminder that in Jesus, God has made a way for us. Despair and doubt do not have the final word!

As pilgrims of hope, we walk this path joyfully, knowing that Jesus walks with us. In His light, we are able to see the many gifts we have been given. We are called to share these gifts with others, especially those whose hope has been dimmed by life’s difficulties. The more we share this light, the brighter it becomes, as we are reminded to “put it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light” (Lk 8:16b).

Editorial Team

Eparchy Media Commission





MY LORD MY GOD

Circulars Pastoral Letters



Marthoma Division

MELBOURNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN



2025 Jubilee Year

Dear brother priests, parents, brothers, children in Jesus,

I wish you all the prayerful greetings and blessings for the upcoming Christmas and New Year. The core message of Christmas is taught to us by St. Matthew through today's Gospel: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and He will be called Emmanuel, which means God with us."

God does not dwell beyond the sky or in the depths of the sea, but dwelt among us, and He still does. The Gospel of St. Luke 17:21 says: "The kingdom of God is within you." St. Paul also teaches the same message: "You are the temple of God." (1 Cor. 3:16) The words of St. Athanasius that the Son of God was born as the Son of Man to make us the sons and daughters of God combine these ideas. Christmas is an opportunity to discover and experience the presence of Jesus who dwells among us.

We are entering the year 2025, the year in which Jesus, the Savior of the world, dwelt among us through the incarnation. Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year. The Jubilee celebration, which will last from December 24, 2024 to the Feast of the Holy Family 2025, is an opportunity for our spiritual growth and renewal.

In the history of the Catholic Church, Pope Boniface VIII was the first to declare and initiate a Jubilee Year in 1300. Later, Jubilee Years were celebrated every 25 and 50 years, and Extraordinary Jubilee Years were declared on special occasions.

A Jubilee Year is a special year of grace. It is an opportunity for the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence. The Pope has given us the theme '*Pilgrims of Hope*' for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

In the context of the Jubilee theme that we are pilgrims of hope, Pope Francis reminds us of a few important things: firstly, the spread of the COVID-19 disease that the world has faced in recent years and the unprecedented crises we have faced as a result; secondly, the wars, acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and the hunger and suffering that have been affecting people in various countries of the world. But our God is the one who walks with us in our joys and sorrows, holding our hand. We do not get hope from the world, but from God. Hope always leads life forward. Jesus, who came with hope into a world of despair and sorrow, dwells in us as a beacon of hope in this dark world.

Psalm 71:5 reminds us of this thought: "You are my salvation, my fortress, my hope." The letter to the Romans, chapter 5, verse 5, teaches us that hope never disappoints us.

We are pilgrims of hope. Our life is a pilgrimage, and each of us is a pilgrim. We come from God and must return to God. Every pilgrimage reminds us and teaches us this clearly.

The Jubilee celebrations in the Catholic Church have a profound spiritual significance, marked by themes of mercy, reconciliation, and renewal. The Pope calls us on this occasion to be united and reconciled with God and our brothers and sisters.

I look forward to your sincere cooperation and prayers in the following matters for the spiritual renewal and well-being of our Eparchy in connection with the 2025 Jubilee Year.

1. We officially begin the 2025 Jubilee Year by lighting the Jubilee Candle and reciting the Jubilee Prayer on Christmas Day.
2. In response to the Pope's call, a pilgrimage is being made to Rome and other places of pilgrimage in Europe. Those interested may contact your parish priest for more details.
3. We are declaring our newly built Cathedral Church as a pilgrimage center for this Jubilee Year. It is meaningful for parishes to come to the Cathedral Church as a pilgrimage and participate in the Holy Qurbana and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
4. A special renewal programme will be held for parents, young people and children during the Jubilee Year.
5. Online classes on the 4 documents of the Second Vatican Council will be provided to eparchial members.

Once again, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Jubilee Year. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever. Amen.

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

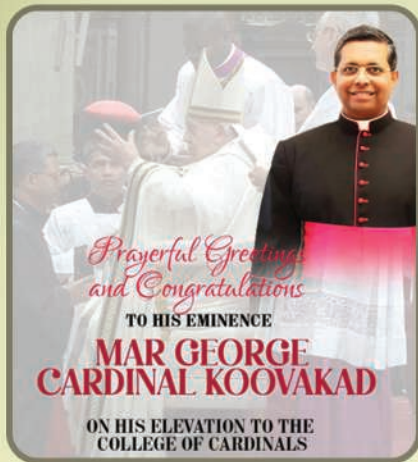


THE JUBILEE PRAYER

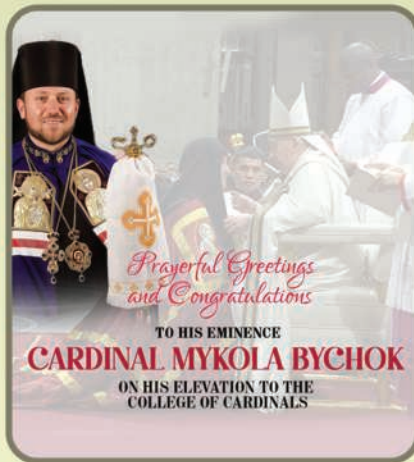
Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of love enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Congratulations



Prayerful Greetings and Congratulations
TO HIS EMINENCE
MAR GEORGE CARDINAL KOOVAKAD
ON HIS ELEVATION TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS




Prayerful Greetings and Congratulations
TO HIS EMINENCE
CARDINAL MYKOLA BYCHOK
ON HIS ELEVATION TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS




Congratulations Prayerful Best Wishes
Holy Father Pope Francis Appointed
His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil
(Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church)
Member, Dicastery for Eastern Churches


Ordination to Diaconate



PATERNAI BLESSINGS
MAR BOSCO PUTHIR



ORDAINED BY
MAR JOHN PANAMBROTATTIHAL, CM

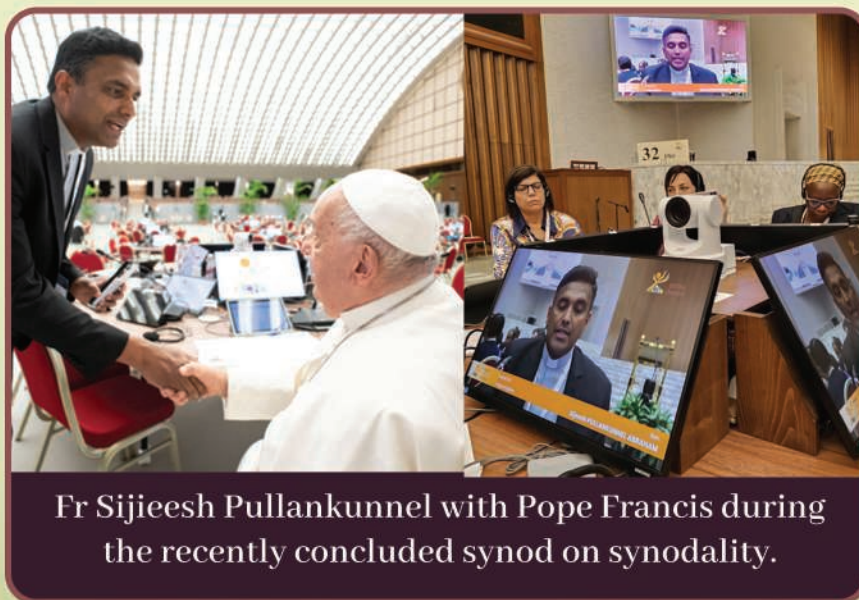


BRO. SIBIN ERINJERY

അഭിനന്ദനങ്ങൾ പ്രാർത്ഥനാശംസകൾ



JINSON ANTO CHARLS MLA
Newly Appointed Minister in the Northern Territory Cabinet
Proud Member of St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish, Darwin, NT



Fr Sijieesh Pullankunnel with Pope Francis during the recently concluded synod on synodality.

Welcome to the Eparchy



Saji Thomas MST



**Fr. Abraham
Puthukulathil Joseph**



**Fr Joseph
Vellappallikuzhiyil**



FR. JINU KURIAN CMI



CONSECRATION OF THE CATHEDRAL

A Historic Day for Australia's Syro-Malabar Community: Consecration of St. Alphonsa Cathedral in Melbourne

Melbourne, Australia – November 23, 2024: The Syro-Malabar Catholic community in Melbourne marked a historic milestone with the consecration of the **St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral** in Epping. The event, held on the eve of the Feast of Christ the King, was a profound celebration of faith, perseverance, and unity, bringing together parishioners, clergy, and dignitaries from across Australia and beyond.

The day began with a grand reception of bishops at **9:00 AM**, followed by the **solemn consecration of the cathedral at 9:30 AM**, transforming the beautifully designed space into a sacred house of God. The highlight of the day was the Solemn Celebration of the Holy Qurbana, led by Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, who traveled from India to preside over the ceremony.

A Gathering of Church Leaders

The consecration brought together an extraordinary assembly of bishops and clergy, underscoring the importance of the occasion for the wider Catholic community. Notable attendees included:

- Archbishop Peter Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne
- Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane
- Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn
- Archbishop Julian Porteous, Archbishop of Hobart
- Bishop Mykola Bychok, Cardinal-elect, Ukrainian Catholic Diocese
- Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Catholic Eparchy
- Bishop Robert Rabbat, Melkite Catholic Eparchy
- Bishop Amel Nona, Chaldean Catholic Eparchy
- Bishop Sebastian Vadakkal, Eparchial Bishop of Ujjain
- Bishop Jose Porunedom, Eparchial Bishop of Mananthavady
- Bishop George Madathikandathil, Eparchial Bishop of Kothamangalam

- Bishop Joseph Srampickal, Eparchial Bishop of Great Britain, Syro-Malabar, Preston, UK
- Bishop Greg Bennett, Bishop of the Diocese of Sale
- Bishop Ken Howell, Bishop of Toowoomba
- Bishop Antony Ireland, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne
- Bishop Martin Ashe, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne
- Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney
- Bishop Terry Curtin, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne
- Mar Jacob Manethodath, Bishop of Palakkad

Adding to the significance of the day, the **Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Balvo**, unveiled the commemorative plaque, further elevating the spiritual importance of the event.

A Testament to Faith and Perseverance

The St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral is the result of over 15 years of relentless effort and prayer by the community. Located at 53 McKellar Way, Epping, the cathedral is a stunning example of Eastern Syrian ecclesiastical architecture, spanning 1711 square meters and accommodating more than 1000 worshippers. It also features a modern parish hall, classrooms for catechism, and ample parking facilities, ensuring it serves as a center for spiritual and community life.

Bishop John Panamthottathil, Eparchial Bishop of Melbourne, who has overseen the final stages of the project, praised the collective effort that brought this vision to life. "This cathedral stands as a testament to our faith and God's providence. It is a place where generations will gather to worship and grow in their spiritual journey," he said.

Acknowledging the Contributors

Heartfelt gratitude was extended to Bishop Bosco Puthur, the first Eparchial Bishop of Melbourne, for his pioneering vision and dedication to the project. Parish Priest Fr. Varghese Vavolil, the building committee, and countless parishioners were also recognized for their tireless contributions. Special remembrance was given to Fr. Peter Kavumpuram MST, a former chaplain who played a pivotal role in shaping the parish community.

A Sacred Beginning

Quoting Genesis 28:17, Monsignor Francis Kolencherry, Vicar General of the Melbourne Eparchy, reflected, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." He emphasised the cathedral's significance as a spiritual beacon for the Syro-Malabar community in Australia.

As the faithful gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion, the consecration of St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral heralded a new chapter for the Melbourne Eparchy. A place of worship, prayer, and community, the cathedral stands as a lasting symbol of faith, unity, and God's enduring grace.





HYMN FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

Original text: Pierangelo Sequeri
English translation: Andrew Wadsworth
Music: Francesco Meneghello

Like a flame my hope is burning,
 may my song arise to you:
 Source of life that has no ending,
 on life's path I trust in you.

Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people
 find a light within your Word.
 Scattered fragile sons and daughters
 find a home in your dear Son.

God, so tender and so patient,
 dawn of hope, you care for all.
 Heav'n and earth are recreated
 by the Spirit of Life set free.

Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
 for our God is born in time.
 Son made man for you and many
 who will find the way in him.

GLORY OF EUROPE



PARIS, LISIEUX, LOURDES, AVILA , FATIMA , LISBON , MILAN
MONTICHIARI , VENICE , PADUA , ASSISI , CASCIA , LANCIANO
SANGIOVANNI ROTONDO , ROME, VATICAN, ANCONA , SPLIT
MEDJUGORJE, CRIKVENICA



ജൂബിലി വർഷത്തോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് സീറോ മലബാർ മെൽബൺ രൂപത ഒരുക്കുന്ന യൂറോപ്പ് തീർത്ഥാടനം - 2025

2025 ഏപ്രിൽ 21 നും സെപ്റ്റംബർ 29 നും യാത്ര പുറപ്പെടുന്നു

വൈദികരുടെ ആത്മീയ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ നടത്തുന്ന തീർത്ഥാടനത്തിലേക്ക് ഏവർക്കും സ്വാഗതം



ലൂർദ്ദ് ഫാത്തിമ മജ്ഗോറി



പ്രധാന സന്ദർശന കേന്ദ്രങ്ങൾ : റോം, വത്തിക്കാൻ, വെനിസ്, പാദ്വ, അസിസി, ലൂർദ്ദ്, പാരിസ്, ആവില ഫാത്തിമ, റോസാമിസ്റ്റിക്ക, മജ്ഗോറി, ലിസ്ബൺ, etc.

Contact for registration immediately :
Mr. ARUN JOSEPH : + 61 401222757
Mr. SIJU JOSE : +91 9846760906

Travel Assistance : Olive Holidays



SYRO MALABAR EPARCHY
OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, MELBOURNE

...INITIATIVE IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF 2025...

"A Pilgrimage to Europe"

Everyone is welcome to the pilgrimage under the spiritual guidance of the priests



Lourdes
Fatima
Medjugorje



Departs on 21st April & 29th September 2025

Top Visiting Centers:
Rome, Vatican Venice, Padua, Lourdes, Paris, Avila, Fatima, Medjugorje, Lisbon



Contact For Registration: Mr. ARUN JOSEPH : + 61 401222757 | Mr. SIJU JOSE : +91 9846760906



Department Update





Department of CATECHESIS



ONLINE TRAINING COURSE ON THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

In collaboration with Ascension Press USA, the Department of Catechesis has initiated a 15-week online training course focused on the Theology of the Body. This program includes monthly catch-up sessions and discussions, coordinated by Rojes Coalbe, Principal of St. Mary's Parish, Melbourne West. Currently, 45 catechism teachers and young adults from various parishes are participating. The course aims at developing resource personnel from our catechism centre to become trainers on chastity.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.



His Little Ones

Trainers on Training in Holiness

Dept of Catechesis

Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne

Theology of the Body Online course

11 weeks to 15 weeks

Monthly catch up

Quiz for every module

USD 29\$

Max 2 participants per parish

Registration

last date 21 July 2024

PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE - LAUDATO SI 4.3

The third-term Principals Conference was conducted via Zoom on August 10, with participation from principals representing 35 catechism centres. The conference presented and discussed various activities being conducted by the Department during the third term of the year.

POWER NEW TESTAMENT READING CHALLENGE

The Department has launched the Power New Testament Reading Challenge for the second consecutive year, running from August 15 to December 25, 2024. 'POWER' stands for

- Powerful
- Opening of the
- Word of God for an
- Enlightened
- Reading

This challenge aims at continuous reading of the New Testament in a given time frame. A total of 1,118 students from 39 catechism centres are currently engaged in this initiative.

REGIONAL CATECHISM TEACHERS CONFERENCE WA - LUMEN FIDEI 4.3

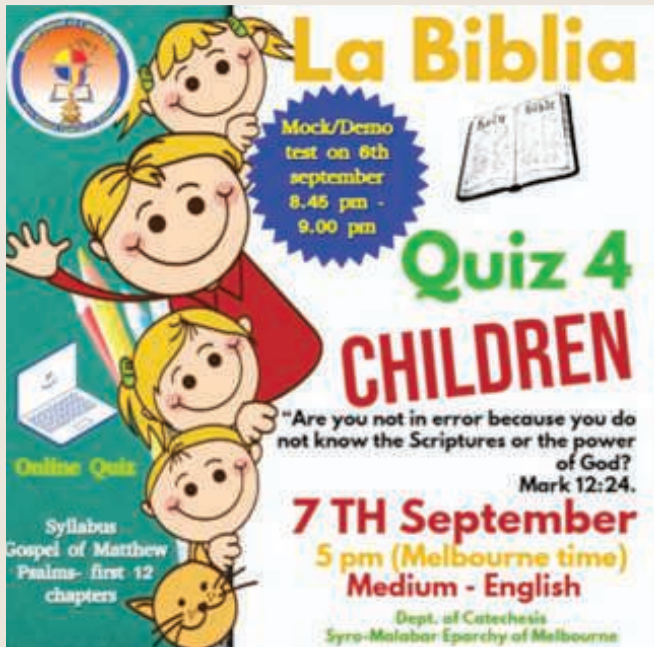
The third regional catechism teachers conference of 2024 took place at St. Joseph's Parish in Perth, WA, on August 24. The event had participation of 120 teachers from five regional centres and focused on high-impact teaching strategies.



ETTU NOMBU ACTIVITIES

The Department has published various activities to encourage student engagement during Ettu Nombu, offering special gifts to Mother Mary from September 1 to 8.

LA-BIBILIA CHILDREN'S QUIZ 2024



An online national Bible quiz for children was successfully conducted on September 7, marking the inaugural event of its kind. The quiz saw participation from 857 students across 39 catechism centres in Australia, reflecting a strong commitment to promoting biblical knowledge. The Department extends its congratulations to all winners and participants.

LOGOS QUIZ 2024

The sixth Logos Quiz took place on October 5, with 280 contestants participating from Australia, New Zealand, the USA, and India. The Department congratulates the winners in each category, as well as the seven "mega winners" who achieved a perfect score.



Dept of Catechesis
Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne
Logos Quiz Australia & NZ 2024

Congratulations!!! **MEGA WINNERS SCORED 100%** Congratulations!!!







Prabha Alex
St Alphonsa
Syro-Malabar
Parish Canberra

Daiby Shiji
St.Mary's
Syro-Malabar
Mission Wagga Wagga

Sherin Sebastian
St.Thomas Syro-Malabar
Mission Wollongong

Smitha Thomas
St.Alphonsa
Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North





Jane Ann Paul
St.Aphonsa Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North

Shija joseph
St. Joseph Syro-Malabar
Parish Perth

Boby Xavier
St.Aphonsa Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North

Dept of Catechesis
Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne
Logos Quiz Australia & NZ 2024

Congratulations!!! **MEGA WINNERS SCORED 100%** Congratulations!!!







Prabha Alex
St Alphonsa
Syro-Malabar
Parish Canberra

Daiby Shiji
St.Mary's
Syro-Malabar
Mission Wagga Wagga

Sherin Sebastian
St.Thomas Syro-Malabar
Mission Wollongong

Smitha Thomas
St.Aphonsa
Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North





Jane Ann Paul
St.Aphonsa Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North

Shija joseph
St. Joseph Syro-Malabar
Parish Perth

Boby Xavier
St.Aphonsa Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North

Dept. of Catechesis,
Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne
Logos Quiz Australia & NZ 2024

Results 41-50 Category





Daiby Shiji
1st with 100%
St.Mary's Syro-Malabar
Mission Wagga Wagga

Shija Joseph
1st with 100%
St. Joseph Syro-Malabar
Parish Perth

Prabha Alex
1st with 100%
St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar
Parish Canberra





Boby Thomas
3rd with 97%
St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar
Mission Parramatta

Smitha Joseph
2nd with 98%
St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North

Riji Mathew
3rd with 97%
St. Thomas Syromalabar
Mission Campbelltown



Shinoj Mathew
3rd with 97%
St. Thomas Syro-Malabar
Hornsby

Dept. of Catechesis,
Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne
Logos Quiz Australia & NZ 2024

Results 30-40 Category





Sherin Sebastian
1st with 100%
St.Thomas Syro-Malabar
Mission Wollongong

Smitha Thomas
1st with 100%
St.Alphonsa Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North

Jane Ann Paul
1st with 100%
St.Aphonsa Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane North




Vidhu Ann George
2nd with 98%
St.Kiriakos Elias Chavara Syro-Malabar Mission Orange

Elin Baby
2nd with 98%
St. Alphonsa Cathedral Parish Melbourne




Sylvia Rose Mathew
2nd with 98%
St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission Parramatta

Alphonsa Joseph
2nd with 98%
Sacred Heart Mission Hamilton NZ

Dept. of Catechesis,
Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne
Logos Quiz Australia & NZ 2024

Results 51 & Above category





Saly Thomas
1st with 92%
Marion
Syro Malabar Mission
Perth

Mary Vincent
2nd with 89%
St.Thomas
Syro Malabar
Mission
Campbelltown

Jessymol Tomy
3rd with 88%
Christ the King
Syro Malabar Mission
Holsworthy

Dept. of Catechesis,
Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne
Logos Quiz Australia & NZ 2024

Results 18-29 Category





Meghana Tomy
2nd with 96%
St.Thomas the Apostle Syro-Malabar
Parish Brisbane South

Boby Xavier
1st with 100%
St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish Brisbane North

Ansoj Jina
3rd with 84%
St. Alphonsa
Syro-Malabar Missi
Wyong

TEXTBOOK REVISION

The Department has completed the second revision of the Year 7 textbook and is currently revising the Year 5 textbook. This effort will facilitate the distribution of newly revised textbooks for Years 5, 6, and 7 to catechism centres for the academic year 2025.

Department of FAMILY APOSTOLATE



A three-day residential Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) took place in Melbourne from August 27th to August 29th, 2024. The course attracted a total of 20 participants from different regions across Australia. The diversity of the attendees contributed to the enriching experience.

Our resource persons were individuals from a wide range of backgrounds. We were fortunate to have priests, medical professionals, and married couples leading various sessions throughout the course, alongside the guidance of Fr. Joseph Ezhumayil and Fr. Tijo Devasia.

The course featured meaningful spiritual components, including the sacrament of reconciliation and daily Holy Qurbana, which added a profound spiritual dimension to the preparation process. We also 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 August 2024 was a valuable experience for all involved, fostering not only practical knowledge but also a strong sense of spiritual readiness for the journey ahead.

The three-day residential MPC in Melbourne was held from November 26th to November 28th, 2024 (Tuesday to Thursday). It was a successful event, and we look forward to future gatherings.

UPCOMING MPC RESIDENTIAL COURSES IN 2025:

- February 25th to 27th (Tuesday to Thursday)
- May 23rd to 25th (Friday to Sunday)
- August 26th to 28th (Tuesday to Thursday)
- November 28th to 30th (Friday to Sunday)

FOR ANY COURSE ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

SANTHOSH JOSE

MOBILE: 0423 450 768

EMAIL:

OFFICE@FAMILYAPOSTOLATE.SYROMALABAR.ORG.AU

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE
3 DAYS RESIDENTIAL COURSE

Feb 25th Tuesday 9AM to
Feb 27th Thursday 4.30 PM

ST. PAUL'S RETREAT CENTRE,
11 NORTONS LANE,
WANTIRNA SOUTH, VIC 3152

LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

Accommodation and food will be provided

Registration will be complete only after we receive the **proof of payment** and a digital **passport size photo**
Email to: office.familyapostolate@syromalabar.org.au

Last date to Submit Registrations : 10th Feb 2025
syromalabar.org.au/services/marriage-preparation-course

For Enquiries: Please Contact Coordinator **SANTHOSH JOSE** 0423 450 768

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



Department of YOUTH APOSTOLATE



NATIONAL TEAM AUSTRALIA

OUTREACHES IN OCTOBER

In September and October, the foranes across Australia started forming small teams for outreaching towards all missions and parishes within the suburbs and regional areas to meet the wider community and parish members. During this outreach, the Unite 2025 conference and upcoming Proclaim events were being promoted as well to encourage the youth, teens and young couples. The outreach team presented details about Unite 2025 and what to expect in terms of activities and events and also shared small testimonies from past attendees and their experiences. The outreach team also interacted with the children in the catechism classes and engaged with the youth in the parish to get them interested in the event. There were tables set up to promote registrations and the opening of the Thoma Store to sell merchandise.

The outreach initiative is to be continued until the end of October with the aim of promoting the Unite Conference and upcoming Proclaims within the region.



PROCLAIM 2024 1-DAY CONFERENCES

Proclaim 2024, a 1-day conference is being held from September to late November for teens ministry, youth and young couples in each state. The theme for this year is Abide in Him, with the bible passage 1 Peter 1:16, "Be Holy for I am Holy". The division into three streams aims to deliver more relatable content to each age group and more participation in each forane. The program content includes group activities and reflections surrounding the theme of "Abide in Him", group workshops on the call to holiness, music, Holy Qurbana and Adoration. Proclaims have been conducted in Adelaide, Perth and Queensland with generally positive feedback.



QADOSH AND SEEKS IN JULY - SEPT

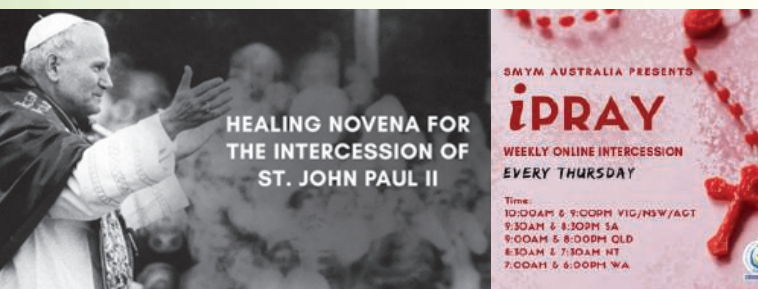
Melbourne Cathedral held their Qadosh for the teens in late September and was organized by the Eparchy's mission team along with Sliha da Msiha. The teens were able to enjoy the retreat with sessions and activities to better understand their faith, roots and the teachings of the Church. There were opportunities for Qurbana and Eucharistic Adoration which allowed some time for reflection and to hear God's words. The participants experienced spiritual encounters with some determined to grow in faith and love for Christ.

Villa wood, NSW held their first teens residential retreat, Qadosh earlier this month. The retreat was led by the mission team and Sliha da Msiha. The teens group participated in various activities, sessions to grow their understanding and faith and partook in Qurbana and Eucharistic Adoration. It was a spiritually enriching experience which allowed many of the participants to have dramatic and transformative encounters with Christ.



INTERCESSION: 24 CHAIN & JP II NOVENA

In October, we held a 24-hour chain rosary for intercession towards UNITE 2025. There was participation from the general youth with teams at the time hosting and leading the rosary. In the chain rosary we prayed for the intention of spiritual growth for the participants, for God's guidance and wisdom for organizers and the guest speakers, fellowship among the attendees with the opportunity for all to receive a powerful and life-changing experience and to continue in fostering their spiritual growth even after Unite. In the following week, the novena to St John Paul II was recited leading up to the feast day of St John Paul II. The different forane teams and leadership teams across Australia helped to lead each day followed by Rosary, Bible Reading and Reflection.



SYRO-MALABAR YOUTH MOVEMENT NEW ZEALAND (SMYM NZ)

The Syro-Malabar Youth Movement New Zealand (SMYM NZ) has embarked on an incredible journey over the past few months, engaging and uplifting youth, teens, and young families through a series of meaningful events. From July to October 2024, each initiative provided opportunities to strengthen bonds, deepen faith, and ensure a brighter future for the Church.

"Who We Are" Webinar

This journey began in August with the "Who We Are" webinar, led by Abin Koovaplackal, the Finance Administrator for the Youth Apostolate Executive team. In this session, Abin took participants on a fascinating exploration of the history and traditions of the Syro-Malabar Church, aligning perfectly with the national monthly theme, "Syro Malabar Church, Liturgy, and History." This webinar offered everyone a chance to learn more about their rich Nasrani heritage and feel a deeper connection to their unique faith tradition.

Proclaim 2024 Outreach Program

In September, SMYM NZ launched the Proclaim 2024 outreach program, rejuvenating the faith across various regions in New Zealand. Families, teens, and youth gathered for Proclaim conferences in Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland, Whangarei, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Hastings, and Tauranga. The community was especially blessed to have two local missionaries, Harris Tomy and Seena Sebastian, join Sojin Sebastian (Director of Youth Apostolate) and Tonia Kurisunkal (a full-time missionary) throughout the two weeks of Proclaim. Their dedication and passion for the mission inspired everyone involved. The purpose of Proclaim 2024 was simple yet profound: to provide participants with a deeper encounter with Christ, showcase the beauty of the Syro-Malabar Church, and explore ways to contribute to the parish and wider community through SMTM, SMYM, and SMYCM. Each gathering, regardless of size, was filled with joy, laughter, and heartfelt discussions about faith and community life.

Youth Leaders' Training (YLT) 2024

Riding the wave of enthusiasm from Proclaim 2024, SMYM NZ hosted the Youth Leaders' Training (YLT) from September 20-22 in Hamilton. This special time allowed youth leaders to come together, learn, and grow. The training aimed to empower them with the skills and confidence needed to inspire their peers. Participants described YLT as life-changing, expressing gratitude for finally feeling accepted for their love of Jesus. One participant noted, "I was never accepted in my circle in NZ for my stories of Jesus... for the first time, I felt appreciated for my love for Jesus." Adoration sessions, group work, and Bible study (Lectio Divina) were highlights, creating a strong sense of community and support. Many felt the

presence of the Holy Spirit during prayers and expressed a desire for even longer sessions to allow for deeper reflection. The significant changes made in the lives of many leaders through YLT were truly heartwarming.

Shlam Lekh Mariyam - Rosary Initiative

As October rolled in, SMYM NZ was excited to launch the “Shlam Lekh Mariyam” initiative, inviting members to commit to praying the rosary daily for the intentions of young people across New Zealand. This initiative emphasized community, with members receiving prayers from a dedicated team and having their intentions offered during the Holy Qurbanas. It aims to deepen the spiritual lives of all involved and reinforce the foundation of prayer that SMYM NZ relies on.

Through these initiatives, SMYM NZ continues to foster a vibrant, faith-filled, and proudly Syro-Malabar community. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and support of our members and look forward to the future.





MY LORD MY GOD

Parish Updates





Victoria Forane



ST ALPHONSA CATHEDRAL PARISH -MELBOURNE NORTH

The months of July, August, and September have been an exceptionally fruitful and busy period for our Parish, especially as we near the consecration ceremony of our Cathedral.

July started with Dukhrana Thirunal, where we were fortunate to have Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil join us for our Rasa Qurbana.

On Friday, July 19th, Catholic Congress organised a special session attended by Fr John Puthava, Director of Catholic Congress, who delivered an inspiring talk. The Catholic Congress initiatives have been progressing effectively throughout the period.

We were very fortunate to celebrate World Grandparents Day and the feast day of our Patron Saint, St Alphonsa, on July 28th. We honoured all the grandparents who were with us and shared nercha following Holy Qurbana with all parishioners to celebrate the feast day.

Moving into August, SMTM organised a Bible study session for teens on Friday, August 9th, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The session helped teens look at the scriptures more closely and analyse how they could be applied in their own lives, concluding with Adoration.

September began with a celebration of Father's Day on September 1st, 2024. All fathers were acknowledged for their hard work and dedication, with cake distributed to all parishioners as part of the celebrations.

Ettu Nombu was observed, and on Sunday, September 8th, there was a special Holy Qurbana at each centre to celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On Sunday, September 15th, we were privileged to be joined by Fr Sabu Thomas, an esteemed author and educator, who conducted a session on AI Intelligence and the various AI tools at our disposal. The session was initially planned for 6:30pm to 8:30pm but was so engaging that it concluded at nearly 10pm.

Our SMYM team has been active during this period. They organised a Cultural Day at our Parish Hall on September 28th, from 10:00am to 3:00pm, to celebrate our culture and identity. Throughout these months, SMYM has also been organising Third Friday night vigils, including leading the Adoration and reflections. The youth also ran food stalls to help with relief efforts for those in Wayanad who had been severely impacted by landslides. Furthermore, the short film created by our youth, "The Prodigal Daughter," has been nominated for the short film festival conducted by Pulari, a non-profit organisation committed to discovering young talent within the Indian community. In sports, during the SMYM basketball competition, our girls' team secured first place, and our boys' team were runners-up overall. We congratulate all the youth for these achievements.

The period concluded with a Qadosh retreat for children in Year 8 and above, running from September 30th (Monday) 9am through to October 3rd (Thursday) 4pm. Many attended, and all were pleased and enlightened through the sessions and various activities that were organised.

Our ward groups have been instrumental in running 12-hour night vigil adorations, providing opportunities for families to come together, worship, and pray for the successful completion of the construction.



ST. MARY'S SYRO MALABAR PARISH MELBOURNE WEST

FAITH FEST

Faith Fest for grades 1-6 was held on 29th June from 9 am to 4pm. 145 students were engaged in faith based activities and had a good feedback from the parents.

Indian independence day celebration

On August 15th after the feast of the assumption of Mother Mary Indian flag was hoisted in the presence of many parishioners to celebrate Indian independence day.

Feast of the Nativity of Mother Mary.

Our main Parish Feast (Thirunal) was celebrated on September 8th with Novenas starting from August 30th. 9 days of Novenas to Blessed Mother was organized by different wards of our parish in which a good number of ward members participated and nercha with different variety food was served each day after the Novena and Qurbana.

Rasa Qurbana celebrated on the 7th by Rev.Fr Sabu Kumbukkal and concelebrated by four other priests was very devotional and awe inspiring. Rev.Fr Sabu Adimakkil VC was the main celebrant on the day of the Feast. After the Thirunal Qurbana we had a solemn procession within the church compound in which around 1000 people participated. It was a time of reflection, prayer and fellowship

9 days of Thirunal celebrations came to an end with Snehavirunnu. "Thattukada" with hot variety food sale attracted every one gathered here.

Session on advantages of Artificial Intelligence.

Fr Sabu Kumbakkal, Professor at S.H.College Thevara, Ernakulam, Kerala conducted a fruitful session on how to use artificial intelligence to our advantage on Friday 13 September and received positive response from parents and students.

Annual Teens retreat

Teens' retreat was conducted for students of grade 7 to 12 from September 21 to 23 at Upper Plenty Conference Centre. 50 students participated in faith-based activities and informative sessions. The retreat was led by Rev.Fr.Sabu Kumbukkal and the Jesus Youth senior team of Melbourne. Positive feedbacks were received from both students and parents regarding how the retreat helped them to grow spiritually and psychologically to be better efficient and mature persons. The retreat helped them to grow closer to God and to have an interpersonal relationship with Jesus.

Annual General Body meeting and selection of new Kaikars.

Annual financial reports and Annual parish activity reports were presented in the Pothuyogam held on 15th September and new Kaikars and auditors were elected. The time allotted for clarifications and creative suggestions were fruitful. A new system of two SMYM members serving the parish office on every Sunday with any help needed for the parishioners was introduced.



St Thomas Syro-Malabar Parish Melbourne South East

DUKHRANA THIRUNAL- RASA QURBANA

Our parish celebrated Dukhrana Thirunal with Rasa Qurbana on July 3rd 2024. Our Parish priest Msgr. Francis Kolencherry was the main celebrant.



KUDUMBOLSAVAM 2024

On July 21, 2024, our parish community came together to celebrate the beauty of family at our annual Family Day celebration – ‘Kudumbolsavam 2024’. The day began with Holy Mass. During the Mass, members of the Parish Council and Building Committee participated in the offertory, symbolising their dedication to serving the parish. Following the Mass various prayer wards showcased their talents through captivating cultural programs. The energetic performances, ranging from traditional dances to soulful songs and skits, left the audience



QADOSH 2024- RESIDENTIAL CATECHISM CAMP

Over 180 students from year 9-12 participated in a residential camp ‘Qadosh 2024’ conducted by our catechism department on July 5 to July 7. The event sought to deepen the students’ relationship with Christ and root them firmly in biblical teachings. It aimed to equip teenagers to be strong advocates of Christ in today’s society.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

Solemn First Holy Communion and Confirmation of children in our parish was celebrated on Saturday 14th September 2024. Bishop John Panamthotathil CMI was the main celebrant. 29 children received Holy Communion / Confirmation.



FAITH FEST 2024

Catechism Department of our parish conducted a 2-day workshop for all the catechism students from year 1 to 12. The program packed with engaging activities, interactive games, enriching classes, Holy Qurbana, and Adoration.

PARISH BIBLE QUIZ 2024

The Parish Bible Quiz for 2024 was conducted on Sunday 13 October 2024. St. Jude Prayer Ward Berwick won the first prize. St. John’s Prayer Ward, Lynbrook got the second prize and St. Kevin’s Prayer Ward Lyndhurst got the third prize.



NOW Forane



St Alphonsa Forane Parish Parramatta

FAITH FEST 2024

Faith Fest 2024 took place from July 19 to 21, with over 320 students and 60 volunteers participating in this three-day event. The inauguration was led by vicar Fr. Mathew Areepalckal. This year's theme was "Divine Virtue: Love," explored in the context of the Ten Commandments. Participants and volunteers dressed in traditional attire on the second day, engaging in various activities including perunnals kodi yettu, kazhunnu, and pradakshinam. Additionally, a demonstration of the Pesaha celebration involved preparing appam and paal, culminating in an appam murickal. Rev. Fr. Fernando Montano, Vicar General of the Diocese of Parramatta, served as the chief guest for the Faith Fest finale and awards ceremony on the third day.

FUNDRAISING FOR WAYANAD

A special prayer service and food sale were held on August 11 to raise funds and support those affected by the landslides in Wayanad.

FEAST OF ASSUMPTION OF MOTHER MARY

Parish celebrated the feast of assumption of Mother Mary on 15th August 2024

FAREWELL TO PREVIOUS KAIKKARANS

The parish bid farewell to Kaikkarans Dane Xan Alex and Thomas Vadakkupadan, expressing gratitude for their selfless contributions to the community. Their tireless dedication and hard work were deeply appreciated by all.



POTHUYOGAM & SELECTION OF NEW KAIKKARANS

During the parish Pothuyogam on August 18, Stani Louis and Jose Mathew were selected as the new Kaikkarans for the 2024-2025 term.

ETTUNOMBU

From September 1 to 8, the parish encouraged children to express their love for Mother Mary by offering special gifts. The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated on September 8 with a solemn Holy Qurbana, Ladinju, procession, and Nercha, led by Fr. Joby Kadampattu Parambil.

SYRO- MALABAR HOLY QURBANA AT MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

September 12, the Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana was celebrated for the first time at the Macquarie University campus chapel, in collaboration with the Macquarie University Catholic Society and Chaplaincy team, led by Winnifred and Chaplain Fr. Daniele.

ONE DAY CHASTITY RETREAT

On September 21, 2024, a one-day retreat on chastity 'Renewed and Received' was held for First Holy Communion students of 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023. The retreat aimed to instill & renew the values of respect, purity, and love, helping the children understand the significance of the principles of chastity in their spiritual journey.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION STUDENTS

Our 2024 First Holy Communion students had their offertory Holy Qurbana on 22nd September. Students offered their work books representing their hard work and commitment as an offering before the Lord

THE ST. ALPHONSA GALA NIGHT

The St. Alphonsa Gala Night, our parish day, was held on September 28. Monsgr. Fr. Francis Kolencherry, our Vicar General, served as the chief guest. Members from our 16 family units and catechism students participated in various cultural programs, concluding with a Sneha Virunnu.

St. Mary's Mission Griffith

FEAST OF ST. SEBASTIAN

On 24th September, we celebrated the feast of St. Sebastian which was a true blessing for Our community. Fr. Siby Thannickal celebrated holy Qur-bana, followed by ladheenju and Ambu blessing.

We were also extremely blessed with an opportunity to have ambu Processions to our houses. All families got involved in ambu procession with true faith and prayers. We thank you Lord, for all the blessings you have bestowed on our life's.

FEAST OF ST. MARY'S AND ST. SEBASTIAN

St. Mary's Mission Griffith representatives attended the Feast of St. Mary's and St. Sebastain on the 29th September 2024 in Wagga Wagga. It was a true experience of faith, worship and love.



CHRIST THE KING MISSION

Grandparent's Day Celebrations

We showed our appreciation to the incredible grandparents in our CTK community for their endless love and key role in the faith formation of their grandchildren on Grandparent's Day. A Kazchavaippu by the grandparents was held before Holy Qurbana, which was followed by a sausage sizzle organised by the Pithruvedi.

Food Fest

On August 11, the Pithruvedi organised a food fest, with delicious kappa biriani, porotta and beef, and chicken fry. Thank you to all those who assisted in cooking and organising.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Assumption was celebrated on August 15, which as we all know is one of two days of Obligation for Catholics. Mother Mary please watch over us and continue to guide us to live a life of holiness like you.

Altar Server Training Program and Institution Ceremony

Our new altar servers completed a training program across several Saturdays in August and received their vestments during Holy Qurbana on September 1. May God continue to guide you as you serve him. Thank you to all who helped run the training programs, may God bless you.

Movie Nights

We held two screenings of the movie 'Face of the Faceless' on the evenings of August 18 and September 1. Based on the true story of the life Sr. Rani Maria, the movie showed us how we can all dedicate our lives to those who are in need, even when others oppose us. Snacks were provided by Mathruvedi during the night. A big thank you to all who were involved in organising for their efforts.

Father's Day Celebrations

On Father's Day, we showed our appreciation to the wonderful fathers in our community for being the pillars of faith and love in our families and the

wider parish. May Holy Spirit guide you in all you do.

Bible Kalolsavam

In September, our catechism students participated in Bible Reading, Bible Quiz and Drama competitions held in our parish as part of Bible Kalolsavam. Congratulations to all who participated!

Safeguarding Training

A safeguarding training day took place on September 21 for all parishioners who do volunteer work within our community. It was a very beneficial day for all. Thanks to our safeguarding officers for organising this informative training.

Qadosh Teens Retreat

Our teens participated in Qasdosha, a four-day retreat from October 10-13 at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre in Grose Wold. Organised by the SMYM team, this was a great four days of faith formation for the teens. Thank you to the organising teams, and to all volunteers at the retreat. May God bless you all.



St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission Wodonga

7/9/24-BIBLE KALOLSAVAM 2024

Parishners were entertained by catechism students by their exceptional programmes ranging from elocution, bible story narration and concluded with excellent bible skit. Fr. Siby Thannickal presented the students with certificate as token of appreciation.

28/9/2024 - FEAST OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND ST. SEBASTIAN

Holy ambu was circulated throughout the houses, coordinated by unit presidents. At 1830 Holy Qurbana commenced and followed by spiritual procession with lighted candles around the Church. Finally, concluded with scrumptious dinner snehvirunnu to celebrate the feast.



ST. MARY'S SYRO-MALABAR MISSION IN WAGGA WAGGA

St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission in Wagga Wagga, Wodonga, and Griffith celebrated the feast of the Virgin Mary and St. Sebastian with great solemnity on the 24th, 28th and 29th of September 2024.

Fr. Siby Thannickal, St Mary's Syro Malabar mission administrator raised the flag in the presence of Rev. Thomas Casanova, parish priest of Our Lady of Fathima Parish to mark the beginning of the church festival on Saturday, followed by the celebration of the Holy Qurbana. Following the Holy Mass, the family unit coordinators received the 'AMBU' from the priest, and the 'AMBU' procession proceeded to 6 family units to symbolizes the presence of the divine within the community.



On Sunday, the festive mass began with the "Presudhendhi Vazhacha" officiated by Fr Mathew Areeplockal, Vicar St Alphonsa Syro- Malabar Forane Parish, Paramatta, Sydney (Director of Catechism Department Syro- Malabar Eparchy Melbourne). Fr. Siby Thannickal, and Fr. Prasanth concelebrated the Holy Qurbana.

After the Mass, we had solemn procession. Following the procession, the final blessing was bestowed upon the attendees along with the blessed sacrament. The celebration concluded with 'Snehavirunnu,' a heartfelt gathering where community members shared food and fellowship, fostering a spirit of love and unity among everyone.





SANT Forane



ST MARY'S SYRO MALABAR PARISH ADELAIDE SOUTH

- The Feast of Dukhrana is celebrated on July 3rd with Holy Qurbana and Novena prayer at 6pm.
- Feast day of our dear Vicar Fr.Siby Pulickal Celebrated on July 15th .
- Feast of St.Alphonsa celebrated on July 28th with Holy Qurbana followed by Ladeenju and Nercha. She is remembered for her deep faith, dedication to God, and her life of suffering and service.
- World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly Celebrated on July 28th - We pray and thank all our Grand Parents and elders for the examples they set in nurturing us throughout this journey of faith.
- Feast of St.Jhon Marie Vianney Celebrated on August 4th .
- 15th of August Celebrated the Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Japamala, Holy Qurbana Followed by Litany and Nercha.
- Father's Day celebrated on September 1st - We did pray for all fathers / Grandfathers and those who fulfilling the role of a father including the Future father's during the Holy Qurbana.
- Feast of Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary Celebrated from 1st to 8th of September with Japamala, Holy Qurbana Followed by Litany and Nercha Distribution.
- Solemn Holy Communion and Confirmation -September 22nd

Congratulations to our reelected Trustees Mr. Joby Anthony Gopuran, Mr.Shinto Varghese and Mr.Thomas Cherukarakunnel Philip for the year of 2024 to 2025 wishing all the best and Prayers in their ongoing role.

UPCOMING

October 27th – Mission Sunday
 November 10th - Catechism Assessment
 November 17th – Catechism Thanksgiving Qurbana and Kids Mission Sunday



St. Alphonsa Forane Parish, Adelaide Central

St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Forane Parish came together for a series of vibrant and spiritually enriching events from June to September, promoting both faith and fellowship among the community.

FEAST OF ST. THOMAS

On July 3rd, the parish celebrated the Feast of St. Thomas, followed by a special joint celebration at Adelaide St Francis Xavier's Catholic Cathedral on July 5th. This joint celebration has been a tradition for many years with all the Indian communities across Adelaide. The main celebrant of the evening was Fr Dean Marin (Vicar General of Adelaide) and included various cultural traditions and languages from all the communities, reflecting the diversity and vibrancy of the community. The night ended with light refreshments, fostering fellowship among all attendees.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

To honor the elderly and grandparents, the parish celebrated the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. After the Qurbana, special blessings, flowers, and sweets were given to grandparents, acknowledging their invaluable role in nurturing faith across generations.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated with offerings from the Ave Maria Unit. The celebration concluded with the traditional snehavirunnu, further strengthening the bonds of the community.



BIBLE KALOLSAVAM

The annual Bible Kalotsavam was a highlight for the parish's catechism students. Children participated enthusiastically in various performances, from dances to tableaux, showcasing their deep connection to faith. The event reflected the immense effort put in by students, teachers, and families creating a joyful atmosphere of spiritual learning and creativity.

PROCLAIM CONFERENCE

A transformative experience for our youth and teens, the Proclaim Conference provided a day filled with spiritual growth, action songs, games, and interactive sessions. For the first time, an evening session for young couples was also introduced, giving them an opportunity to connect and grow spiritually together.

FORANE DECLARATION AND ST. ALPHONSA PERUNAL

The parish celebrated nine days of St. Alphonsa Novena, leading up to the grand Perunal celebrations. On September 21st, 18 children received their First Holy Communion from our dearest Bishop John Panamthottathil. The next day, on September 22nd, the Bishop officially declared St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Parish as the Forane Parish of South Australia and Northern Territory, a monumental moment for the church. The celebrations were graced by Bishop John, Fr. Dean Marin and seven more priests. A grand procession, complete with bagpipes, drums, and chenda melam, marked the festivities. The event concluded with a dinner, a vibrant youth dance performance, stalls by our mathruvedhi and pithruvedhi, and a lively auction featuring an elakka mala and swarna kontha.



ST. EUPHRASIA PARISH, NORTH ADELAIDE

This term marked a very eventful and active period for our youth, children, and families, who took part in various spiritual journeys and endeavours filled with fun and purpose... Feasts of St. Thomas, St. Alphonsa, St. Euphrasia, St. Mary Mackillop, Mother Teresa, Guardian Angels, Assumption of Mother Mary, Ettunombu and Birthday of Mother Mary, Father's Day, Proclaim 2024 were celebrated with much spirit and love.

Also, it marked the beginning of the new term for our Parish Council. Congratulations to our dear trustees, Robin and Jose, and the newly appointed parish committee. Your dedication and commitment to serving our Parish are truly inspiring. May God bless you all in this new journey.

DEPARTMENT OF CATECHISM

It was yet another proud moment for the catechism family conducting **Bible Fest 2024**. All the families and children actively participated in the competitions, and it was an exciting journey. This was followed by **SM Koinonia 2024**- a fun day with Christian faith and fellowship, gathering all our parishes, showing our love and harmony. Also, **Faith Fest 2024** was conducted during the school holidays with all the help and support from our youth team, making it an unforgettable experience for our kids.

SOLEMN HOLY COMMUNION

On the 15th of Sept, 15 of our children received their First Holy Communion with the love and blessing of our dear Bishop. Mar. John Panamthottathil and Dearest Ajith Achan, marking an important milestone in their spiritual journey.

FAMILY FUN DAY

It was a true family event, organised by our amazing youth, and everyone had a great time and fun. Crafts competitions, food and games, where time flew filled with every second of excitement.





QLD Forane



Ave Maria Syro-Malabar Mission – Ipswich

On the auspicious occasion of Dukhrana Thirunal, AMCM Parish Ipswich commemorate St. Thomas day celebrating the life and legacy of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Faith Fest (July 13-14): Faith Fest 2024 at Amcm Parish in Ipswich was an exceptional event designed to create something beautiful for God. This aimed to foster a sense of community and spiritual growth through a variety of activities, including Holy mass and other and interactive sessions. Faith Fest 2024 was a remarkable event that encouraged young individuals to embrace their faith and embark on a meaningful journey of spiritual exploration and growth.

Feast of St. Alphonsa and World Grandparents' Day (July 28):

The community at Amcm Parish Ipswich came together to honor and celebrate two special occasions: World Grandparents Day and the Feast of St. Alphonsa. It was a joyous and meaningful gathering, where people of all ages showed their love and appreciation for the wisdom, guidance, and love of grandparents, as well as commemorating the life and legacy of St. Alphonsa was a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the significance of intergenerational relationships and the spiritual life of St. Alphonsa, creating lasting memories and strengthening the bonds of the community.

AUGUST 2024:

Feast of St. John Marie Vianney (August 4): It was a special day at AMCM Ipswich as we welcomed the esteemed Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil, the Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy at St. Thomas the Apostle in Melbourne. His presence was a source of great joy as he led the celebrations on the feast day of St. John Marie Vianney.

Fundraising Program (August 11): Supporting those in need, with a portion of the proceeds directed to Wayanad. This initiative included contributions from the Thirunal Lelam and Mathruvedi offerings, showcasing the community's generosity and commitment to charitable work.

Anto Achan's Birthday Celebration (August 27):

Celebrating our dear Anto Achan's birthday at the parish with parishioners.

SEPTEMBER 2024:

Father's Day (September 1): Celebrating and honouring fathers in the community.

Adoration Led by SMYM Ipswich (September 7): SMYM Ipswich led adoration with Anto Achan before the first Friday Holy Mass.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sept 9): Celebrating the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary with special services and devotions.

Kerala Day by SMYM Ipswich (September 29):

A one-day event, organized by SMYM Ipswich.



Mary Matha Mission Gold Coast

On September 8th 2024, the MARYMATHA Gold Coast Mission joyfully celebrated the Nativity of Mother Mary. On this special occasion, we also bid farewell to our outgoing Trustees Jojos Palakuzhy, Jomon Thomas, Joshy Joseph, and Accountant Jomy Mathew. We thank them for their dedication, commitment, and service, which have been a true blessing to our parish. At the same time, we welcomed our newly ordained Trustees Thomas Moolasseril, Siji Thomas, Shijo Jose, and Accountant Sebastian Thomas. We pray for God's blessings and guidance as they begin their service.

The Mary Matha Gold Coast Mission celebrated Faith Fest for the Catechism students on August 31st and September 1st, 2024. The event included a Bible procession, vibrant and educational faith-filled programs, as well as fun activities and games for the students. It was a wonderful display of our community's faith and unity

Mary Matha Mission Gold Coast joyously celebrated St. Thomas Day with a solemn High Mass, led by Fr. Jerry Valoomkunnel and Fr. Ashok. The celebration concluded with the sharing of a delicious Nercha Pachooru, fostering community and fellowship.

On September 28th, 2024, we were blessed to witness 7 children from our parish receive their First Holy Communion. Let us keep these young souls in our prayers as they continue their journey of faith.



St Joseph's Syro Malabar Mission Caboolture

St Joseph's Syro Malabar Mission Caboolture (SJMC) has been officially continuing its mission for a year now. Throughout our journey, blessings have been abundantly poured upon our service.

The following events were part of our journey in the last couple of months:

St Thomas Day was celebrated on July 4th, 2024, by SJMC in memory of St Thomas' faith and evangelical efforts in India. Even though it was a weekday, SJMC families extensively participated in the celebration at church. The event included a holy mass followed by a procession and concluded with a Thanksgiving dinner.

Faith Fest: SJMC celebrated its first-ever faith fest on July 13, 2024. It was an incredible experience of Jesus as we celebrated faith in action with our catechism students. Our catechism teachers and our entire community contributed to the program's success. Faith Fest created unforgettable memories in young minds and cultivated Syro Malabar faith, love, and charity, which was the program's theme.

St Alphonsa Thirunnal was a grand celebration hosted by SJMC on 25 July 2024. Holy Mass was led by Rev. Fr. George Manikuzhikery, former Parish Priest of Brisbane North and former priest in charge of the Caboolture community. A solemn procession proclaimed the faith of the Syro-Malabar tradition. The delicious dinner following the celebration allowed parishioners to socialise and follow in the footsteps of the early Christians.

Grandparents Day was celebrated on Sunday, 28th July, when parishioners attended a Thanksgiving Mass for their parents. Families reflected on the role of grandparents in the lives of their children and themselves. Grandparents were honoured with gifts and words filled with gratitude and respect.

Wayanad Fundraising: The landslides and related calamities in Wayanad moved the hearts of SJMC families, reminding us of our responsibility to sup-

port those affected. Despite being a small community of around 50 families, we organised a fundraising breakfast on 11th August 2024 for this noble cause and raised \$1,850 in that single event. The community selflessly supported the event by preparing various breakfast dishes at home. This event demonstrated that "we care" for our fellow beings.

Father's Day Celebration: SJMC celebrated Father's Day on September 1, 2024. It was heartwarming to see the choir, altar service, and all liturgical activities performed by the fathers in our small community. On Sunday morning, there was a Thanksgiving breakfast, a tribute to the hardworking fathers, which added a personal touch to the celebration.

It is a blessing to see how much SJMC has grown and continues to grow in faith, love, and unity under the guidance of Fr. Tijo Puthenparambil. SJMC ensures that all special occasions are remembered and ritualised into everyone's life, renewing themselves in Christ again and again.



St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission Sunshine Coast

FAITH EXHIBITION

Our Faith Exhibition, hosted by the Catechism department, was a beautiful journey through four themed houses. Each house creatively showcased an aspect of faith:

- Blessed Carlo Acutis House- highlighted the importance of the Eucharist.
- St. Dominic Savio House- explored the Nicene Creed with engaging displays.
- St. Theresa of Lisieux House-showcased the Syro-Malabar liturgical seasons.
- St. Gianna Beretta House-reminded us of the value of life.
- The event was a visual and spiritual feast, enriching parishioners' faith.

BIBLE KALOLSAVAM This year's Bible Kalolsavam saw 350 participants, including students and parents, competing in 14 categories. The event was filled with talent, particularly shining through the group dances and tableaux. The day showcased the dedication of both students and their teachers, creating lasting memories for all.

UNEESHOKALARI INAUGURATION On Pentecost Day, the Catechism department launched Uneeshokalari, a program for 4-5 year-olds, with 22 children enrolled. The initiative aims to nurture their faith from an early age.

ALTAR SERVER'S COMMISSIONING – AUGUST 25TH, 2024 Another joyous occasion was the official installation of twelve of our dedicated children as altar servers, following their completion of rigorous training. Special classes were conducted to educate them on the significance of the Holy Qurbana and their responsibilities in this sacred role. The commissioning ceremony took place on August 25th, where, after fervent prayers, they were officially commissioned for their ministry by Reverend Father Tijo Puthenparambil and received their new albs as a symbol of their commitment.

Father's Day: Father's Day was celebrated by the church on September 1st to honour the dedication and hard work of the strong pillars of the parish community. The occasion included a special prayer, and gifts were distributed to the fathers, expressing appreciation for their contributions. This celebration served as a heartfelt way to recognize their importance within the community.

Annual Parish Feast: The parish celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady with great festive spirit and reverence. This ten-day celebration began on August 31st and culminated on September 8th. Throughout this period, there were Holy Qurbana, rosaries, novenas, and nercha distributions, all led by different family units within the parish.



ST THOMAS, THE APOSTLE SYRO MALABAR FORANE CHURCH, BRISBANE SOUTH

Parish Feast - Dukhrana: This year, the Parish Feast and ദുക്നാമ തിരുനാൾ was solemnly celebrated from Thursday, June 27th to July 8th, 2024. On July 5th, spiritual services commenced at 6:00 pm, with the 'പ്രസുഭേന്തി വാഴ്ച' (Presudanthi Vazhcha), featuring flag hoisting and Holy Qurbana, followed by Novena. The following day, July 6th, liturgical services started at 3:00 pm with a solemn 'Raza Qurbana,' followed by ലദീഞ്ഞം (Ladeenju) and KOINONIA (Cultural Programs). On July 7th, a solemn 'Raza Qurbana celebrated at 3:00pm,' followed by 'ലദീഞ്ഞം' (Ladeenju), procession and സന്തോഷവിരൂപം.

Official Proclamation of Queensland Forane: Was held on 3rd August 2024 and the main celebrant was His Excellency Bishop John Panamthottathi. Services started with Solemn Holy Qurbana at 3:00pm followed by meeting & സന്തോഷവിരൂപം.

Annual Pothuyogam: The annual pothuyogam held on the 25th of August elected Sunny Thomas, Sijo Puthussery, Stiby Mathew as trustees for the year 2024 - 25. Antony Thomas and Alan Chavara are nominated from the youth team to assist trustees. The pothuyogam passed the annual report and accounts presented by the current trustees - George Sebastian, Thomas Kachappilly and Mathew Punnolil.

Father's Day Celebration: On the 1st of September, we celebrated Father's Day after the 9:00am Holy Qurbana. Fr. Abraham handed over gifts to all the fathers and grandfathers in our parish.

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: On the 8th of September, we celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary after observing seven days of abstinence, Holy Qurbana and Rosary.

New Trustees: On September 8th, the new trustees, Sunny Thomas, Sijo Puthussery, Stiby Mathew, Antony Thomas (youth Kaikkaran) and Alen Chavara (Youth Kaikkaran) took charge after taking the oath after the 9 am Holy Qurbana. The outgoing trustees George Sebastian, Thomas

Kachappilly and Mathew Punnolil thanked the parishioners for the cooperation they have given to them during their tenure. Fr. Abraham handed over mementos to the outgoing trustees and the Accountant Anish Antony for their dedicated service to the parish. The new Parish Accountant, Jerin Karol also officially took charge on the same day.

24 Hours Adoration on 1st Friday: Every first Friday, our parish hosts 24 hours of adoration led by the Evangelization team. Members from various pious organizations, ministries, and family units actively participate in this spiritual event.

Solemn First Holy Communion 2024: Was held on Saturday 5th October 2024. The main celebrant was His Excellency Bishop John Panamthottathil CMI and Rev. Fr. Anto Chiriyankandath was the co-celebrant. 33 children of our parish received the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time.



DAYS TO REMEMBER

January

- 1 - Holy Name of Jesus
- 3 - The Divine Motherhood of Mary, St. Kuriakose Elias
- 6 - The Feast of Epiphany
- 14 - Saint Devasahayam
- 20 - Saint Sebastian
- 24 - Saint Francis de Sales
- 25 - Saint Timothy and saint Titus, the Apostles
- 28 - Saint Thomas Aquinas
- 30 - World Day of Peace
- 31 - Saint John Bosco

February

- 2 - The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple
- 4 - Saint John Britto
- 10 - Three days' Fast begins
- 22 - Saint Polycarp
- 25 - Blessed Martyr Rani Maria
- 28 - Commemoration of the Dead

March

- 3 - Lent begins. Day of Fasting
- 18 - Saint Cyril of Jerusalem
- 19 - Death of Saint Joseph
- 25 - The Feast of Annunciation

April

- 11 - 40th Friday of Lent
- 13 - Palm Sunday
- 17 - Pesaha Thursday
- 18 - Passion Friday Day of fasting
- 19 - Great Saturday
- 20 - Easter Sunday
- 24 - Saint George
- 25 - Saint Mark, the Evangelist
- 29 - Saint Catherine of Sienna



MY LORD MY GOD

EPARCHY MEDIA COMMISSION

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

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COORDINATOR : GAVEEN GEORGE

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MELBOURNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN