



Marthoma Vision

VOL 6 JULY 2025

SYRO- MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE MELBOURNE

EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

ഇടയശ്രേഷ്ഠൻ വിട



POPE FRANCIS

1936 - 2025



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

CONTENTS

Editorial	05
Circular	06
Bishop's circular	07
EPARCHY NEWS	09
Consecrations of the St Thomas the Apostle church Melbourne south East.	10
Blessing ceremony Inauguration of the Santhom Grove	14
Department Update	16
Parish Update	30
Days to Remember	57



Leo PP. XIV

Prayerful Greetings to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne extends its most sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, chosen by the Holy Spirit as the successor of Saint Peter and shepherd of the Universal Church.

May the Holy Spirit guide him with wisdom and courage as he leads the Universal Church in faith, hope, and love.

Ad multos annos, Holy Father!

Editorial

July 2025



“Mar Walah – My Lord and My God”

Welcome to the July edition of Marthoma Vision.

For Syro-Malabar Christians, July 3rd is more than a date on the calendar—it is the heartbeat of our identity. The Feast of Mar Thoma Sliha (St. Thomas the Apostle) marks the foundation of our faith, rooted in his bold proclamation: Mar Walah—My Lord and My God. This confession, made in the presence of the Risen Christ, has echoed through generations and formed the cornerstone of the Syro-Malabar Church. The name we carry—Marthoma Nasranis—is a living witness to this unshakable apostolic faith.

July is also a time of immense activity and blessing for our Eparchy. We joyfully celebrate the inauguration of Santhom Grove, formerly known as Pallotti College, a new pastoral and community hub entrusted to our care. This marks a major milestone in our mission to nurture our faith and culture in the wider community.

Another historic moment is the consecration of the new church in Melbourne South-East, a testimony to the prayer, sacrifice, and unity of its parishioners. Heartfelt congratulations to all who made this dream a reality!

This month also hosts the Inaugural Meeting of the 2025–2028 Eparchial Pastoral Council, scheduled for July 11–12. We prayerfully look forward to the guidance and collaboration this new team is going to bring.

The Family Apostolate continues its vital ministry through pre-marriage courses and programs. Meanwhile, other departments including evangelisation and nurses ministries, the Youth Apostolate and Catechetical Department are actively engaged in multiple initiatives, reaching far beyond the routine, inspiring the faithful of all ages to grow in Christ.

A warm thanks to all contributors to this month's bulletin. Your efforts continue to make Marthoma Vision a meaningful voice within our Church.

As we celebrate the Feast of Dukhrana, the Commemoration of the Martyrdom of Mar Thoma Sliha, we extend our heartfelt greetings to all members of the Syro-Malabar Church around the world. May the spirit of our father in faith strengthen us to be bold, faithful, and joy-filled disciples of Christ in our time.

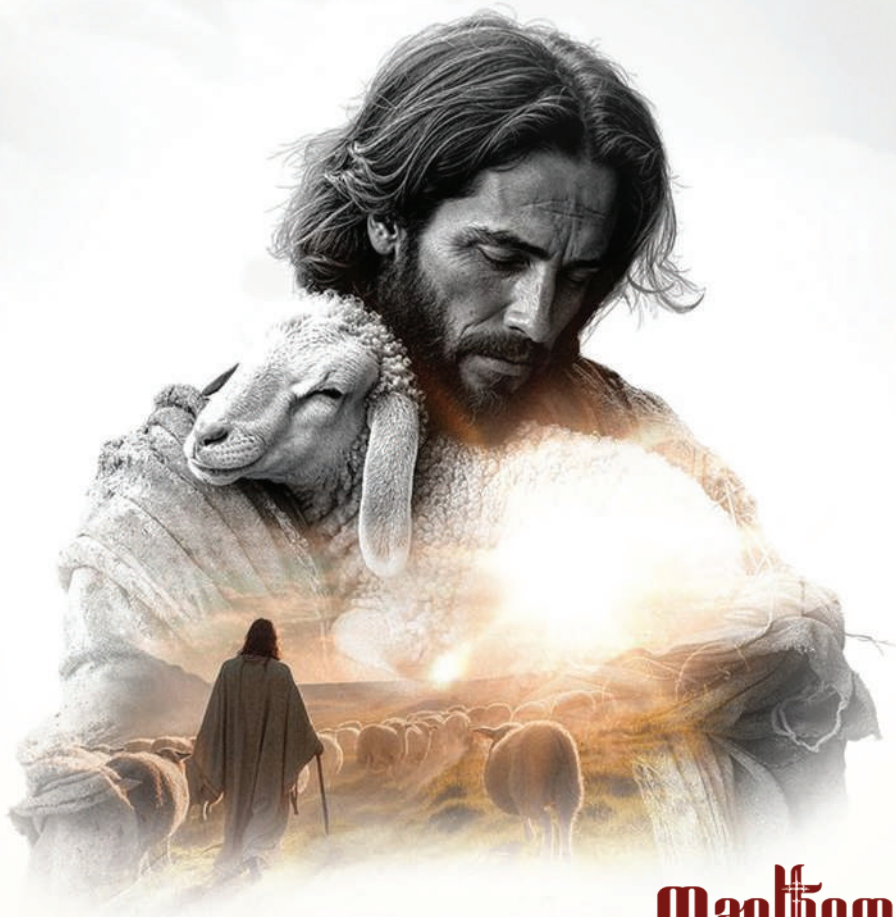
Blessings of the feast of Dukhrana !

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





Circulars Pastoral Letters





Circular

Prot. No. MPL: 42/25/9

Dear Priests, Parents, Brothers and Sisters, and beloved Children in Christ,

I cordially wish you all a happy Pentecost. Today we celebrate the birthday of the Holy Church. All of you standing before this altar are proof that the Holy Spirit is still working powerfully in the Church today. The Holy Spirit is the constant presence among us, inviting and encouraging each of us from different homes to celebrate the Lord's Day in this holy presence of God. The great message of unity is given by the Feast of Pentecost. After the death of Jesus, the disciples were disappointed and scattered. What we see and experience on the Feast of Pentecost is the gathering together, the opposite of the scattering.

We read in the book of Acts the history of the first Pentecost: "When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all together in one place. Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind...and they saw tongues like fire resting on each of them."

The Holy Spirit descended on the apostles not in the form of a dove but in the form of tongues of fire. What is special about the tongues of fire?

We have probably noticed that farmers prepare their fields with fire before sowing. Fire destroys some things to create and some to destroy. So, what does the fire of God, the Holy Spirit, do? It destroys to create. What does it destroy? This fire destroyed the worries and fears in the minds of the apostles who were in the room, locked in fear of the Jews. The Holy Spirit destroys the fears and worries in our hearts. The opposite of love is not hatred, but fear. John says that love casts out all fear, and that is the work of the Holy Spirit. When fear is destroyed, peace, hope, courage and love are created in the mind. The fire that is the Holy Spirit creates a church that lives beyond fear and lives in the power of the risen Christ, an Easter people. The fire of the Holy Spirit works in us as we gather in the name of God and as we receive each of the Holy Sacraments. This fire that is formed in us destroys our sins and fills our hearts with goodness. I pray that God will strengthen us to preach and live the Gospel by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

I would like to inform you of some important things on this Pentecost.

1. The Consecration and blessing of St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Parish, Melbourne South-East will be conducted by **Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil**, the Father and Head of our Church on **Saturday, July 12th at 9:30 am**. I cordially invite all of you, the members of the diocesan family, to join in this consecration ceremony and celebration. I sincerely congratulate and thank the Parish Priest, Monsignor Francis Kolenchery, the Assistant Vicars, Fr. Joyis, Fr. Jinu and Fr. Saji, and all the members of the parish who worked day and night to build this beautiful parish church, which was built as a result of long years of effort, prayer, and unity.
2. Our diocese's Pastoral and Renewal Centre, known as **SANTHOM GROVE (Pallotti College)**, will be officially inaugurated and inaugurated on the 11th of July at 3:00 pm by our Major Archbishop. Meetings, seminars, retreats, marriage preparation courses, etc. for our diocese members will be held at our new Centre. Your esteemed Vicar will explain how you can be a part of this achievement that we can all be proud of. I especially expect the sincere cooperation and presence of all of you.
3. The first Convent in Australia of the **Little Servants of the Divine Providence (LSDP)** nuns' congregation centered in Kunnanthanam, Changanassery will be inaugurated by the Major Archbishop in **St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Parish, Melbourne South-East Parish** on the afternoon of July 12. The first Syro-Malabar Convent in our diocese is being established here. Their main areas of activity will be **Family Apostolate, youth ministry and parish ministries**. Your prayers and encouragement are expected. You are welcome to this work.
4. We especially request the parents to participate in the **EMBRACE** Renewal Program for youth and children, which is being conducted in all our parishes and missions under the leadership of our diocese's SMYM.

Let us pray and work together for the holistic growth of our diocese. May Almighty God bless us. I wholeheartedly bless you all in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

With love in Christ,

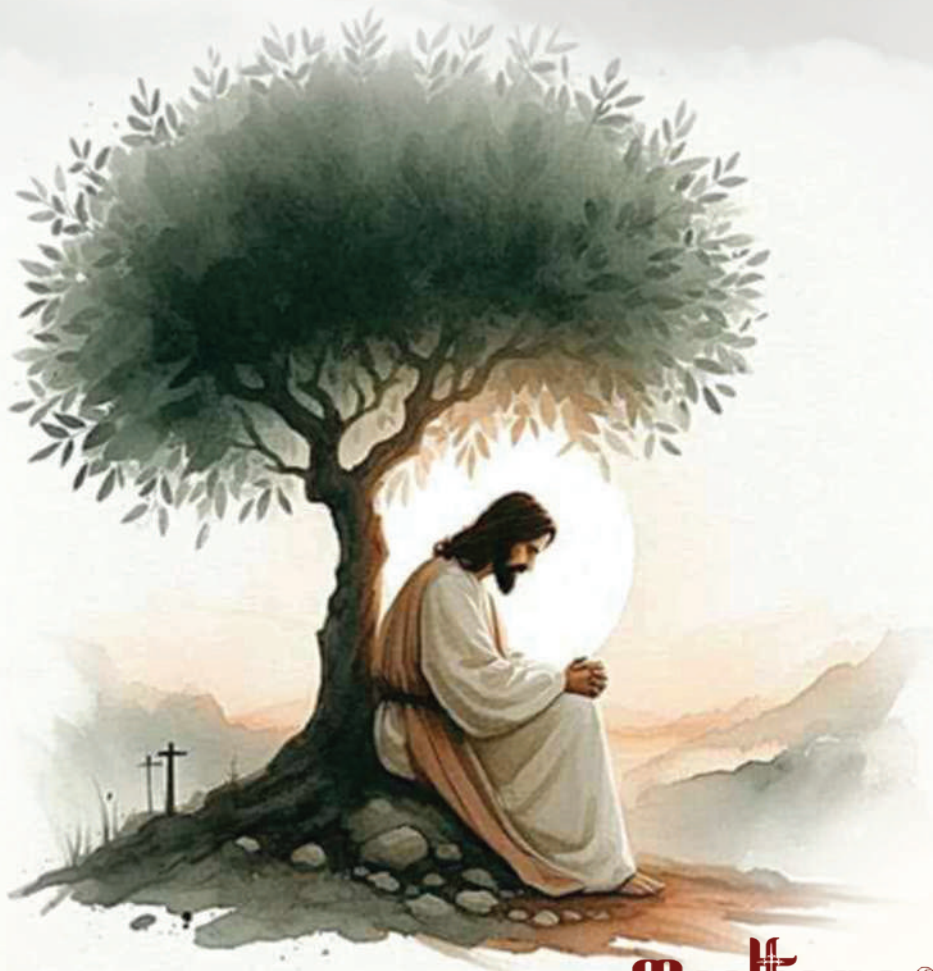
Eparchial Curia
Melbourne, 01.07.2025

Bishop John Panathottathil CMI
Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne



MY LORD MY GOD

Eparchy News



Պարտիզմա Բացում

MELBOURNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

CHURCH CONSECRATION

St Thomas Syro-Malabar Parish Melbourne Southeast .

A Look Back at Decade of Growth and Grace

As we stand on the threshold of completing our long-awaited church, we pause with hearts full of gratitude to reflect on the journey that has brought us here. This path has been marked by trials, sustained by perseverance, and guided unfailingly by the hand of our faithful God. Let us now walk together through this story of faith, resilience, and victory.



For now I have chosen and consecrated this house, so that my name may be there for ever, my eyes and my heart will be there for all time. (1 Chronicles 2:16)



With grateful hearts, we invite you to celebrate a special milestone in our community's faith journey.



Church Consecration

St Thomas' Syro-Malabar Parish, Melbourne South-East
525-531 Frankston - Dandenong Rd, Dandenong South, VIC-3175

His Beatitude MAR RAPHAEL THATTIL
Major Archbishop, Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

Concelebrants

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

Mar Bosco Puthur
Bishop Emeritus, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

12/07/2025
SATURDAY

9:00am: Reception
9:30am: Consecration and Solemn Holy Qurbana
Followed by Snehavirunna (lunch)

Msgr Francis Kolencherry
Parish Priest
Asst. Parish Priest, Kulkars and Convenors

SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, MELBOURNE



2014–2016: The Seeds of a New Beginning

In 2014, our parish took a bold step of faith by acquiring our first property in Dandenong South, made possible through the generous and sacrificial donations of parishioners many of whom gave from savings intended for their first homes in Australia. This property appeared to be the foundation we needed for our growing church.

But God had an even greater plan. Soon after, a more suitable and spacious property became available at 525–531 Frankston-Dandenong Road. After much prayer and discernment, we sold the original property gaining a profit that supported the acquisition of this centrally located, Italian-owned function centre in 2016.

In February 2017, the City of Greater Dandenong granted a conditional permit to transform the site into a place of worship, requiring us to build a service road and pay a development contribution levy.

2018: Renewed Vision and Early Challenges

A significant milestone was reached in November 2018 with the opening of our parish office on the new site. This space was joyfully blessed on 11 November and became a vibrant centre of activity and hope.





However, our progress was soon met with adversity. As we began converting the function centre into a church, we experienced repeated acts of vandalism. Despite appeals to the authorities, the attacks intensified. Eventually, the building was left severely damaged—its structure vulnerable, its doors and windows destroyed.

2019–2020: Divine Intervention Amidst Adversity

In June 2019, God opened a new door. Encouraged by those who saw our struggle, we applied for the federal Safer Communities Grant. By God's grace, we were awarded nearly \$500,000 to enhance site security enabling the construction of perimeter fencing, installation of bollards, car park lighting, and a full CCTV system.

Architects then began exploring the building's conversion. However, upon partial demolition, it became clear the existing structure was unsound and unfit for our needs. The cost to reinforce it exceeded its worth.

On Pentecost Sunday in 2020, after deep prayer and reflection, the Parish, led by the Holy Spirit, made a bold decision: to build an entirely new church. Despite the limitations of COVID-19 lockdowns, the parish community responded with overwhelming unity and support.

2021–2022: Perseverance through the Pandemic

During lockdowns and delays, God's purpose continued to unfold. In December 2020, we submitted a new permit application for the church building, and in January 2021, the much-anticipated service road was completed.

Our architect's vision combined timeless beauty and sacred simplicity. The exterior embraced traditional church design, while the interior focused on reverence and grace centered around a sanctuary that would become the spiritual heart of our community.

In June 2021, we received the final construction permit. By 2022, the old function centre was demolished, tenders were finalized, and on 23 September 2022, a historic moment occurred: Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur laid the foundation stone for our new church, marking the beginning of a long-awaited dream becoming reality.

2023–2025: Final Strides Toward Glory

In 2023, we welcomed **Msgr. Francis Kolencherry** as our new parish priest, who brought renewed energy and guidance as we entered the final phase of construction. Despite ongoing financial pressures, we remained committed to excellence and reverence. One significant decision was to commission a renowned artist to paint the sanctuary.

Yet, more trials awaited. In March 2024, amidst the national crisis in the construction industry, our original contractor was placed into administration. The parish leadership responded swiftly and prayerfully. After careful evaluation, **Anmlex Commercial Projects** was appointed to complete the remaining work—restoring momentum and hope.

In November 2024, a deeply symbolic event took place: the installation and blessing of the **Marthoma Cross, church bell, and main cross**—led by **Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil**, together with **Bishop Joseph Srambickal (Eparchy of Great Britain)** and **Bishop Jose Porunnedom (Eparchy of Mananthavady)**. This moment became a powerful affirmation of God's presence and the strength of our community.





A Testament to Faith

As we look back, we do not see mere obstacles but the unfolding of divine providence. Every hardship, vandalism, the pandemic, financial struggles, and the loss of our original builder became a part of God's greater plan. In each trial, He was with us, crafting a future more beautiful than we imagined.

Now, as we prepare for the veneration and dedication of our new church on 12 July 2025, our hearts are full of thanksgiving. This church is more than just bricks and mortar. It is a living testimony to our sacrifices, our prayers, and our unwavering faith in God's promise.

May it forever stand as a sacred monument to our shared journey and as a witness to the truth of Scripture:

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." — Psalm 126:3

May God's grace continue to guide and bless our parish for generations to come.



Blessing of Santhom Pallotti Pastoral Centre and 2025 Eparchial Pastoral Council Meeting

The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne is set to hold its 2025 Eparchial Pastoral Council Meeting from 10–11 July at the new Santhom Pallotti Pastoral Centre in Wesburn, VIC.

A key moment during these proceedings will be the blessing of the Centre by His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, signifying a major milestone for the Eparchy.

Council members will have the option to stay overnight for the church consecration at St Thomas Syro-Malabar Parish, Melbourne South East on 12 July at 9:30 AM.

This occasion represents a significant advancement in the spiritual and pastoral outreach of the Eparchy in Australia.

WELCOME TO THE
EPARCHY FAMILY



FR SAJI THOMAS

 **SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY**
OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE MELBOURNE

www.syro-malabar.org.au



**ദുഷ്കീടന
തിരോടുന്നാൾ
ശ്രേഷ്ഠൻ**



MR-3/06-25

MEDIA RELEASE

Syro-Malabar Eparchy Takes Over the Stewardship of Pallotti College from Pallottine Fathers

Melbourne – The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne is pleased to announce that it has taken over the stewardship of Pallotti College, located at 80 McNamaras Road, Wesburn/Millgrove VIC 3799, from the Pallottine Fathers, who have faithfully guided and nurtured this sacred space for many decades.

The Eparchy affirms that all current retreats, events, and ministry activities will continue as normal, ensuring a seamless transition and ongoing service to individuals, families, parishes, and the local community. The Eparchy is committed to honouring the legacy of the Pallottine community by upholding the values of prayer, hospitality, and spiritual renewal that have defined the college since its founding.

Renamed **Santhom Grove**, the centre will be functioning as a Pastoral and Community Resource Centre for the Eparchy and community.

“We are grateful to the Pallottine Fathers for their decades of dedicated ministry,” said Mar John Panamthottathil CMI, Eparchial Bishop. “We are humbled to take over the stewardship of Pallotti College and will continue this sacred mission through Santhom Grove.”

A Blessing and Inauguration Ceremony will be held on Friday, 11 July 2025 at 2 pm, officiated by His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, in the presence of Bishop John Panamthottathil, Bishop Bosco Puthur, and other dignitaries.

Msgr Francise Kolencherry
Proto Syncellus
Eparchial Chancery
6 Greenock Court, Greenvale, VIC 3059

Media Contact : Gaveen George, media@syromalabar.org.au, 0431 407 022. www.syromalabr.org.au



Pastoral & Community Resource Centre of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, 80 McNamara Road, Wesburn VIC 3789.

Tucked into the foothills of Mt Donna Buang, Santhom Grove is more than just a beautiful property – it's a sacred space where hearts are renewed, faith is deepened, and community is nurtured.

TAKE TIME TO WALK THE LABYRINTH, SIT QUIETLY IN OUR CHAPEL, SIMPLY ENJOY THE STILLNESS OF THE LAND



A LEGACY OF RENEWAL & RETREAT

SANTHOM GROVE, formerly known as Pallotti College, a spiritual haven for decades. A place to "come away for a while" – to rest, reflect, and reconnect with God and nature.



Location 81.7 ha* across 2 titles in the Yarra Ranges Approximately 60km east of Melbourne, near Yarra Junction & Warburton.



Built Area 7,857 sqm* of facilities including 69 accommodation rooms, chapel & retreat centre.



Conference Facilities Main hall with capacity for up to 200 people. Multiple mini-conference rooms & breakout areas. Fully equipped with AV & hydronic heating.



Additional Structures 3 residential dwellings, Machinery & equipment sheds.



Group Accommodation "Casa Pallotti" camp precinct Tailored for schools, youth programs & group retreats.



Amenities Spacious dining rooms Outdoor courtyard (seats 40) Kitchens, lounges, tea/coffee stations & recreational areas.



Natural Setting Peaceful spaces for prayer, reflection & walking trails Labyrinth, Stations of the Cross, hilltop cross hike.



A HOME FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY



- Eparchy / Parish / Mission gatherings and meetings.
- Silent and guided retreats, professional in-service programs/ courses.
- Meditation, prayer, wellbeing groups.
- Faith formation programs.
- Marriage preparation courses.
- A home for our pastoral teams and departments.

WHETHER YOU COME FOR REST, REFLECTION, OR CELEBRATION, SANTHOM GROVE OPENS ITS DOORS TO PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE EPARCHY.

Santhom Grove will also serve as a vibrant hub for our Eparchy's pastoral and cultural mission:

- A space to nurture the rich Syro-Malabar heritage.
- A resource centre for language and social activities.
- A launchpad for evangelisation and outreach programs.
- A bridge to connect with wider Australian society.



HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS SACRED MISSION

1 One Time Sponsorship Offering

Sponsor a Space or an Amenity, and be Honoured on the Founding Supporters Plaque.

- ✓ Eligible donations receive a tax-deductible gift receipt.

2 Interest-Free Loan – \$2,000 (5-Year Term)

Offer an interest-free loan of \$2,000 (or multiples)

- ✓ Full repayment after 5 years.
- ✓ Promissory note issued on receipt.

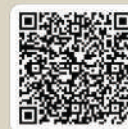
3 Facility Use Deposit – \$2,000 (or multiples)

Secure your future use of the facility for:

- Spiritual retreats & programs.
- Family gatherings, weddings, cultural events.
- ✓ Charges deducted from deposit as used.

Benefits for You:

- Tax-deductible receipts for eligible donations.
- Contribute to a lasting legacy for generations to come.
- Priority access to centre facilities for contributors.



Please scan the QR code to fill the donation form.

Contact – Syro Malabar Eparchial Finance Council

Dr Johnson George – 0434 439 231 Antony Joseph – 0431 459 240
Johnson Mani – 0468 945 648 Joseph (Sunil) Devasia – 0459 587 186
Josh Paikada – 0419 236 551

eMail: procurator@syromalabar.org.au

SANTHOM GROVE
BLESSING CEREMONY :
11 JULY 2025



Department Update



DEPARTMENT OF CATECHESIS

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



LAUDATO SI PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE – MAY 17 & 18, 2025

The Laudato Si Principals' Conference was held in Melbourne on May 17th and 18th, 2025. The conference was inaugurated by Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil CMI, with Vicar General Msgr. Fr. Francis Kolencherry offering a special Holy Qurbana and sharing an insightful message with the participants.

The event was further blessed by:

- Fr. Mathew Areelackal, Director Department of Catechesis & Vicar St Alphonsa Cathedral Melbourne
- Fr. Joseph Ezhumayil, Vicar of St. Mary's Parish, Melbourne West
- Fr. Alex Valiyamthadathil, Vicar of St. Mary's Parish, Ballarat
- Fr. Saji Thomas MST, Vicar of Bendigo & Shepparton

Throughout the conference, principals engaged in insightful sessions and group discussions on key topics, including:

- Leading Under Fire: Power, Conflict, & Influence in Action
- Safeguarding
- Incident Escalation Pathway & Discussion
- Preparation of a Common Question Paper Pattern for Exams
- Awareness of First Aid & CPR
- Chastity Talk
- Catechism & Youth Induction
- & Panel Discussion

Door of Hope Entry & Plenary Indulgence

The conference was a deeply spiritual and transformative experience for the catechism principals. They participated in the sacred act of the Door of Hope entry at the Cathedral Parish Church and actively took part in the Holy Qurbana.

Principals from 44 catechism centres across Australia and New Zealand attended the event. It was truly an invaluable and enriching experience, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.

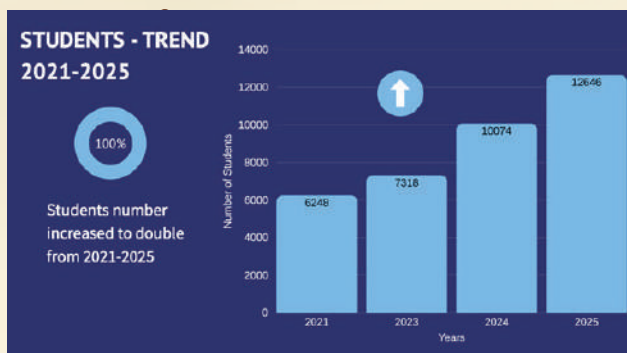
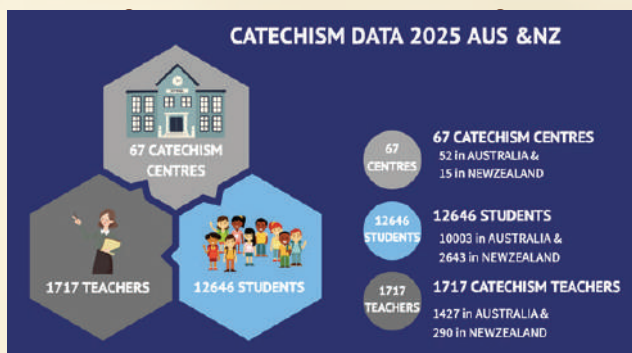


CATECHISM DATA RELEASE

During the Laudato Si Principals' Conference on May 17th & 18th, 2025, Rev. Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil CMI officially released the 2025 catechism data.

The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne now has:

67 catechism centres 12,646 students 1,717 catechism teachers



LAUNCH OF THE NEW CATECHESIS DEPARTMENT WEBSITE



During the Laudato Si Principals' Conference, Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil CMI, alongside Dane Xan Alex, who led the development, officially launched the newly developed Catechesis Department Website. This platform is designed to support and enhance the department's objectives by providing easy access to key resources and essential information.

RELEASE OF THE CATECHISM HANDBOOK 2025-26

His Excellency Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil CMI officially released the Catechism

Handbook for 2025-26. Key Areas Covered in the Handbook:

- Safeguarding Measures & Incident Reporting
- Major Events of 2025-26
- First Aid Requirements – Essential steps for handling medical emergencies
- Event Report Log & Incident Report Log
- QR Codes & Links to essential documents and forms for principals



BLOOMING BUDS – TRAINING FOR HOLY COMMUNION TEACHERS (JUNE 1ST, 2025)

The fifth training session for Holy Communion teachers, led by Eparchial resource person Mrs. Anu Paul, was held on June 1, 2025. The session saw the participation of 85 Holy communion teachers from 32 parishes, equipping them with valuable insights and methodologies to enhance their teaching approach.

FAITH FEST DOCUMENT RELEASE

The "Something Beautiful for God V5" Faith Fest Document 2025 was officially released by Vicar General Msgr. Fr. Francis Kolencherry during the Laudato Si Principals' Conference. This document serves as a valuable resource for faith fest being conducted at various catechism centres across the Eparchy.

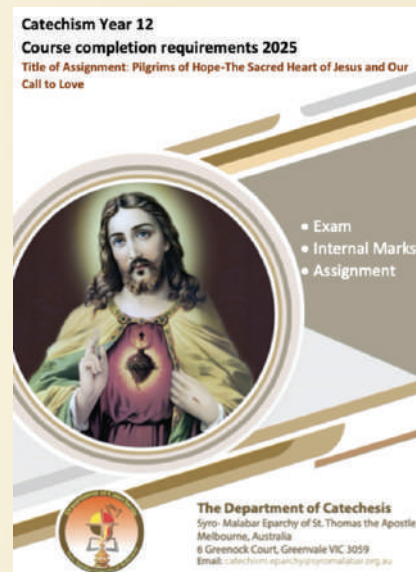


YEAR 12 COURSE COMPLETION GUIDELINES & YEAR 12 TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

The 2025 Year 12 Catechism Course Completion Guidelines was officially released by the Department of Catechesis, followed by the Year 12 Catechism Teachers' Conference held on June 14th, 2025.

The assignment: Pilgrims of Hope – The Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Call to Love consists of two parts:

1. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
2. Preparing a Video on Pope Francis' fourth and final encyclical letter, Dilexit Nos (DN), meaning "He Loved Us", which focuses on Jesus's Sacred Heart.



NSW & ACT CATECHISM TEACHERS' CONFERENCE (JUNE 21ST, 2025)

Lumen Fidei 5.2, the fourth NSW & ACT Catechism Teachers' Conference, will be held on June 21st, 2025, in Wollongong.

A total of 224 catechism teachers from 18 catechism centres across the region will attend the conference, engaging in meaningful discussions, training sessions, and collaborative learning to further enrich catechism education.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY APOSTOLATE

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE: MELBOURNE, MAY 2025

We are delighted to share that a three-day, weekend residential Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) was held in Melbourne from 23–25 May 2025. Welcoming 32 participants from diverse regions across Australia, the event proved both vibrant and enriching.

Our dedicated resource team included revered clergy, medical professionals, and experienced married couples. We were especially honoured to have Rev Bishop John, alongside Fr Joseph Ezhumayil and Fr Tijo Devasia, guide participants through a series of insightful sessions.

The programme also placed a strong emphasis on spiritual formation, with daily Holy Qurbana and the Sacrament of Reconciliation marking significant moments. Participants found time for Eucharistic Adoration, deepening their spiritual connection and understanding of the marriage vocation.

Overall, the May MPC provided a valuable platform for learning, reflection, and spiritual readiness, equipping couples for their upcoming journeys together.

Director:

Fr Joseph Ezhumayil
Mobile: 0473 026 233

Associate Director:

Fr Tijo Devasia
Mobile: 0470 355 608

UPCOMING RESIDENTIAL MPCS IN MELBOURNE

- August 26–28, 2025 (Tuesday–Thursday)
- November 28–30, 2025 (Friday–Sunday)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

Santhosh Jose

Mobile: 0423 450 768

Email: office@familyapostolate.syromalabar.org.au

We look forward to welcoming new participants in the months ahead and continuing to support couples on their sacred journey toward marriage.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE 2025
3 DAYS RESIDENTIAL COURSE

Aug 26th Tuesday 9AM to
Aug 28th Thursday 4.30PM

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 for Registration: **10th Aug 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 SAFEGUARDING

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults plays a pivotal role in our Eparchy and we have our Professional Standards Division established 2007, responsible for day to day operations of the safeguarding matters of the Eparchy.

The Apex body of the Eparchy's Safeguarding team consists of the Eparchy's of Bishop, Vicar General and Chancellor. However, for day today functions at the national level there is a Director, National Safeguarding Officer and National Training Coordinator to support parishes/missions with safeguarding matters.

At local level, each Parish/Mission have two or more Safeguarding officers (PSO) to oversee and implement safeguarding matters in their respective place. The role of PSO is vital and generally not a fixed term. They attend parish council meetings and ensures that safeguarding is a permanent agenda of the parish council meetings and work collaboratively with the parish priests and local community to ensure safer communities. Serval of our parishes also have safeguarding committees to plan and oversee parish safeguarding matters.

All our volunteers are mandated to have valid working with children check (WWC) or Blue Card and attend the Safer Churches training or refresher trainings in every 3 years. So far, the Safer churches training has been so far completed by over 15000 volunteers across Australia.

Our safeguarding polices and producers are formulated in accordance with state and federal legislations and under the guidance of the Australian Catholic Safeguarding LTD (ACSL). These polices and procurers are reviewed periodically to meet the changing needs. Our policy ensures "Zero Tolerance" towards any abuse and views that "Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility".

The Eparchy formulates the safeguarding policy incorporating standards of the National Safeguarding Standards that was formulated in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse.

Our safeguarding policy highlights:

1. All children and adults at risk have equal rights to protection from harm.
2. Everybody has a responsibility to support the protection of children and vulnerable adults.
3. Organisations have a duty of care to children/ vulnerable adults with whom they work, are in contact with, or who are affected by their work and operations.
4. Zero tolerance to any abuse.
5. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
6. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
7. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
8. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
9. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
10. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.
11. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
12. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
13. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
14. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

The demand for safeguarding services are in high demand as new missions are being established rapidly due to increased number of Syro-Malabar faithfuls migrating into the remote parts of the country. Currently we have over 55 parishes and missions speared all across Australia.

(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

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



Meet our Team – St Mary’s Mission Newcastle



I am **Rini Johnson**, and I serve as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) at St Mary’s Mission in Newcastle. I have held this role since 2019, and it has been a deeply rewarding experience to support families, children and vulnerable adults in our community.

In addition to my role at the church, I work as a Social Worker in the Emergency Department at the John Hunter Hospital.

As PSOs, myself, Febin, and Riya are committed to create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for children and adults at church.

We are always here to listen, assist and ensure the wellbeing of those we serve and are dedicated to uphold the values of care, respect and protection in serving our church community.



“Hi, I’m **Riya Bino**, PSO, from St Mary’s Church, Newcastle. I’m a Social Worker currently serving as an Adoption Case Manager with a not-for-profit organization. My work involves supporting vulnerable children and their families within the foster care system, helping them find safety, stability, and a sense of belonging”



I am **Febin Francis**, PSO at St Mary’s Church, Newcastle. I am a social worker currently working as a child protection caseworker at Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).



National Child Protection Week theme announced — 7-13 September

This year’s theme is: ‘Every conversation matters: Shifting Conversation to Action’

This theme highlights that while open discussions are crucial, words alone are not enough: we must turn dialogue into meaningful action.

This year, we are focusing on moving beyond conversations to concrete actions that prevent harm and instead, focusing on strengthening support systems, and empowering communities to actively protect children.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH APOSTOLATE

APRIL TO JUNE 2025

Isho Mishihakyu Sthuthiyarikyatte,

The April to June quarter has been a time of both solemn reflection, spiritual renewal and celebration of faith for SMYM Australia as we move into the liturgical season of Resurrection.



Welcoming Pope Leo XIV

We began this season with heartfelt prayers for the repose of Pope Mar Francis, whose passing was mourned across the Catholic Church. Many of our parishes and missions dedicated Holy Qurbana in remembrance of our Holy Father. In the same spirit of unity and prayer, we were gifted with our new Shepherd for the Catholic Church in Pope Mar Leo XIV on May 8th. We continue to pray for his pontificate and that his ministry be guided through the Holy Spirit.

Embrace

Our Sliha DaMshia full-time missionaries continued to lead Embrace programs for pre-teens, teens and youth across various parishes and missions. Our missionary team, now expanded to 4 full-time missionaries, have been fostering deeper spiritual conversation and Christ encounters within our parishes and missions. We ask you to keep them in your prayers and continue supporting them throughout this journey.



Road to Pentecost

As we approached Pentecost, our youth from various parishes and missions led Road to Pentecost Novena online for nine consecutive days. This brought the youth together across the country in a powerful outpouring of prayer and reflection as we awaiting the renewing fire of the Holy Spirit.

Parish Elections

We were also overjoyed to announce the formation of two new SMYM leadership teams in New South Wales in Newcastle and Wyong. The emerging youth reflect the ongoing growth and hunger for spiritual connection across our Eparchy. In the same light, all our parishes and missions are gearing up to welcome new SMYM leadership teams with elections right around the corner. General body meetings are being conducted within the coming weeks, and some parishes and missions have already elected new teams. Wishing all our new leaders a heartfelt congratulations.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2025, we thank God for the many ways the Spirit is moving through our youth. Let us continue to walk together, rooted in Christ and alive in mission.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH APOSTOLATE

APRIL TO JUNE 2025

Šlihā's Diaries

Meet our Šlihā daMšihā missionaries for 2025! Aakash Joseph, Seena Sebastian, Ansteve Shaju, Janet Maria Jacob, Catherine Pakrath, have answered the call to serve as full-time missionaries for the Youth Apostolate of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne.



Akku

Aakash Joseph, from St. Alphonsa Forane Church Adelaide Central, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering & Construction Management. He chose a full-time commitment because he believes Christ is the ONLY solution, active through the graces in His Catholic Church. Aakash hopes that young people in our Eparchy will see the same truth, transforming our brokenness into God's greatest testament and gift to the world.



Ansteve

Ansteve Shaju, from Christ the King Mission, Holsworthy, completed a Bachelor of Information Systems. He chose to do a full-time commitment as part of Sliha Damsiha because he discerned a call from God and responded faithfully.



Seena

Seena Sebastian, from Our Mother of Perpetual Help Mission, Auckland, New Zealand, was a Medical Laboratory Scientist in Hematology before resigning for full-time mission work. Her desire to do mission came from the question, 'How can I do something of eternal value in my life?' Through the mission year, she hopes to develop a stronger faith and grow as a woman of God.



Janet

Janet Maria Jacob, from St. Joseph's Knanaya Catholic Mission, Sydney, was a Registered Nurse in ICU before taking a six-month commitment. She felt a conviction that it was time to give back to the Church and the community from the copious amounts of graces and blessings she has received from Jesus.



Catherine

Catherine Pakrath, from St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Forane Church, Adelaide Central, joined the Sliha da Msiha mission team after completing her studies in Biomedical Engineering. She joined out of the desire and zeal to witness and testify to the compelling love of God with His creation. Catherine believes that if we have received the gift of faith, we also have the responsibility of testifying to that faith by walking in the Spirit and being bold spokespersons of the truth.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH APOSTOLATE

APRIL TO JUNE 2025

Ministry by Šlihä daMšihā missionaries

Since March 2025, the Sliha da Msiha mission team has covered many parishes and missions, delivering our “EMBRACE” parish renewal programs and residential retreats for pre-teens, teens, and youth. So far, we have covered SA, as well as the majority of NSW and QLD. Our programs consist of insightful sessions, engaging workshops, and immersive eucharistic adorations. We have been blessed to minister to over 1000 young people in just 4 months, witnessing powerful transformations and life-changing encounters.

All programs covered the theme of the Eternal Hope found in Christ alone, grounded in the Catholic pillars of Church, Family, Sacraments, and Mother Mary.

Below are the programs conducted by the Sliha da Msiha full-time missionaries so far this year.

- March 8: St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Wodonga
- March 9–15: St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Wagga Wagga
- March 12: St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Griffith
- March 17–22: St. Euphrasia Syro-Malabar Parish, Adelaide North
- March 24–29: St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Parish, Adelaide South
- March 31 – April 5: St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Forane Church, Adelaide Central
- April 11–13: Bundaberg (not an established mission)
- April 14–16: St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Forane Church, Parramatta
- April 24–27: St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission, Sunshine Coast
- April 28 – May 4: St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Newcastle
- May 5: St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission, Taree
- May 12–18: St Thomas The Apostle Syro-Malabar Forane Church, Brisbane South
- May 19–25: St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish, Brisbane North
- May 26–30: Syro-Malabar Marian Mission, Penrith
- June 2–8: Christ the King Syro-Malabar Mission, Holsworthy
- June 9–14: St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara Syro-Malabar Mission, Orange
- June 28–29: St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Orange

AUSTRALIAN NURSES MINISTRY

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



Nurses Ministry Australia is continuing to make meaningful progress in fulfilling its mission to provide spiritual nourishment to nurses, their families, and patients. This report outlines the ministry's key activities and achievements between April and June 2025.

NURSES MINISTRY UPDATE

During the Lenten season, many nurses experienced a profound spiritual encounter with Christ through Holy Week activities, including participation in the Stations of the Cross via Zoom across all states and territories. Nurses also took part in their parish Passion of Christ re-enactments and Holy Week liturgical celebrations.

In May, Nurses Fest was celebrated in various units and at state-level pilgrimage sites, featuring Holy Qurbana, formation classes, rosary processions, and shared meals.

The Harvest of Mercy (Krupayude Koithukalam), a nine-day special prayer and adoration, was observed from Good Friday to Divine Mercy Sunday, with participation from nurses across several countries. Nurses Ministry Australia and New Zealand led this event from 22nd April to 24th April 2025.

Under the leadership of National Coordinator Sophy Shaji and the spiritual guidance of Rev. Fr. Abraham Nadukunnel, the Nurses Ministry Australia has grown into a ministry that now serves 37 parishes and missions across six states and two mainland territories.

A new service team is currently being formed at the national, state, and parish levels, with commissioning planned by the end of August 2025.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Nurses Fest – Celebrated in May, combining International Nurses Day and the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima (patron saint of Nurses Ministry), at both parish and state levels.

Daily Morning Prayer – Members gather daily on Zoom at the parish level for prayer, including the Rosary and assigned sections of the prayer wheel.

Spiritual Growth – Ongoing initiatives include monthly formation classes, a 24-hour chain Rosary on the 13th of each month, regular prayer meetings, and quarterly night vigils.

Outreach & Support – Actively engaging in parish events, collaborating with other ministries, and providing spiritual and emotional support to nurses who are unwell.

Regular Meetings – Bi-monthly meetings are held at unit, state, and national levels to ensure effective communication and coordination.

Leadership Visits – National leaders visit local units to encourage members and lead spiritual formation sessions.

Family Support – Members visit other parishes to conduct educational and informative sessions on family relationships and parenting.vv



MILDURA MAY FEST



LIVERPOOL NURSES MINISTRY

AUSTRALIAN NURSES MINISTRY

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



ADELAIDE CENTRAL NURSES MINISTRY



WOLLONGONG NURSES MINISTRY MAY FEST



CAMPBELLTOWN MAY FEST



BRISBANE SOUTH MAY FEST 2025 WITH NURSES MINISTRY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FR ABRAHAM NADUKUNNEL



SOUTH-EAST MELBOURNE MAY FEST



NSW NURSES MINISTRY PILGRIMAGE



Remya Ginto (40)
Kottarathil (house)
Melbourne

FOR THE DEPARTED SOUL OF REMYA GINTO



BRISBANE KNAVAYA NURSES MINISTRY



DARWIN NURSES MINISTRY



BUNDABERG MAY FEST & FAMILY APOSTOLATE CLASS BY FR TIJO PUTHENPARAMBIL



FORMATION TRAINING IN BRISBANE SOUTH BY NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER MINI BOBY

SEMINARY NEWS

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



FOR MELBOURNE SEMINARIANS: A SEASON OF GROWTH AND GRACE

The past months have marked a significant season in the life of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne's seminarians, with milestones in formation, mission outreach, and leadership.

On 30 April 2025, Bro. Abin Siby Kokkappilly and Bro. Ronald Varikkassery were vested in the cassock during a solemn vestition ceremony held at Infant Jesus Church, Thalore. Presided over by Emeritus Bishop Mar Bosco Puthoor, the ceremony marked their official entry into clerical formation following the completion of Minor Seminary and Philosophy studies.

Across the Trichur Archeparchy, seminarians from Melbourne led "Koodde-2025" vacation camps, bringing together hundreds of young people under the theme 'ഇശോയുടെ കൂടെ' (With Jesus). The camps featured faith-based activities, games, and catechesis, with a special focus on the Holy Eucharist led by Fr. Lawrance Thaikattil, Rector of St. John Paul II Minor Seminary.

In Perth, Brothers Joel, Dawn, and Amal delivered talks during the monthly SMTM youth gathering, guiding teens in vocational reflection under the theme "Hear! Listen! Heed!". The evening concluded with Eucharistic Adoration and fellowship, encouraging youth to consider their call in the Church.

Seminarians also took on leadership roles within major seminaries. Bro. Mathew Thoopunkal was appointed General Prefect of the Philosophy section at St. Joseph's Seminary, Aluva, while Bro. Ronald Varikkassery was named Prefect of the 1st Year Theology Batch at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore.

Meanwhile, seven new seminarians have begun their Pre-Philosophy program, a year-long foundation course that includes spiritual formation, introductory courses in sacred languages, study of Vatican II and the Catechism, and pastoral exposure through mission visits and community outreach.

– Fr. Lawrance Thaikattil
Rector, St. John Paul II Minor Seminary

SEMINARY NEWS

APRIL TO JUNE 2025





Parish Updates





MY LORD MY GOD

NSW Forane



Պարիսոյա Բնօրէն

HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

Christ the King Syro-Malabar Mission, Holsworthy

The past three months have been a time of faith, prayer and fellowship in our parish as we moved from Lent into the Easter season.

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

On April 12th, our parishioners joined others from parishes across NSW and ACT for the annual Lenten pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy Penrose Park, participating in Holy Qurbana and the Way of the Cross.

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Our Holy Week commemorations proceeded smoothly by the grace of God. The Palm Sunday celebrations were led by Fr. Saiju Thuruthiyil, who also conducted our Lenten retreat. Pesaha traditions, including the Washing of the Feet and Holy Hour, were observed on Maundy Thursday. Our Good Friday service began with Holy Qurbana at St. Joseph's Church, Moorebank. The SMYM team conducted a re-enactment for the Stations of the Cross, and we ended the day with Nercha Kanji organised by the Pithruvedi. Easter ceremonies started with Holy Qurbana on the morning of Holy Saturday. The whole community attended our Easter Vigil, which included a procession celebrating the Risen Lord.

MOTHER'S DAY

We celebrated Mother's Day on May 12th. Our youth spent time making paper flowers for all mothers and grandmothers and these were distributed following Qurbana. The Pithruvedi also organised a delicious lunch for everyone to enjoy.

EMBRACE RETREAT

The 'Embrace' retreat ran from June 2nd to 7th. The retreat was run by the full-time missionaries from the Sliha d'Misiha team for our pre-teens, teens and youth. Youth Apostolate director Sojin Sebastian also ran a session for parents on June 8th before Sunday Qurbana. All participants thoroughly enjoyed the retreat and were able to further learn about how to strengthen their faith and live a Christ-filled life.

PENTECOST

Pentecost Sunday was celebrated with Holy Qurbana. Ezhuthiniruthu was conducted following the mass by Fr. Jerin Arimboor, with specific prayers and blessing ceremony to invoke the assistance of the Holy Spirit on toddlers planning to start school soon.

LUMEN FIDEI 5.2

Our Catechism classes have been running smoothly every week. We have also begun English Qurbana once a month for our catechism students. On June 21st, our catechism teachers attended Lumen Fidei 5.2, the regional conference for catechism teachers in the NSW and ACT parishes and missions, in Dapto. The day began with Holy Qurbana and included two sessions about guiding students to grow in the faith and safeguarding in catechesis. The Half-Yearly Catechism examinations will be held on June 29th.



Holy Family Syro Malabar Mission, Gosford

Catechism School Year Inauguration by His Excellency Mar John Panamthottathil

The commencement of the new Catechism School year was marked with profound solemnity and celebration as His Excellency Mar John Panamthottathil graced the auspicious occasion on 15th February 2025. The event commenced with a Solemn Holy Qurbana, co-celebrated by Father Thomas Pezhumkattil, Parish Vicar, who lent further reverence to the proceedings. His Excellency presided over the inauguration ceremony and also officially launched the Holy Family Mission's new Official Facebook page, symbolising the mission's commitment to community engagement and modern communication.

Season of Lent and Holy Week Observances at Our Parish

The sacred Season of Lent commenced in our parish on 3rd March with an inspiring Ash Monday Holy Qurbana, presided over by Fr. Thomas Pezhumkattil. Father Thomas blessed the ash, which was then reverently marked upon the foreheads of the faithful parishioners in the sign of the cross, symbolising humility and repentance.

Throughout the Lenten period, the community gathered every Friday to prayerfully participate in the Stations of the Cross, reflecting on the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. In addition, a spiritually enriching **Lenten Retreat** was conducted from 17th to 19th March under the guidance of Fr. Saiju Thuruthiyil MCBS. Through his insightful reflections, Fr. Saiju emphasised the profound connection between a healthy life, steadfast prayer, and growth in faith, inspiring parishioners to renew their spiritual commitments.

Holy Week Celebrations

Holy Week was observed with great devotion, beginning with Palm Sunday on 13th April. The congregation gathered for the blessing of palm leaves, a Solemn Holy Qurbana, and a reverent procession led by Fr. Thomas Pezhumkattil.

On Maundy Thursday, 17th April 2025, the community commemorated the institution of the Holy Eucharist with a Solemn Holy Qurbana.

The sorrowful Passion of our Lord was remembered on 18th April through a heartfelt service led by Fr. Thomas Pezhumkattil, featuring the Stations of the Cross and concluded with the community sharing a meal of "Nerchakkanji."

The joy of the Resurrection was celebrated on the night of 19th April with a Solemn Holy Qurbana, marking the triumph of Christ over death.



St Alphonsa Syro- Malabar Forane Parish Parramatta

NSW & ACT SYRO-MALABAR PARISHES LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO BERRIMA

On the 40th Friday of Great Lent and Lazarus Saturday, over 1,200 devotees from NSW & ACT Syro-Malabar parishes gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy in Berrima. The day included Holy Qurbana led by Forane Vicar Fr. Denni Thomas and other Achanmar, Way of the Cross, and Parihara Pradakshanam. The pilgrimage concluded with Snehavirunnu.

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Holy Week began at St. Michael's Church, Blacktown, with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday rituals. Over 1,200 parishioners participated. The SMYM enacted the Way of the Cross, and the parish celebrated Easter.

TEENS RETREAT

From April 14th–16th, 2025, at Campion College, Toongabbie, over 80 students joined the retreat led by Sojin Sebastian and Sleaaha Da Misiha team. It featured meaningful worship and reflections. Thanks to Fr. Denni, Principal Sherin Jose, Secretary Anu Paul, teachers, volunteers, and enthusiastic teens.

CATECHISM ANNUAL DAY

On May 3rd, Nagle College Hall hosted Catechism Annual Day. Rev. Fr. Wim Hoekstra and Fr. Denni Thomas presented awards. Mr. Sherin Jose welcomed attendees, while Secretaries Anu Paul and Jisha Thomas gave speeches. The event included cultural performances coordinated by Sheeba Joyson, concluding with Snehavirunnu.



St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Wagga Wagga

Our Easter celebrations began with Palm Sunday, marking the start of Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, the Holy Mass included the traditional washing of the feet. Good Friday was solemnly celebrated at Marian Hills, Shrine of Divine Mercy, with a tableau enacting all the stations of the Cross, where participants dressed for each station. The Easter Sunday Holy Mass was held in the evening to mark the Resurrection of our Lord.

Parish Day and Catechism Annual Day were celebrated on Sunday evening, May 11th. The event began with Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Denni Nedumpathalil, Vicar of St. Alphonsa Forane church, Paramatta. Following the Mass, a parish meeting was held, after which prizes were distributed to catechism students. The evening continued with cultural programmes presented by catechism students and teachers, and concluded with a snehavirunnu, bringing the community together in fellowship.

On June 8th, our Syro-Malabar church community gathered for a special Bible Kaloslavam event for a full day of fellowship and spiritual growth. Students were divided into three groups—sub-juniors, juniors, and seniors—to foster age-appropriate learning and engagement. A highlight of the event was a presentation by our Year 11&12 students on the importance of confession and practical guidance on how to participate in this sacrament.

St. Antony's Feast - The feast of St. Antony was celebrated on June 15th. Following the Holy Mass, the community gathered for a snehavirunnu, sharing fellowship and a meal together.



St Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission, Campbelltown

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS 2025

The Holy Week celebrations commenced with a pilgrimage to Berrima, which included the celebration of the Holy Mass and the Stations of the Cross, an experience of deep reflection and devotion for all participants.

The journey of Holy Week continued at Ruse Church, where the parishioners came together to observe the solemn liturgies of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday celebrated by Fr Sebastian Mandapathil. Each service was a profound reminder of Christ's passion, death, and glorious resurrection, renewing the spirit of the community in faith and unity.

REMEMBRANCE MASS FOR THE LATE POPE FRANCIS

A solemn Remembrance Mass was offered by Fr Sebastian Mandapathil in honor of His Holiness Pope Francis, following his passing. We gathered in prayerful tribute, thanking God for the life, humility, and profound spiritual leadership of the late Holy Father.

The Mass served as a moment of deep reflection and unity, as the community remembered Pope Francis' commitment to compassion, justice, and the message of Christ. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS 2025

This year, we honoured all mothers in our parish celebrating their unwavering love, strength, and selfless sacrifices. We shared the sweetness of the day with the mothers gathering together for the cake cutting ceremony

A big thank you to all our mothers for their love, guidance, and the light they bring into our lives. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

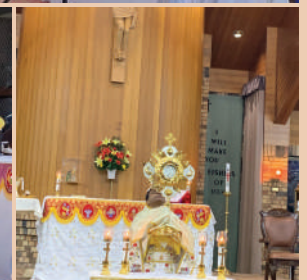


NURSES DAY CELEBRATIONS 2025

On Nurses Day, we took a moment to honour the dedicated and compassionate nurses who serve our community with tireless commitment and care. This year's celebrations were filled with gratitude and recognition for the invaluable role nurses play in both healthcare and in our lives.

CORPUS CHRISTI FEAST

Today, our parish came together in joyful reverence to celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. With hearts united in faith, we honoured the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist with a very meaningful homily by Fr Sebastian



St Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission Wollongong

CATECHISM GRADUATION CLASS OF 2024

On Sunday, June 1st, St Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission Wollongong joyfully celebrated the graduation of the Year 12 Catechism Class of 2024. This event marked a meaningful spiritual milestone in the lives of our young parishioners and was a proud moment for the entire parish community.

Following the Qurbana, a brief felicitation ceremony was held, with Fr. Sebastian Mandapathil as the chief guest. In his presidential address, he reminded the graduates to stay rooted in their faith and remain closely connected to the Syro-Malabar Church. The graduates presented a touching reflection video, sharing memories from their catechism journey and expressing heartfelt thanks to their teachers, families, and all who supported them. Current Year 12 students organised the graduation program with the help of catechists. Light refreshments were served afterward, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere of fellowship and gratitude.

Five students completed Year 12 Catechism in 2024 and graduated with dedication and enthusiasm. Our 2024 graduates are Alisha Manoj, Anton Anoop, Emily Mathew Palakunnel, Febin Binoy and Tom Binoy. Their achievement reflects the tireless commitment of our catechists, volunteers, and parents who continue to support the faith formation of our youth.

Congratulations to the Catechism class of 2024! MAY FEST - INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY & THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATHIMA

During the month of May, the Syro-Malabar Nurses Ministry Wollongong hosts two significant events: the International Nurses Day and the Fathima Matha Feast. They celebrate the latter in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, cherishing her as their patroness. This special gathering brings together nurses in faith and fellowship, offering them the opportunity to seek the intercession and protection of Mother Mary. The centerpiece of the event features the Holy Qurbana officiated by Fr. Sebastian Madappathil, where nurses and other parishioners

express their prayers for personal intentions, their ministry, and for the well-being of the broader community. This beautiful celebration underscores the deep faith and bond between the members of the Nurses Ministry.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is another significant occasion in the Syro-Malabar Wollongong Parish and it is marked with heartfelt reverence and gratitude. On this day, a special Qurbana is offered for all the mothers in the parish. The liturgy is dedicated to acknowledging and honouring the countless sacrifices, love and guidance that mothers provide to their families and the community. Special prayers are said, asking for blessings and good health for all mothers.





MY LORD MY GOD

Perth Region



Պարիսոյա Բնօրէն

HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

ST JOSEPH SYRO - MALABAR PARISH PERTH

HOLY WEEK

The season of the Great Fast culminated in the solemn and joyous celebration of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord. The parish came together in unity to observe Maundy Thursday, beginning with a traditional Passover meal shared with international students in the parish hall, while many families honored this sacred tradition in their own homes.

On Good Friday, parishioners gathered at Schoenstatt, where they were deeply moved by a powerful and heartfelt Passion Play performed by the devoted youth of the parish.

Holy Saturday services offered a meaningful opportunity for parishioners to renew their baptismal vows, leading into the celebration of Easter — the most profound and defining moment of the Catholic faith.

SMYCM GATHERING

In the month of May, the Young Couples Ministry hosted a lively and engaging games night, bringing couples together in a spirit of fellowship and joy. The evening not only challenged their minds through fun and interactive activities but also served to strengthen their bond as brothers and sisters in Christ, as they continue to grow in the vocations they have recently embraced.

The June gathering, Planning with Purpose, focused on the beauty and importance of Natural Family Planning. The session was led by Sofia Campbell and Shelby D'Souza from the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, who shared insightful and faith-filled perspectives. It served as a powerful reminder that God's design for marriage is both intentional and deeply rooted in love.

MAYMASA VANAKAM

Throughout the month of May, the parish fervently sought the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The devotion culminated in a beautiful candlelit procession, uniting the entire parish community in prayer. It was a heartfelt tribute to the rich heritage and traditions of our Syro-Malabar faith.





MY LORD MY GOD

QLD Forane



ጠጋርክጣጣ ጸገር

HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

Ave Maria Syro Malabar Mission Ipswich QLD

The 40th Friday was celebrated at Marian Valley Pilgrimage with great enthusiasm, bringing together congregations from various churches within the Brisbane Forane. This special occasion fostered a sense of unity and shared faith.

Palm Sunday was joyfully observed at AMCM Ipswich, marking the beginning of Holy Week with the commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The service was filled with symbolic gestures and hymns that resonated with the spiritual importance of the day.

Maundy Thursday, which is significant for remembering the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his Apostles, was solemnly celebrated at AMCM Ipswich. The evening was marked by reflective prayers and traditions that emphasized community and service.

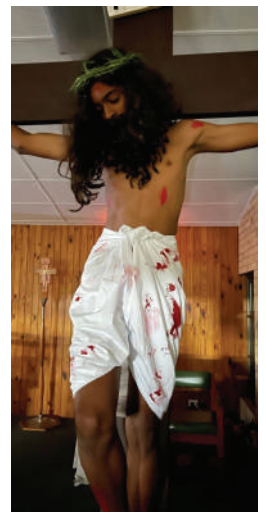
Good Friday, a day of solemn remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus, was observed with deep reverence. The youth of AMCM took an active role by organizing a poignant visual drama that highlighted the emotional essence of the occasion, alongside the traditional Way of the Cross.

The resurrection of Jesus was celebrated at AMCM Ipswich, bringing joy and renewal to the congregation. The Easter service was filled with hope and the message of new beginnings, reflecting the essence of this pivotal Christian celebration.

The AMCM Parish Fest took place on May 3rd and 4th, and was a time for the community to come together in celebration and fellowship. The festival included various activities, events, and gatherings that strengthened communal bonds.

On Pentecost Day, a multicultural mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ipswich Catholic Community. This vibrant service was marked by the uniting of different cultures in worship, signifying the universal nature of the church.

Under the guidance of Vicar Fr. Anto Chiriyankandath, the traditional ceremony of Ezhuthiniruthu was conducted. This initiation into the world of letters marked an important cultural and spiritual passage for young children.



Marymatha Syro Malabar Mission Gold Coast

40TH FRIDAY SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE – MARIAN VALLEY

One of the most grace-filled events of the season was the 40th Friday pilgrimage to Marian Valley, where over 750 faithful from across Brisbane Forane Churches gathered for Holy Mass and the Way of the Cross. The outdoor Stations of the Cross offered a powerful encounter with Christ's Passion and a visible witness of faith and unity among Syro Malabar communities.

GOOD FRIDAY – PASSION OF THE CHRIST ENACTMENT

On Good Friday, the youth and children of our mission beautifully enacted the Passion of Christ, bringing to life the solemn moments of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. The reverence, preparation, and devotion shown by the participants deeply touched the hearts of all present.

REQUIEM MASS FOR POPE FRANCIS

A special Requiem Mass was offered for Pope Francis at our mission, led by Fr. Ashok, in communion with the universal Church. It was a solemn and prayerful gathering, honouring the memory and legacy of the Holy Father.



St Alphonsa Parish Brisbane North

EZHUTHINIRUTHU

On Sunday, 8th June 2025, St. Alphonsa Church hosted the traditional Ezhuthiniruthu (first writing ceremony), marking the sacred beginning of learning for young children. Led by Rev. Fr. Varghese Vithayathil, the ceremony combined spiritual blessing with cultural tradition, as children inscribed their first letters surrounded by the prayers and support of the parish community.



HOLY EUCHARIST PROCESSION – SATURDAY, 14TH JUNE 2025 On Saturday, 14th June 2025, St. Alphonsa Parish held a historic **Holy Eucharist Procession**, blessing and sanctifying every home in the community. Beginning at 6:00 AM, the day-long procession continued into the early hours of the next morning, uniting parishioners in deep faith, love, and reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION – 11TH MAY 2025 With hearts full of love and gratitude, our parish community came together to honour and celebrate all mothers on the special occasion of Mother's Day.



BIBLE KALOLSAVAM 2025 – MAY 10-11 (SATURDAY & SUNDAY) Joyful moments from our Bible Kalolsavam 2025, It was a weekend filled with faith, fun, and the vibrant energy of our catechism children. From inspiring performances to heartfelt expressions of the Word of God, the event radiated joy, unity, and devotion.



REACHING OUT WITH LOVE CHARITY INITIATIVE BY SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS Year 11 and 12 Sunday School students visited Emmanuel City Mission in Brisbane to support individuals experiencing homelessness, where they served lunch and donated \$4,000 raised during Lent. Their efforts reflected compassion and the values of their faith in action.

MUTHUKAD'S LEGENDARY LIVE SHOW On Saturday, 3rd May 2025, St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Catholic Parish, hosted an unforgettable evening with world-renowned magician Gopinath Muthukad at Hillsong Auditorium, Mount Gravatt.

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIVE SAT, 25 APR 2026 Service held at St. John's Church, Northgate, was solemnly attended by Parish Priest Fr Varghese Vithayathil MST, Kiakkaran Lijo John, Gigie George, and George P. Varkey



ST. MARY'S SYRO MALABAR MISSION, SUNSHINE COAST

In preparation of the Holy week, **Parish Annual Lenten retreat** was held on April 11th to 13th which was led by Rev. Fr. Joy Chencheril MCB. It was a very blessed three days where the whole Parish Community was enlightened and blessed with the spiritual teaching by Fr. Joy. There was a reconciliation service also held on April 14th as a preparation for the Holy week.

During the **Holy Week services**, our devoted parishioners gathered to commemorate the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

A memorial Holy Qurbana was celebrated in the honour of **late Pope Francis** on April 23rd. The community came together to pay tribute to Pope's legacy, spiritual leadership, contribution to the church and the world.

Bezalel Retreat - residential teens & youth retreat, was held from April 24th to 27th at the beautiful Luther Heights Camp in Cooloom. The retreat brought together around 75 students from Year 6 to Year 12 from across the Sunshine Coast and surrounding areas. Led by Fr Sabu Kumbuckal and the vibrant Sreeha da Msiha team, the retreat offered a powerful experience of spiritual renewal and personal transformation. The program featured motivational talks, spirit-filled adoration, anointing prayers, and the celebration of daily Holy Mass, all which led many students to a deeper encounter with Christ. Through uplifting sessions, engaging activities, and moments of silent reflection, the youth were encouraged to grow in faith and embrace their identity as children of God.

The Divine Mercy Feast, celebrated on April 27th first Sunday after Easter, was a spiritually enriching occasion for our parish.

Mother's Day was celebrated on May 11th with special prayers and Holy Qurbana to appreciate the unwavering dedication of our loving mothers in the community.

Our Parish joyfully celebrated the **Feast of St. Mariam Theresa and St. Antony** on June 8th and June 13th respectively with great enthusiasm and devotion. There was offertory during mass and nercha distribution after mass.

Our annual **Bible Kalolsavam 2025**, hosted by the Catechism Department on June 14th, was a tremendous success. Participants showcased their skills across 12 competition categories, representing four different houses: St. Theresa of Lisieux, Blessed Carlo Acutis, St. Dominic Savio, and St. Gianna Beretta. The children truly shined with their enthusiasm and impressive performances, especially the captivating tableaux. This memorable event highlighted the dedication of our young participants, teachers, and parents, making it an enriching experience for everyone.



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

This report summarizes the key activities and significant achievements within St. Thomas the Apostle Syro Malabar Forane Church, Brisbane South parish community over the past three months, reflecting our commitment to spiritual growth, community engagement, and ongoing development.

Here are some highlights:

LENTEN RETREAT - was held on April 10, 11, and 12, led by Fr. Robin Chittooparambil VC.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES - took place from March 13 to April 20. Highlights included the Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet on Holy Thursday, April 17, and the commemoration of the Passion, Crucifixion, and Death of Jesus on Good Friday, April 18. Following the Good Friday service, the SMYM parish unit organized a poignant re-enactment of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. Easter Mass was celebrated as a Vigil Mass at 6:30 PM on April 19, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY AND MOTHER'S DAY: We celebrated International Nurses Day and Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11, 2025. Fr. Abraham presented all mothers with a blessed Rosary as a Mother's Day gift. Additionally, Mini Bobby conducted a formation class after the 9:00 AM Holy Qurbana on the same day.

RETREAT EMBRACE 2025: The Retreat Embrace 2025 was held from May 12-17, 2025, for pre-teens, teens, and young adults in our parish. It was led by the Sliha d'Msiha Mission team, the youth apostolate of our Eparchy of Melbourne.

MARRIAGE SILVER JUBILEE: We celebrated the Marriage Silver Jubilee for couples in our parish marking this special milestone on Sunday, May 18, 2025.

FEAST OF PENTECOST: The parish joyously celebrated the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Following the 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM Masses, Ezhuthiniruthuthu, a ceremony where children wrote their first letters of the alphabet, was conducted.

MATHRUVEDI ONE DAY SEMINAR: A Mathruvedi One Day Seminar was held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, led by Fr. Jerry Vallomkunnel MCBS.

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.

HOLY EUCHARIST PROCESSION: The Evangelization ministry organized a Holy Eucharist Procession on Thursday, June 19. The procession went through all the family units in our parish.

POTHUPANI : The Parish Pastoral Council, under the leadership of the Vicar and Trustees, organized a Pothupani on June 21, 2025.



Joseph's Syro-Malabar Mission, Caboolture

On June 19, the Thursday monthly Mass was celebrated at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Caboolture. We joyfully celebrated the Feast of the Holy Eucharist, thanking God for His abiding presence among us.

LENTEN RETREAT: Held on April 9-10, led by Rev. Fr. Joy Chencheril, it was a spiritually enriching experience with deep reflections on the Holy Qurbana.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Celebrated with special services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Saturday, drawing us closer to the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR POPE FRANCIS: On April 27, special prayers and oppese were offered for Pope Francis, with Fr. Tijo reflecting on the Pope's life and dedication.

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH: Celebrated on May 3-4 with 73 prasudentis. Highlights included kodiyyettu, Qurbana, kodiyrakku, chendamelam, lelam, raffle draw, and snehavirunnu.

FEAST OF ST. DOMINIC SAVIO & MOTHER'S DAY: Celebrated on May 11, with special prayers and heartfelt wishes for mothers.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: Celebrated on May 29 during the Thursday monthly Mass, followed by a thanksgiving snehavirunnu.

PENTECOST SUNDAY & EZHUTHINIRUTHU: On June 8, Bishop Emeritus Bosco Puthur visited, and ten children received the ezhuthiniruthu.

FEAST OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST: Celebrated on June 19 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, thanking God for His presence.





MY LORD MY GOD

SA NT Forane



Պարկոմաբլիսիոյ

HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Forane Parish Adelaide Central

EMBRACE

We began with the Embrace Retreat from 31 March to 4 April, hosted by the Sliha da Misha Mission team. This retreat provided pre-teens and teenagers a fulfilling space to reflect, worship, and strengthen their relationship with God through guided sessions.

JUBILEE YEAR LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

On 4–5 April, 46 parishioners embarked on a Lenten Pilgrimage to St Alphonsa Melbourne Cathedral. At Bacchus Marsh, the group participated in the Way of the Cross and Holy Qurbana. On the following day, pilgrims entered the St Alphonsa Cathedral through the Door of Hope and placed their petitions before Our Lady's statue. A beautiful presentation about the Eparchy followed, and the group visited the Bishop's House, sharing a special lunch and time of fellowship with the Bishop.

EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The parish witnessed a moving Eucharistic Procession, where the Blessed Sacrament visited ten homes, one from each family unit, along with key points for the upcoming Good Friday Way of the Cross in the city. Each family welcomed the Eucharist with utmost reverence, songs, and prayer.

EDEN VALLEY LOOKOUT

Another long standing tradition, the Way of the Cross at Eden Valley Lookout on April 12, brought together all three Adelaide Syro Malabar parishes.

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week was marked with great devotion. With both Siby Achan and Bibin Achan present, each liturgy was spiritually enriching. Good Friday stood out in particular. Following the solemn morning service, parishioners from all three parishes gathered in the heart of Adelaide for the Way of the Cross. Roads were closed as hundreds walked through the city, praying and singing, an awe-inspiring public wit-

ness to our faith. Sabu Achan's homily at Victoria Square and the final veneration of the Cross left a lasting impression on all. The participation of representatives from the Adelaide Cathedral and other communities further united us in spirit.



St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish , Darwin NT

Celebrated the 40th Friday of Lent at St. Paul Church, Nightcliff, with Holy Mass and a Way of the Cross procession, followed by "Nercha Kanji."

Celebrated Palm Sunday with Holy Mass and a procession.



Holy Week celebrations began with Adoration and Confession, followed by Holy Mass with the reading of 'Puthen Pana.' Many parishioners participated in the reading and study at St. Paul Church, Nightcliff.



A memorable Holy Week celebration occurred at the Italian Club, Marrara. It began with Maundy Thursday and included Good Friday celebrations with a Way of the Cross procession. The Saturday celebrations featured the blessing of the new Holy Water and lighting a new candle. The Easter celebration in the evening included a tableau of the risen Jesus and a procession with the risen Jesus. Rev. Dr John Puthuva, the Darwin St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar parish priest, led the celebrations according to traditional rituals.



A special Holy Mass for Pope Francis along with offering of flowers and prayers.

Celebrated the crowning of Mother Mary with Holy Mass, followed by 'Nercha' in a traditional manner. 'Pachoru' and 'Chakachula' were provided to the parishioners.

The Sacred Heart feast began. The parish youth led the Holy Mass on this day. After the Mass, new Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) leaders were elected during a meeting.



Year 7 students and PSO launched a new book by Rev. Dr. John Puthuva about Blessed Carlo Acutis. On the same day, the Minister for Disability, Arts, Veterans, and Multicultural Affairs of the NT, Minister Jinson Anto Charles, officially handed the church feast notice in Malayalam and English to Feast Convener Lal Jose and Trustee Johny Chacko.

St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Church celebrated the Pentecost feast. Rev. Dr. John Puthuva introduced young children to the world of letters and learning.

The Sunday school organized a Faith Feast for kids at St. Paul's School, Nightcliff.



St Mary's Syro Malabar Parish, Adelaide South

The second quarter of 2025 unfolded with profound spiritual movement within the St Mary's Syro-Malabar Parish Community. These months were marked by pilgrimage, visible declarations of faith, farewells, and celebrations. Whether through solemn liturgies, shared meals, or voices raised in prayer on Adelaide's streets, our parish lived its faith not only within the church, but also in the spaces where everyday life unfolds.

On the 12th of April, the 40th Friday was observed at a forane level. Members from all three Adelaidean Parishes gathered for the Way of the Cross at Eden Valley Look Out, led by Rev. Fr. Sibi Pulickal and Rev. Fr. Abraham Kazhunnadyili.

HOLY WEEK

As Holy Week began, the atmosphere turned contemplative and tender. On Palm Sunday the palm leaves were distributed outside of the church and faithfuls entered to the church as procession. On holy Thursday is the commemoration of the last supper of Jesus Christ when he established the sacrament of holy communion and the institution of holy Qurbana. After the Eucharistic celebrations we did cutting of Pesaha Appam with international students, creating a sense of home and extending a gesture of hospitality. This simple tradition, led by Rev. Fr. Sibi, served as a poignant reminder of Christ's commandment to love and serve.

On Good Friday Adelaide witnessed a remarkable moment of public faith. For the first time, over 1,500 faithfuls took part in a Way of the Cross that moved through the very heart of the city. The procession was solemn, with more than 50 altar servers, and Syro Malabar youth-led passion tableau. The sight of Christ's cross moving through King William Street was both humbling and empowering a moment in which we collectively surrendered our city to Christ Our King. Holy Saturday services and Renewal of Baptismal promises services Led by Rev. Fr.Siby pulickal and

Rev. Fr.Bibin Velamparambil. On the 20th of April, Easter Sunday was celebrated with profound joy, and we were blessed to have Rev. Fr.Bibin Velamparambil to offer Easter Holy Qurbana, around 350 faithfuls attended the Easter Service.

A week later, on the 27th of April, our Parish community came together for a Memorial Holy Qurbana offered for the repose of our beloved Mar Pope Francis. It was a moment of heartfelt mourning, but also one of profound gratitude. Our catechism students spent time reflecting on his life and writings, drawing inspiration from his example of servitude, humility and tenderness. We were also joined by former MP Nicolle Flint, who offered her respects and joined the parish in this shared moment of prayer.





MY LORD MY GOD

VIC Forane



Պարիսոյա Բնօրինակ

HELBORNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

ST APHONSA CATHEDRAL PARISH, MELBOURNE NORTH

Ours Cathedral had the Lenten Retreat from 4th to 6th April. We were blessed to have Fr Tony Katakayam join us. His charisma, approachability, and amazing singing abilities filled these days with lots of learning, praying and opportunities to encounter Christ as we moved into Holy Week. During the Lenten Season, Fr Mathew set a special challenge for the youth and children of our Parish. Those who came to Holy Qurbana on all 50 days would have a special movie day and pizza party with our Vicar. Sixteen youth and children were able to successfully meet this challenge and were given their special treat on Saturday, 24th May.

To help all parishioners receive the plenary indulgence offered during the Jubilee year, the Cathedral Parish had a pilgrimage to the Cathedral on Saturday, 12th April. As an act of penance, we participated in the Way of the Cross going around our Cathedral compound and entered through the Doors of Hope. Holy Week was a blessing for all of us and we were very fortunate to have Bishop Mar John Panamthotathil join us for many of the services, from blessing the palms and distributing them, to sharing the joy of the Risen Lord with all of us on Easter Day. SMYM were also actively involved in the Holy Week, including having youth boys representing the 12 Apostles for Pesaha Thursday and presented a very moving Passion Play.

On 25th April, we celebrated the Feast of St George. Parishioners with the names George, Varghese, Varkay and others were called upon to come forward and conduct the feast. For snehavirunnu we had appam and chicken curry. Due to the dedication and hard work of parishioners, we ended up having plenty to go around. The Safer Churches training was held for our Parish on 7th June. Thank you to the over 100 participants who attended and to Joby Phillip who very kindly and professionally led the session.

Year 10, 11 and 12 students had their offertory Holy

Qurbana on Sunday, 15th June at 8:00am. They had a special class on chastity afterwards and were given lunch at the conclusion of the session.

Our selection process for a new SMYM leadership team is underway. Expressions of interest have been collected and a general meeting was held on 22nd June. We look forward to the SMYM team being formed.

Our Nurses' Ministry held an Adoration on Friday, 13th June, on the Friday of Gold and the Feast Day of St Anthony of Padua, following the 8:00am Holy Qurbana.



St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission, Ballarat, VIC.

EASTER WEEK CELEBRATIONS

We joyfully observed Easter, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many people gathered together to celebrate new life and hope.

POPE FRANCIS MEMORIAL MASS

In reverence to Pope Francis' dedication to serving the Lord, we held a special memorial mass our traditional prayer for the departed soul in his honor. The mass was celebrated with great devotion, and we reflected on the Pope's teachings and commitment to social justice.

ST. GEORGE'S FEAST

With great enthusiasm, we celebrated the feast day of St. George, a revered saint and martyr. Our special mass and festivities brought the community together, and we honored St. George's courage and faith. St. George family unit took the initiative to specially celebrate the day and distributed blessed offerings at the end of the Holy Mass.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Mother's Day, we paid tribute to the selfless love and dedication of mothers in our community. During the special mass, mothers were honored and blessed, and we reflected on the importance of family and nurturing relationships. Our mothers organised a raffles with support from the wide range of community members sponsoring prizes, kids gave gifts to mothers after the Holy Mass and everyone taking part in the games and being blessed with the blessed offerings at the end.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Three children from our parish received their First Holy Communion, marking a significant milestone in their spiritual journey. We celebrated this special occasion with Solemn Holy Mass, by our beloved Bishop Mar John Panamthotathil CMI, and families gathered to support and encourage these young parishioners.

PENTECOST DAY

On Pentecost Sunday, we commemorated the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Our mass was filled with fervent prayers and reflections on the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. We prayed for renewed spiritual vitality and empowerment in our lives.

we are grateful for the blessings and opportunities we've experienced together. We look forward to continuing our journey of faith, worship, and service, and we through our mission spread the love of Christ.



ST. MARY'S SYRO MALABAR PARISH MELBOURNE WEST

TEENS RETREA

Our parish hosted a two-day Teens Retreat designed to inspire and strengthen the faith of our young people. The retreat was led by Fr. Sabu Kumbumkal and provided a dynamic mix of praise and worship, engaging talks, fun games, and interactive group activities.

INAUGURATION OF ST. MARY'S CHARITY PROGRAM

On 27 April 2025, following the Holy Mass, our parish was blessed to officially launch the St. Mary's Charity Program, a new initiative dedicated to serving those in need within our community. The program was inaugurated by Cr Steve Abboushi, who joined us in marking this meaningful occasion.

MAY FEST – NURSES MINISTRY CELEBRATION

On 13 May 2025, our parish celebrated MAY FEST, a special event that combined the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima with International Nurses Day. The celebration was the joyful culmination of 33 days of Fatima Consecration Preparation, where nurses in our community consecrated themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mother Mary.

YOUNG COUPLES MEET 2025

Our parish successfully conducted its first-ever Young Couples Gathering, a long-awaited initiative aimed at bringing together young families to strengthen their faith and family bonds. The event was held under the guidance of Fr. Joseph Ezhumayil, who emphasized the importance of supporting one another, especially for couples raising families far from their extended support networks in Australia.

PENTECOST SUNDAY CELEBRATION

On 8 June 2025, our parish came together in faith and joy to celebrate Pentecost Sunday, marking the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. The celebration began with a beautiful offertory by our Cat-

echism children, filling the church with a spirit of innocence and devotion. This was followed by a solemn Holy Mass led by our parish priest, Fr. Joseph Ezhumalayil.

AGAPE 2025 – PARISH DAY CELEBRATION

On 21 June 2025, our parish came together in faith and joy to celebrate AGAPE 2025, our annual Parish Day. The event was a resounding success, drawing a large crowd of parishioners and friends who joined in a day filled with vibrant community spirit.

EVENT: YOUTH FORMATION DAY

On 22 June 2025, our parish hosted a spirit-filled Youth Formation Day that brought together over 25 enthusiastic young people eager to grow in faith. The session was led by Bro. Fritz Mascarenhas, whose powerful testimony of faith and personal transformation deeply touched and inspired everyone present.



St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Parish - Melbourne's South-East

The St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Parish has observed notable spiritual activities, unity, and engagement during this period.

Holy Week was marked with reverence, attracting over 3,000 attendees across Dandenong and Forest Hill. A significant event was the SMYM-led Passion Play on Good Friday.

During the Easter Vigil Qurbana, the parish acknowledged students' academic achievements with dignitaries including Hon. Penny Wong, Hon. Julian Hill, and Hon. Mark Dreyfus present.

The community's faith activities included a **"Joyful Parenting" session by Mathruvedhi** and a **7km Divine Mercy Prayer Walk** joined by local communities.

A Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Syro-Malabar Cathedral on May 30 saw over 200 attendees receiving the Plenary Indulgence, with Holy Qurbana led by Bishop John Panamthottamthil CMI.

On **Pentecost Sunday, June 8**, the parish commemorated the descent of the Holy Spirit and held **Ezhuthiniruthu (Vidyarambham)**, a ritual initiating young children into learning.

Looking ahead to July 12, 2025, preparations are underway for the Consecration of the new church — a significant milestone in the parish's history.



St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission Wodonga

ANNUAL RETREAT :

Annual retreat was conducted on 9th and 10th of April from 4-9.30pm led by Fr.Shijo Kumminiyl CSr. On these blessed days Parishioners also had the opportunity to attend the confession prior to holy week celebration.

LENTAL HOUSE BLESSING:

Conducted by Fr.Siby in both St Jude and St. Alphonsa family units on 8th and 29th of March & 9th and 10th of April Station of the cross: Both St Jude and St. Alphonsa family units conducted the stations of cross on every Friday during lent.

HOLY WEEK :

During Holy week celebrations Wodonga mission celebrated Palm Sunday on 13th of April at 7am at St.Augustine's Church Wodonga .

Holy Thursday celebrations were conducted on 16th April Wednesday 6pm at Sacred heart parish with Washing of the feet and holy Qurbana

On Good Friday celebrations all three mission wagga, Griffith and Wodonga attended the service at Marian Hills Kyeamba on 18th April at 9am with Liturgy with stations of the cross with beautiful visual representation of stations of the cross from wagga Mission.

EASTER :

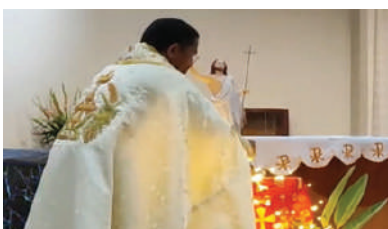
Holy Saturday and Sunday services collectively conducted on 20th April at 0530am with blessing of new candle and water at sacred heart parish

CATECHISM:

Wodonga mission catechism is conducted on every 2nd and 4th week at 6pm. Catechism acting principal Femy Vinod attended the principal's annual conference on 17th and 18th of May in Melbourne.

FAMILY UNITS :

Both St.Jude and st.Alphonsa prayer meetings are held in each home once in a month.



DAYS TO REMEMBER

July

July 3
Feast of St Thomas

July 15
St Kuriakose

July 16
കർമ്മല മാതാവ്

July 25
St Jacob

July 26
വിശുദ്ധ. യോവാക്കിം, വിശുദ്ധ. അന്നാ

July 27
കൈത്താക്കാലം ആരംഭം

July 27
പത്രണ്ടു ശ്രീഹന്മാർ

July 28
St Alphonsa

Aug

August 1
പതിനഞ്ചു നോമ്പ്
ആരംഭം

August 6
ഇശോയുടെ
രൂപാന്തരീകരണം

August 15
Indian Independence day
മാതാവിന്റെ സ്വർഗ്ഗാരോപണം

Sept

September 5
St Theresa of Calcutta

September 8
മാതാവിന്റെ പിറവിത്തിരുനാൾ

September 14
വിശുദ്ധ കുരിശിന്റെ
പുഴുച്ചയുടെ തിരുനാൾ

September 21
St Mathew

September 27
St Vincent De Paul

September 29
Arch Angeles
St Michael & St Raplel



MY LORD MY GOD

EPARCHY MEDIA COMMISSION

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

AUTHORISED BY : Msgr. FRANCISE KOLENCHERRY

(Vicar General, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas The Apostle, Melbourne)

PUBLISHED BY : FR. THOMAS PEZHUMKATTIL

DIRECTOR, EPARCHY MEDIA COMMISSION

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

COORDINATOR : GAVEEN GEORGE

മാർത്തോമിപ്പിടിയ
MELBOURNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN

മാർത്തോമിപ്പിടിയ
MELBOURNE EPARCHIAL BULLETIN