



# Marthoma Vision

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SYRO- MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE MELBOURNE

EPARCHIAL BULLETIN



*Prayerful Greetings on your  
Episcopal Ordination day*

മെത്രാഭിഷേക ദിനത്തിന്റെ പ്രാർത്ഥനാശംസകൾ

**MAR JOHN PANAMTHOTTATHIL CMI**

**MAY 31**



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

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# EDITORIAL



One of the most significant days in the liturgical calendar of the Syro-Malabar Catholic community worldwide is the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, also celebrated as Syro-Malabar Church Day. Blessed Dukrana Thirunnal and Happy Syro-Malabar Church Day to all!

This edition of the Marthoma Vision brings you the latest news and updates from our eparchy, including reports from the eparchial chancery, eparchial departments, ministries, associations, parishes, and mission communities.

“My Lord and my God!” - The most emphatic and profound profession of faith by our father in faith, Mar Thoma Sleeha. We, the Mar Thoma Nazranis, are the very descendants of that intimate yet courageous proclamation of faith. With the joy of the resurrected Lord, Thomas traveled miles, probably the most by any apostle, living that faith and ultimately dying for it. As people of the diaspora, we too are called to live that faith and courageously proclaim it in today’s highly secular world. Let us show the same courage Mar Thoma did and seek his intercession.

In the coming months, there are numerous events and programs lined up for catechism and youth at both the eparchial and parish mission levels. Eparchy representatives will participate in the upcoming Major Archiepiscopal Assembly. Various departments have a number of events planned.

A huge thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of Marthoma Vision.

***Wishing you all a very blessed Dukrana!***

**Editorial Team  
Eparchy Media Commission**





## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

*See Jesus in His wounds,  
not in miracles*

**M**ar Thomas' example invites us to cultivate a faith that is not dependent on witnessing miracles but grounded in the recognition of Jesus' enduring presence in the midst of our struggles. This perspective calls us to a deeper, more resilient spirituality, one that is fortified by the knowledge that Christ is with us in every trial and tribulation.

Practically, this means integrating the reality of suffering into our daily spiritual practices. When we see individuals enduring hardship, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual, we are called to see Christ in them and respond with the same love and compassion that Jesus showed. This approach not only transforms our personal faith journey but also has the potential to create a more compassionate and empathetic Christian community.

Furthermore, embracing the wounds of Jesus can inspire a more nuanced understanding of hope. It is a hope that acknowledges pain and suffering but also sees beyond it, recognizing the resurrection as the ultimate triumph over suffering and death. This hope is not passive; it actively seeks to bring comfort, healing, and justice into the world. It drives us to be agents of change, working towards alleviating suffering and embodying the love of Christ in tangible ways.

In our pastoral care and ministry, this understanding can be profoundly transformative. Priests and laypeople alike are called to accompany those who suffer, offering not just words of comfort but also their presence and solidarity. This approach demystifies the concept of miraculous intervention and instead highlights the everyday miracles of kindness, support, and human connection.

In essence, Mar Thomas' message is a call to a deeper, more authentic faith. It challenges us to see the divine in the most human aspects of Jesus' life and to recognise that our own sufferings are not without purpose. By embracing this perspective, we open ourselves to a more profound experience of God's grace and love, both in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

May the blessings of Mar Thoma be with you all, and may this feast day be a source of inspiration and joy. Let us go forth with renewed faith, ever mindful of the presence of God in our lives, and determined to live out our calling as disciples of Christ. Happy Dukrana to each and every one of you.

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





MY LORD MY GOD

# *Circulars Pastoral Letters*



## PASTORAL LETTER

**DUKRANA -  
SABHADINAM 2024****MAR. RAPHAEL THATTIL**

Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Consecrated Men and Women and Lay Persons of the Syro-Malabar Church. May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

**May the Grace of the Lord be With you all!**

**D**earest beloved brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

It gives me great joy to address you through this pastoral letter on the occasion of the feast of Dukrana, which is filled with the memory of the martyrdom of our Father St. Thomas the Apostle. For years, we have been celebrating this day as the Syro-Malabar Sabhadinam. Our Church was founded through the apostolic proclamation of St. Thomas, who, upon seeing the wounds of our risen Lord, made the profession of faith, "My Lord and My God." The feast of Dukrana is not only a day to remember St. Thomas the Apostle, our Father in Faith, but also a day to experience faith emotionally, by touching the blood of the Apostle with our hearts, thereby confessing and confirming our faith in Jesus. On this feast day, let us especially thank the divine providence, which has given us the light, joy and courage of the Gospel through St. Thomas, the Apostle.

After assuming responsibility as the Fourth Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, I went to Rome in May 2024 to express my respect and submission to the Holy Father, the head of the Universal Church, as my predecessors did. Along with the members of the Permanent Synod, the Curia Bishop of the Church and the Procurator in Rome, I met Pope Francis on May 13. The Holy Father received us with great joy and love: the encouraging remarks he made on the Syro-Malabar Church when he met us in audience and during his address to the representatives of the Syro-Malabar Church in Rome were recognition for us. While thanking the Holy Father for his care and affection for our Church, I call upon everyone to pray for the health of the Holy Father and for all his intentions.



Dearly beloved, I desire to elaborate certain points from the Holy Father Pope Francis' speech at the Consistory Hall of the Vatican Palace on May 13 for our reflection in the context of the celebrations of the Dukrana and Sabhadinam.

First, we should be conscious of and take pride in the apostolic tradition of our Church. The Holy Father said: "Your faith is of an ancient origin, as it is rooted in the witness to the point of martyrdom of Saint Thomas, the Apostle of India. You are all custodians and heirs of his apostolic preaching." Pope Francis said that in the long and difficult history of our Church, despite all the adverse circumstances, we have always maintained unwavering loyalty to the Successor of Peter. This is an acknowledgement of the sacrificial fidelity with which we have always remained in the communion of the Catholic Church.

It is because our ancestors obeyed and adhered to the ecclesiastical structures during all the sufferings they went through that the Syro-Malabar Church has grown to be praised among the Eastern Churches for her number, fervour of faith and missionary work. We have faced and still continue to experience the bitter consequences and great dangers posed by disunity and disobedience. Obedience to Church authorities is a virtue that Catholics must live. At the same time, canonically speaking, as a Church, we are also obliged to obey. Let us thank God, who has led us through an unbroken apostolic tradition amidst adversities for over two thousand years. Let us not forget the responsibility to preserve this apostolic tradition as a great treasure and hand it down to generations.

Second, we reflect on the global presence and missionary activities of our Church. The Holy Father said: "The faithful of your beloved Church are known, not only in India, but throughout the whole world, for the "vigour" of their faith and piety." It is indeed a matter of pride that our Church, which was mainly confined to Kerala until the twentieth century, has now grown into a Church with a global presence. It is commendable that the members of our Church who migrated to various countries in the past were committed to preserving the faith in our Lord intact, living fervently that faith in the lands of their sojourn, and passing it on unadulterated to generations. In this era of global migration, the faithful must continue to be committed to this missionary work.

On this occasion, I gratefully remember that Pope Francis, who made historical decisions to establish the necessary ecclesiastical structures for the Syro-Malabar Church throughout India and in various parts of the world, granted verbal permission for our Church to provide pastoral care in the Gulf countries. We hope that the necessary ecclesiastical structures will be erected without delay for more than five hundred thousand faithful in the Gulf countries.

In the context of global migration, as our children and families move to various parts of the world for study, work, and better living conditions, the Head of the Universal Church calls in this way for preserving our Church's unique heritage: "It is, therefore, good for me, as Bishop of Rome, to encourage you, the Syro-Malabar Catholic faithful, wherever you are, to cultivate the sense of belonging you have to your Church sui iuris, so that your great liturgical, theological, spiritual and cultural heritage may shine ever more brightly". Accepting this call, everyone should strive to adhere to our Church's liturgy and faith traditions and live them with pride. I desire that the pastors take special care to keep the faithful close to ecclesial structures. In such situations, narrow minded thoughts need to be aban-



done in order to grow deeply in our identity consciousness as members of the Syro-Malabar Church. It is a reality that the Church grows locally. However, it is essential to think broadly and take a stand for the Syro-Malabar Church to further grow as a strong Church at the global level.

Third, I wish to highlight the strength of our families and our commitment to faith formation. The greatest wealth of our Church is our families. The Church, which is a large family, is the union of our families founded on spirituality and hard work. The faith formation that begins in families should be strengthened through catechism classes in parishes and the involvement in the family units and various associations. Families of the new generation should be empowered to lay their foundation on the rock of faith in such a way that they do not fall into the temptations of the times and the culture. Individuals, families, and thereby the whole Church must be able to proclaim through life in any circumstance that Jesus is the Lord and the only Saviour.

God has blessed our Church with an abundance of priestly and religious vocations. Our priests and religious are rendering fruitful service all over the world. I take this occasion to remember in a very special way the lay brothers and sisters who have embraced the mission of Gospel proclamation in unique ways and are serving in various fields. Let us make special efforts to encourage all these vocations, help them in every possible way, and pray for them. Likewise, the pastors should be particularly attentive in listening to the young people, walking with them, answering their questions, and providing them with the necessary guidance. Both the youth and the Church ministers should remember that the future of the Church depends on the deepening of the faith life and the power of witness of the youth.

My dearly beloved in Jesus, God's loving providence is always with us. Let me reiterate the words of the Holy Father: "I would like to say to everyone, in moments of difficulty and crisis, do not be overcome by discouragement or a sense of helplessness in the face of problems." Therefore, as the custodians and heirs of the apostolic teachings, let us strive to radiate with great splendour the glorious heritage of our Church in various parts of the world by remaining with pride in the communion of the Catholic Church. Let us continue our journey heavenward through the challenging paths of this era by strengthening our families, embracing wholeheartedly faith formation initiatives, fostering vocations, and holding the youth close.

I extend the greetings of the Dukrana feast and the Sabhadinam to all. May the intercession and blessings of our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Thomas the Apostle, and all the saints and blessed be with us and all our endeavours!

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad on 22 June 2024.

**Mar Raphael Thattil**

Major Archbishop of the  
Syro-Malabar Church





# സീറോമലബാർസഭയുടെ പൈതൃകം സംരക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടണം:

## ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ

**കാക്കനാട്:** സീറോമലബാർ സഭയുടെ ആരാധനക്രമ, ദൈവശാസ്ത്ര, ആധ്യാത്മിക, സാംസ്കാരിക പൈതൃകം സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും പരിപോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും ലോകമെമ്പാടുമുള്ള സീറോമലബാർ സഭാംഗങ്ങൾ സവിശേഷശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്തു. അതുല്യവും അമൂല്യവുമായ ചരിത്രാനുഭവങ്ങൾ സ്വന്തമായുള്ള സീറോമലബാർ സഭയ്ക്കു ലഭിച്ചതും സഭ മുന്നോട്ടു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന തുമായ മഹത്തായ പൈതൃകത്തിൽ സഭാംഗങ്ങളെ ഉറപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ വലിയ സന്തോഷമുണ്ടെന്നും ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു. സീറോമലബാർസഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പായി സ്ഥാനമേറ്റതിനുശേഷം വത്തിക്കാൻ നഗരത്തിൽ ഔദ്യോഗിക സന്ദർശനത്തിനെത്തിയ മാർ റാഫേൽ തട്ടിൽപിതാവിനെയും മെത്രാന്മാരുടെ പ്രതിനിധിസംഘത്തെയും സ്വീകരിച്ചതിനുശേഷം വൈദികരും സമർപ്പിതരും അല്പമായരുമടങ്ങുന്ന റോമിലുള്ള സീറോമലബാർ സഭാംഗങ്ങളെ വത്തിക്കാൻ പാലസിലെ കൺസിസ്റ്ററിഹാളിൽ അഭിസംബോധനചെയ്തു സംസാരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു മാർപാപ്പ.

സ്വയം ഭരണാവകാശമുള്ള ഒരു വ്യക്തിസഭ എന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ സീറോമലബാർ സഭയെ ഈ പൈതൃകസംരക്ഷണത്തിൽ സഹായിക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു പറഞ്ഞ മാർപാപ്പ സഭ ഇന്നു നേരിടുന്ന വെല്ലുവിളികളെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്തത്തോടെയും സുവിശേഷാത്മക ധൈര്യത്തോടെയും മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിന്റെയും സിനഡിന്റെയും നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ഉചിതമായ നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു നേരിടുവാനും മാർപാപ്പ ഉദ്ബോധിപ്പിച്ചു. ദാരതത്തിൻറെ അപ്പസ്തോലനായ തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ രക്തസാക്ഷിത്വത്തിൽ അടിത്തറയിട്ടു രൂപപ്പെട്ട സീറോമലബാർസഭ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കേണ്ടിവന്ന വിവിധ വെല്ലുവിളികളെ അനുകൂലമായി മാർപാപ്പ പത്രോസിന്റെ സിംഹാസനത്തോട് ഈ സഭ എക്കാലവും പുലർത്തിയ വിശ്വസ്തതയെ പ്രത്യേകം എടുത്തുപറഞ്ഞു.

എറണാകുളം- അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിൽ വി. കുർബാനയുടെ ഏകീകൃത അർപ്പണരീതി നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നതുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട പ്രത്യേക സാഹചര്യങ്ങളെ തൻറെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പരാമർശിച്ച മാർപാപ്പ ഈ പ്രശ്നപരിഹാരത്തിനായി നൽകിയ കരുതുകളെയും വീഡിയോ സന്ദേശത്തെയും കുറിച്ചു പരാമർശിച്ചു. സഭയിൽ ഐക്യം നിലനിർത്തുകയെന്നുള്ളത് കേവലം ഒരു ഉപദേശമായി



മാത്രം കണക്കാക്കാതെ, അതൊരു കടമയാണെന്നും അനുസരണം വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്ത വൈദികർക്ക് ആ കടമ നിറവേറ്റുന്നതിൽ പ്രത്യേക ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുണ്ടെന്നും മാർപാപ്പ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിച്ചു. പരിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയോടുകൂടിക്കുന്ന ഗുരുതരമായ അനാദരവ് കത്തോലിക്കാവിശ്വാസവുമായി ചേർന്നു പോകുന്നതല്ലായെന്നും മാർപാപ്പ മുന്നറിയിപ്പു നൽകി.

സഭയിൽ ഐക്യം നിലനിർത്താനുള്ള ദൃഢനിശ്ചയത്തോടെ ഒരുമിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാനും പ്രാർഥി ക്കാനും ആഹ്വാനം നൽകിയ മാർപാപ്പ പ്രതിസന്ധിഘട്ടങ്ങളിൽ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുമ്പോഴും നിസഹായരുമാകാതെ പ്രത്യാശയിൽ മുന്നേറാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു. കുടുംബങ്ങളുടെ രൂപീകരണത്തിലും വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനത്തിലും സീറോമലബാർ സഭ പുലർത്തുന്ന പ്രതിബദ്ധതയ്ക്കു നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞ മാർപാപ്പ സഭയിലെ അജപാലന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കും യുവജനങ്ങളെയും ദൈവവിളിപ്രോത്സാഹനത്തെയും മുൻനിറുത്തിയുള്ള എല്ലാ അജപാലനപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെയും താൻ പിൻതുണയ്ക്കുന്നതായും അറിയിച്ചു.

മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് മാർ റാഫേൽ തട്ടിൽ പിതാവിനെ പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് മാർ ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ മെയ് 13 തിങ്കളാഴ്ച ഇറ്റാലിയൻ സമയം രാവിലെ 7.45-ന് തന്റെ ഓഫീസിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ചു. പെർമനന്റ് സിനഡ് അംഗങ്ങളായ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് മാർ മാത്യു മൂലക്കാട്ട്, ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് മാർ ആൻഡ്രൂസ് താഴത്ത്, ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് മാർ ജോസഫ് പെരുന്നോട്ടം, ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് മാർ ജോസഫ് പാംപ്ലാനി, കുരിയ മെത്രാൻ മാർ സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ വാണിയപ്പുരയ്ക്കൽ, യൂറോപ്പിലെ അപ്പസ്തോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്ററും സഭയുടെ പ്രൊക്യൂറേറ്ററുമായ മാർ സ്റ്റീഫൻ ചിറപ്പണത്ത് എന്നിവരും പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവുമായുള്ള കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു.

കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചയുടെ ആമുഖമായി മാർ റാഫേൽ തട്ടിൽ പിതാവ് മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പായി തന്നെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത സിനഡിന്റെ തീരുമാനത്തിനു അംഗീകാരം നൽകിയ മാർപാപ്പയ്ക്ക് നന്ദി അറിയിച്ചു. സീറോമലബാർ സഭയുടെ വളർച്ചയ്ക്കായി ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ കൈക്കൊണ്ട് തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ എടുത്തുപറഞ്ഞ് സഭയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞു. വിശുദ്ധ കുർബാന നയർപ്പണരീതിയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് എറണാകുളം- അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിൽ ന

ിലനില്ക്കുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനായി മാർപാപ്പ നടത്തിയ ഇടപെടലുകൾക്കും മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് കൃതജ്ഞത പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചു. ഭാരതം മുഴുവനിലും സീറോമലബാർ സഭയ്ക്കു അജപാലന അധികാരം നൽകിയ പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവിനു നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് സഭയുടെ അംഗങ്ങൾ കൂടുതലുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ച്, ഗൾഫ് രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ തനതായ അജപാലന സംവിധാനങ്ങൾ രൂപപ്പെടുത്താൻ നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്ന അഭ്യർത്ഥനയും മാർപാപ്പയുടെ മുമ്പിൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചു. തുടർന്ന് സീറോമലബാർ സഭയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വിവിധ കാര്യങ്ങൾ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പും മെത്രാൻസംഘവും മാർപാപ്പയുമായി ആശയവിനിമയം നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി.

മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ടതിനുശേഷം ആദ്യമായി വത്തിക്കാൻ സന്ദർശനത്തിനെത്തിയ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് മാർ റാഫേൽ തട്ടിൽ പിതാവിനെ മെയ് ആറാം തീയതി പൗരസ്ത്യസഭകൾക്കായുള്ള കാര്യാലയത്തിന്റെ തലവൻ കർദിനാൾ ക്ലോദിയോ ഗുജറോത്തി റോമിലെ വിമാനത്താവളത്തിലെത്തി സ്വീകരിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഇനിയുള്ള ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പും മെത്രാൻ പ്രതിനിധി സംഘവും വത്തിക്കാനിലെ വിവിധ കാര്യാലയങ്ങൾ സന്ദർശിക്കുകയും ചർച്ചകൾ നടത്തുകയും ചെയ്യും. പൗരസ്ത്യ സഭകൾക്കായുള്ള കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിനു മെയ് 15-നു ഔദ്യോഗിക സ്വീകരണം നൽകും. മെയ് 19 ഞായറാഴ്ച റോമിലെ സാന്താ ബെസിലിക്കയിൽ നടക്കുന്ന ആഘോഷമായ പരിശുദ്ധ പരിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയോടെ ഔദ്യോഗിക സന്ദർശന പരിപാടികൾ സമാപിക്കും.

Vadakkera

ഫാ. ഡോ. ആന്റണി വടക്കേകര വി. സി.  
പി.ആർ.ഒ., സീറോമലബാർ സഭ & സെക്രട്ടറി, മീഡിയാ കമ്മീഷൻ





# *Eparchy news*



## Appointments & Transfers



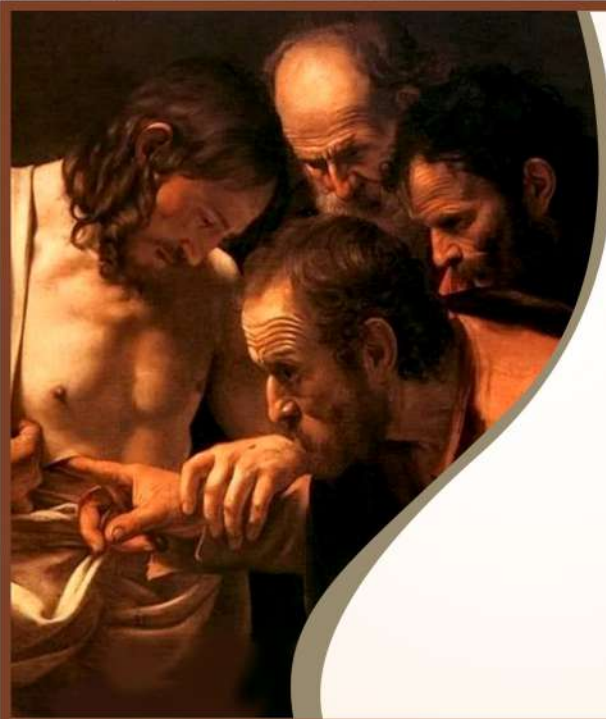
**Fr Jerin Jacob Arimboor**

Chaplain , Christ the King Mission Holsworthy



**Fr George Mankuzhikary**

Relieved from the Eparchy



### Eparchial Pastoral Council Official Notification

We are pleased to announce the date for the 12th meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, which will be held on-line.

**Date: Saturday, 14th September 2024**

**Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
(Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra time)**



**Synod  
2021  
2024**  
**Sixteenth Ordinary General  
Assembly of the Synod of Bishops**  
SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, MELBOURNE.

## SYNTHESIS REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

The Synodal consultation report of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, is synthesised in accordance with the diocesan summary guidelines. This report is the fruit of extensive consultation across the eparchy. The consultation process involved engaging youth groups from Australia and New Zealand, young couples ministry, faith formation leaders, and parish groups, a dynamic and inclusive initiative aimed at fostering dialogue, collaboration, and discernment within the Church community. Characterised by a spirit of openness and diversity, these groups of young faithful bring various perspectives, experiences, and insights to the table. The youth groups from Australia and New Zealand are vibrant and culturally diverse, reflecting the multicultural landscape of their respective countries. They are enthusiastic, tech-savvy, and deeply committed to their faith, seeking authentic ways to express and live out their beliefs in a rapidly changing world.

Similarly, the young couples ministry (newly married couples and up to 10 years of marriage) brings a sense of relational depth and familial perspective, advocating for integrating faith into the complexities of modern family life. Faith formation leaders are passionate about nurturing spiritual growth and equipping others for discipleship, while parish groups offer grassroots insights and community-centred approaches to synodal discussions. Together, these diverse groups contribute to a rich tapestry of voices that shape the future direction of the church, ensuring that the Synodal process is inclusive, representative, and responsive to the needs of all its members.

The selection of Chapter 6 on The Eastern Churches and Latin Church Traditions, Chapter 17 on Mission in the Digital Environment and Chapter 18 on The Structures of Participation for Synodal Consultation by the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, reflects a strategic and holistic



approach to addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities facing the Church community. Chapter 6 provides valuable insights into the rich heritage, spirituality, and ecclesial tradition of the Syro-Malabar Church, offering a deeper understanding of the identity of the Syro-Malabar Church within the broader context of the Australian Catholic Church. Similarly, Chapter 17 recognises the transformative power of digital technology in shaping modern communication and evangelisation efforts. In an increasingly interconnected world, the eparchy acknowledges the importance of leveraging digital platforms to reach a diverse and global audience, particularly among younger generations who are digitally native. By exploring this chapter, the eparchy was able to engage a large number of young people who enthusiastically participated and contributed to the consultation.

Furthermore, the structures for participation in synodal consultation underscore the eparchy's commitment to inclusive and participatory decision-making processes. By inviting input from diverse stakeholders, including youth groups, young couples ministry, faith formation leaders, and parish groups, the church seeks to harness the collective wisdom, insights, and experiences of its members. Through open dialogue, collaboration, and discernment, the Synodal consultation process enables the eparchy to discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit and chart a course for renewal and mission in the modern world.

## CHAPTER 6

### THE EASTERN CHURCHES AND LATIN CHURCH TRADITIONS

6.1.D. We suggest further study of the contribution that the experience of the Eastern Catholic Churches can make to the understanding and practice of synodality.

One of the hallmarks of the Syro-Malabar Church is its emphasis on community engagement and participation. Regular celebrations, such as the daily Holy Qurbana (Eucharistic celebration in the Syro-Malabar rite), feast days, sacraments, and retreats for different age groups, serve as opportunities for the faithful to unite in fellowship. Moreover, ministries like Syro-Malabar Youth Movement, Mathruvedi (Mothers' group) and Catholic Congress (Social Action Group) demonstrate a healthy balance between community bonding and spiritual growth, particularly among the youth. Recognising the importance of constant & effective communication, **catechesis for different age groups, and inclusivity in governance, the Syro- Malabar Church actively encourages the participation of men, women and youth in parish councils and other decision-making bodies. Annual general body meetings provide a platform for members to voice their perspectives on critical issues and advocate for change.** Moreover, the formation of family prayer units in neighbouring suburbs fosters a grassroots approach to worship and faith formation, with elected leaders guiding their respective communities.

Central to the mission of the Syro-Malabar Church is the catechetical formation of its members. Dedicated time for the catechesis of school-aged children on Sundays ensures that the faith is passed down from one generation to the next. Teachers, drawn from within the community, undergo training to ensure the effective transmission of faith and values. Specialised catechism textbooks further enhance the faith formation process, catering to individuals from diverse age groups and backgrounds. As participants in various ministries, including young couples ministries, members of the Syro-Mala-



bar Church bring perspectives shaped by exposure to different cultures and experiences. This diversity allows them to bridge generational gaps within the community, fostering greater understanding and unity. Moreover, the increasing receptiveness towards the voices and ideas of women signals a positive shift towards more inclusive and equitable decision-making processes.

6.2.F. In regions where the faithful of different Catholic Churches are present, we need to find models that render visible, effective forms of unity in diversity.

Cultivating visible and effective forms of unity amidst diversity is paramount in regions characterised by a presence of faithful from various Catholic Churches. This necessitates promoting collaboration and mutual understanding through shared cultural events, inter-ritual gatherings, and joint evangelisation endeavours which foster appreciation for each traditions. The church can address this challenge by integrating elements of diverse traditions into liturgical practices (where and if suitable) and encouraging resource sharing among communities, thereby nurturing unity while honouring unique identities. Pastoral support from bishops of different rites, participation in shared spiritual events, and engagement in intercultural dialogues can further solidify bonds and bridge gaps between culturally diverse communities, ultimately contributing to Christian unity and interreligious harmony.

Strategies such as increasing collaboration between churches, sharing resources, conducting joint youth programs, and organising multicultural activities underscore the commitment to embracing diversity while fostering unity. Moreover, initiatives like **inviting priests to celebrate liturgies across catholic rites, sharing historical insights behind liturgical practices, and organising combined celebrations of feasts and events enhance communal bonds and visibility across Catholic communities. Embracing collaboration at various levels, from parish to diocesan and national, facilitates the development of shared resources and initiatives to benefit families and children, thus exemplifying the ethos of unity in diversity within the Catholic Church.**

6.3.G. We need to reflect on Eastern Catholic Churches' contribution to Christian unity and their role in interreligious and intercultural dialogues.

The Eastern Catholic Churches hold significant potential in fostering Christian unity and engaging in interreligious and intercultural dialogues. They offer invaluable pastoral care for migrants and refugees, providing support and guidance amidst their journeys. Additionally, these churches can be pivotal in nurturing leadership within broader communities. **Addressing pressing social issues, they can actively participate in ecumenical services with other apostolic churches and become a medium for interfaith dialogues.** Through cultural exchange events, parishioners share their customs, music, dance, and cuisine, promoting understanding and appreciation across diverse backgrounds. Moreover, they raise awareness among Christians regarding church teaching and propose or implement changes in laws affecting family, marriage, abortion, and euthanasia, among others, and monitor and have a say in governmental and corporate responses concerning Christian values and traditions. Embracing the diversity of church bodies, they can initiate dialogue with other Christian communities, aiming to develop shared resources for families and children, thus contributing significantly to the overarching goal of Christian unity and fostering inclusive intercultural exchanges.



## CHAPTER 17 MISSION IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

In the ever-evolving digital landscape, the Catholic Church stands at a crossroad, presented with opportunities and challenges in its mission to evangelise the world. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst for innovation, pushing the church to explore new avenues of outreach and engagement. While online platforms have allowed for broader participation and global connectivity, there is a growing concern that reliance solely on digital means may diminish the significance of physical church attendance and personal interaction within parish communities.

However, the church cannot afford to avoid the digital environment. Instead, it must harness its potential to enhance people's faith by providing access to online information, resources, and support networks. This requires a proactive approach to address misinformation, distraction, and privacy concerns. **Collaboration with digital stakeholders, including young talents, can facilitate creating engaging and accurate content that resonates with diverse audiences.**

Moreover, bridging the gap between physical and online spaces is essential, particularly for young people increasingly engaging with faith through digital platforms. **Establishing designated areas within churches for youth forums, educational sessions, interactive sermons, and social activities can foster meaningful connections and dialogue between generations.** Additionally, facilitating one-on-one conversations with church leaders and lay individuals can provide personalised support and guidance in navigating faith in the digital age.

The presence of the church in the digital realm extends its reach to a broader audience, including non-Catholics, and serves as an inclusive space for individuals to explore their faith without fear of judgment. Developing a robust social media strategy can leverage these platforms for evangelisation and community building while promoting a positive and authentic portrayal of the identity of the church.

Furthermore, as online apostolic initiatives transcend territorial boundaries, the role of the church in guiding responsible and ethical online engagement becomes crucial. This includes raising awareness among parents and families about curating quality content for children and establishing clear guidelines for the appropriate use of social media within the church.

Innovative approaches, such as Vatican-sponsored online education and daily Word of God Instagram feeds, demonstrate the commitment of the church to meeting people where they are in the digital space. By embracing the digital missionary frontier with purpose and impact, the Catholic Church can navigate the challenges of the digital age while advancing its mission of spreading the message of Christ to all corners of the world.



## CHAPTER 18 STRUCTURES FOR PARTICIPATION

The Syro-Malabar church embraces different levels of participation, from the grassroots to the Synod of Bishops. The church has established structures to adopt a participatory and inclusive decision-making process, which is listed below.

**Parish Council:** It is a representative council that assists the parish priest in day-to-day activities, decision-making, and the functioning of the parish. The parish council members are elected through a democratic process, ensuring the participation of every parish member. The parish council members represent family group leaders, catechists, pious associations, institutes of consecrated life, and young people, with the recommendation of 30% representation from women. The “Pallyogam” procedural rules govern the council. The administration of the finance and other temporalities of the parish is to be done by the parish priest and elected trustees of the parish with mutual understanding and cooperation and as per the prescriptions of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Catholic Churches (CCEO ) and eparchial norms.

**General Assembly (“Pothuyogam”):** Every parish has its own general assembly for systematic organisation and administration of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the parish. Every registered parish member who has reached 18 years of age is a member of the assembly. The general assembly must prepare and launch a time-bound pastoral plan with the comprehensive vision of promoting the spiritual, social, cultural, biblical, catechetical and liturgical renewal of the whole parish; give leadership in the forming and functioning of small Christian communities and family units; take the initiative in the forming and functioning of lay organisations for men and women and see that the teenagers and the youth are enlisted in one or other of the organisations in the parish; animate the members of the parish to exercise their apostolate in the world through life and witness like a leaven to invite others into the fellowship with God through Christ in the Spirit. The general assembly discusses and passes the parish budget and manages expenditure on each parish priority. Every major financial decision is made after due consultation and consent of the general assembly, thus promoting an informed and participatory decision-making process.

**The Eparchial Pastoral Council:** The decree of the Second Vatican Council concerning the pastoral office of the bishops in the church urges, “It is greatly desired that in each diocese a pastoral council shall be established over which the diocesan Bishop himself will preside and in which specially chosen clergy, religious and lay people will participate. The duty of this commission will be to investigate and weigh pastoral undertakings and to formulate practical conclusions regarding them” (Christus Dominus, No.27). Taking inspiration from the pastoral and canonical instructions of the Catholic Church, the Eparchy of St Thomas, the Apostle, Melbourne constituted the pastoral council as its consultative body consisting of clergy, religious and laity, established under the authority of the eparchial Bishop. The council representatives are elected through a democratic process from each parish. The pastoral council is constituted for three years, and at the expiration of the period, it is reconstituted. The council meets at least once a year to discern the direction of the church and then can make recommendations to the Bishop, who considers them when making decisions. This has led to a more collaborative and inclusive approach to leadership, where everyone’s voice is heard and valued.



**Finance Council:** Under his presidency, the eparchial Bishop erected a finance council with representation from lay faithful with suitable civil law and finance expertise. The finance officer and the council prepare a budget annually for the governance of the eparchy and approve the reports of receipts and expenditures. The collaborative leadership of the clergy and the lay faithful in the finance council is an excellent example of transparent and participatory decision-making.

**Ministries, Departments and Pious Associations:** The consultations voiced the existence of ministries, departments and pious associations as avenues for the participation of faithful of all age groups. **Various laity groups such as Cherupushpa Mission League, Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM), Syro-Malabar Teens Ministry (SMTM), Fathers' Group (Pithruvedi), Mothers' Group (Mathruvedi), Young Couples Ministry, Nurse's Ministry, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Catholic Congress (Social Action Group), Evangelisation Ministry, Catechism Classes for children, Student Councils, Catechists Forums, Safeguarding Departments with lay safeguarding officers at each parish are great avenues for participation and collaboration of laity and the clergy in design and implementation of activities. These groups nurture a culture of participation and cooperation to advance the mission of the church effectively.**

### CONCLUSION:

The selection of Chapter 6, Chapter 17, and Chapter 18 by the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle Melbourne for synodal consultation represents a forward-thinking and comprehensive approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges of our times and opportunities. By embracing its Eastern Christian heritage, leveraging digital technology for evangelisation, and fostering inclusive and participatory decision-making processes, the church is poised to navigate the complexities of the modern world while remaining rooted in its rich tradition of faith and communion. Through these concerted efforts, the eparchy reaffirms its commitment to proclaiming the Gospel message and building a vibrant and dynamic community of faith that transcends geographical boundaries and embraces the diverse gifts and voices of its members.

### KEY POINTS: CHAPTER 6

1. In Catechesis for different age groups and inclusivity in governance, the Syro-Malabar Church actively encourages the participation of men, women and youth in parish councils and other decision-making bodies. Annual general body meetings provide a platform for members to voice their perspectives on critical issues and advocate for change.
2. Inviting priests to concelebrate in liturgies across catholic rites, sharing historical insights behind liturgical practices, and organising combined celebrations of feasts and events enhance communal bonds and visibility across Catholic communities. Embracing collaboration at various levels, from parish to diocesan and national, facilitates the development of shared resources and initiatives to benefit families and children, thus exemplifying the ethos of unity in diversity within the Catholic Church.
3. The Eastern churches can actively participate in ecumenical services with other apostolic churches and become a medium for interfaith dialogues, collaborating with different denominations.



### KEY POINTS: CHAPTER 17

1. Establishing designated areas within churches for youth forums, educational sessions, interactive sermons, and social activities can foster meaningful connections and dialogue between generations.
2. Collaboration with digital stakeholders, including young talents, can facilitate the creation of engaging and accurate content that resonates with diverse audiences.

### KEY POINTS: CHAPTER 18

1. The Syro-Malabar church embraces different levels of participation, from the grassroots to the Synod of Bishops. The church has established structures to adopt a participatory and inclusive decision-making process, which are Parish Council, General Assembly ("Pothuyogam"), Eparchial Pastoral Council, Finance Council and various Ministries, Departments and Pious Associations.
2. Laity groups such as Cherupushpa Mission League, Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM), Syro-Malabar Teens Ministry (SMTM), Fathers' Group (Pithruvedi), Mothers' Group (Mathruvedi), Young Couples Ministry, Nurse's Ministry, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Catholic Congress (Social Action Group), Evangelisation Ministry, Catechism Classes for children, Student Councils, Catechists Forums, Safeguarding departments with lay safeguarding officers at each parish are great avenues for participation and collaboration of laity and the clergy in design and implementation of activities. These groups nurture a culture of participation and cooperation to advance the mission of the church effectively.

*... We recall that the purpose of the Synod,  
and therefore of this consultation,  
is not to produce documents, but "to plant dreams,  
draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish,  
inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships,  
awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another  
and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm  
hearts, give strength to our hands ...*





## Synod 2021 2024 Sixteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

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

# TESTIMONY ON SYNODAL PRACTICES

## INTRODUCTION

The Synodal testimony report of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, has been prepared to shine light on the synodal practices of the eparchy. This report documents our journey towards being a synodal church. To understand this report better, a brief history of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne is given as an introduction.

Pope Francis established the Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, for the Syro- Malabar faithful (Sancti Thomae Apostoli Melburnensis Syro-Malabarensium) on 23 December 2013. In 2021, Pope Francis extended the jurisdiction of the eparchy to New Zealand and all other Oceanian countries. Over the past 11 years, the eparchy has grown to four foranes, 13 parishes and 53 missions, with 36 priests serving in the eparchy. We have been blessed to establish parishes/missions in all major Australian and New Zealand cities, and our mission is growing to other regional areas. These establishments have helped the Syro-Malabar faithful receive ongoing pastoral care and participation in regular Holy Qurbana (Eucharistic celebration in the Syro-Malabar rite) and regular faith formation classes for children and young people.

## SYNODALITY IN PRACTICE

Syro-Malabar faithful across the eparchy acknowledge that synodality is practised through the various departments, apostolates, ministries and administrative bodies in our parishes/missions. Cherupushpa Mission League, Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM), Syro-Malabar Teens Ministry (SMTM), Fathers' Group (Pithruvedi), Mothers' Group (Mathruvedi), Young Couples Ministry, Nurse's Ministry, Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Congress (Social Action Group), Evangelisation Ministry, Catechism



Department, Student Councils, Catechists Forums, Safeguarding Department give the laity a sense of belonging and responsibility for the church. The departments encourage active participation in decision-making and provide avenues for individuals to serve their calling. These departments and ministries conduct regular meetings and planned events or retreats centred around the teachings of Christ, with the common goal of creating a good fellowship of the Holy Spirit within our churches. The faithful often comment that these departments "...are the pillars of the church structure."

Synodality is practised at various hierarchical levels of the eparchy. Under the guidance of the Curia, the Eparchial (Diocesan) Pastoral Council operates to discuss and develop strategies to improving eparchial level activities. The Pastoral Council is comprised of clergy, members from each parish/mission and nominated members from pious organisations and ministries of the eparchy. Mirroring the structure of the Pastoral Council, we have established Parish Councils (prathinidhiyogam) in each Parish/Mission which is made up of representatives from each cottage prayer group (cottage prayers groups are created in each suburb or a group of suburbs) and pious departments and organisations of the parish/mission. In addition, all members of the parish are part of the general assembly (pothuyogam) for the systematic organization and administration of the spiritual and temporal affairs of their community. All activities undertaken in the parish/mission are guided by the Palliyogam-Procedure Rules; uniform law to assist with the smooth functioning and the integral development of the communities.

Members are appointed to leadership positions in the councils and departments after an election process. All voices are listened to, and candidates are chosen after consultation with the clergy and experienced elders. Participatory decision making is encouraged and practiced in the councils and departments. The decision-making process is democratic and transparent, and accountability is encouraged in all activities.

The recount below demonstrates the journey of our young people in forming and being part of a Synodal Church.

## A SYNODAL CHURCH LED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

The Syro-Malabar Youth Movement is a shining example of how a synodal church must exist. Being a member of the Youth Apostolate Executive team, the coordinator of the Youth of New Zealand, and part of the leadership team in my local community in Auckland, I have seen first-hand how opportunities are given to all to be an active part of the church and to share their voices and opinions. I would like to focus on the aspects of the Youth Apostolate structure, how youth leadership selection occurs, the representation of youth in councils, and how National Youth Events are conducted.

The Youth Apostolate in the Eparchy of Melbourne is structured in a way so that effective collaboration can occur from the regional level all the way to an eparchial level. The Youth Apostolate Executive team comprises a team of representatives from the different regions of Oceania who represent their states/countries and take charge of different aspects of the Apostolate, such as evangelisation, media, finances, etc., at an Eparchial level. Under this team comes the National Teams, which includes representatives from the different regions within their respective countries, allowing leaders to understand



each country's diverse needs. Under this team, there are regional leadership teams who coordinate activities at a parish/mission level and can help to convey the needs of the young people at the parish/mission level.

With regards to Youth leadership, the church has been active in inviting young people to take charge of organising themselves with the guidance of elders rather than the direct command of elders. Events like the Youth Leaders' Summit (YLS), which is held once every two years nationally, allow for young people from each region to participate and build inter-regional relationships over the days of the summit, after which they can vote to decide who is best suited to lead and represent them at a national level. The connections made and the training received at YLS also help each region to select leadership teams of young people who work with the Parish Priest to spiritually nourish the Youth of the Parish.

Additionally, national and eparchial events, such as the UNITE conference, are conducted with consultation from regional leaders and the collection of expressions of interest, expectations of resources and topics, and feedback from youth around the nation. This gives a platform for all to express their voices regarding how the events are conducted.

The understanding that the youth are not just the future of the church but also the "now" of the church is clear in the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne; the various councils and departments, at all levels, are advised to have members of the Youth to effectively communicate the needs of the youth.

As seen, synodality is a key part of the functioning of the Syro-Malabar church in our Eparchy, with particular focus on the Youth Apostolate and the Syro-Malabar Youth Movement. If we want to guide the church to become more Synodal, then it is crucial that this process starts with the young people in our church, as seen in our Eparchy.

**Jacob Anithottam (KHS)**  
**Evangelisation Coordinator,**  
**Youth Apostolate**

*National Coordinator, Syro-Malabar Youth Movement, New Zealand Youth Counselor, Syro-Malabar Youth Movement, Auckland Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne*



## THE SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL ASSEMBLY 2024

On April 15, 2024, Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, by decree of convocation and in accordance with the Statutes, announced that the Fifth Major Archbishopal Assembly of the Syro-Malabar Church will be held from August 23 to 25, 2024, in Palai. This Assembly, a key consultative body convening every five years, addresses significant Church matters. The theme for this assembly is "Mission and Life of the Syro-Malabar Church in response to the needs of the time," emphasizing the Church's commitment to relevance.

**DATE:** August 23-25, 2024

**VENUE:** Alphonsian Pastoral Institute, Arunapuram, Eparchy of Palai

**STARTING TIME:** Formal Session begins at 6:00pm on August 22, 2024

**CONCLUSION:** Sunday, August 25, 2024, at 1:00pm

### Process and Preparation for the Major Arch Episcopal Assembly:

The Syro-Malabar Church has prepared extensively for the upcoming assembly, inviting topic proposals through consultations at all levels, including families, parishes, and eparchies. These consultations aim to ensure a productive assembly. The Major Archbishopal Assembly seeks to discern the Holy Spirit's guidance for the Church's mission and life. The assembly process involves reflection, addressing challenges, and rediscovering the Church's identity, like historic Church councils. It focuses on continual reformation, renewing faith formation, empowering the laity, and strengthening community engagement.

### Assembly Lineamenta and Action Plans:

The Lineamenta, a preparatory document, outlines key themes and proposes strategies to invigorate the Syro-Malabar Church's mission of spreading the Gospel by attuning to the Holy Spirit and interpreting contemporary signs.

### Our Eparchy Level Preparations and Participation:

Extensive consultations were held at parish and pastoral council levels, ensuring inclusivity and grassroots involvement. Deliberations focused on urgent issues, particularly for Syro-Malabar faithful in Australia, such as enhancing catechism

training to address lukewarm faith among children, fostering a deeper ecclesial sense among the faithful, encouraging youth participation in Sunday Holy Qurbana, promoting active lay participation in proclaiming the Gospel, and empowering the Syro-Malabar Community in Australia. The outcomes and proposals from these discussions have been shared with the Major Archbishopal Assembly team for further consideration.

### Representatives from Eparchy:

- Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil CMI
- Msgr Francise Kolencherry – Vicar General
- Fr Siby Pulickal- Presbyteral council secretary
- Mr Joby Philip – Secretary Pastoral Council
- Mr Gaveen George – Co Ordinator Eparchy Media Commission
- Ms Sheril Jose Sao - Pastoral Council member

I invite everyone to pray for the success of this assembly. Guided by the Holy Spirit, may it bring grace, renewal, and inspiration to our Syro-Malabar Church. May the efforts of the Major Archbishopal Assembly be abundantly blessed, fulfilling God's will through its deliberations and actions.

**Msgr Francis Kolencherry**  
Vicar General



# Departmental Updates



# Department of CATECHESIS



## NSW & ACT CATECHESIS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Most Rev. Charles Balvo acclaimed during inaugural address of NSW & ACT Catechism Teachers Conference, Lumen Fidei 4.2, held in Canberra that the Catechesis of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy is a model for the universal church. The event is marked by a presidential address from Catechism Director Fr. Mathew Areplackal and the presence of distinguished clergy from various parishes. Felicitations were offered by Fr. Bineesh Narimattathil, Fr. Dalish Kocheriyil, Fr. Mathew Areplackal, Fr. George Mankuzhikkari, Fr. Binu Maliakkal, Fr. Thomas Pezhumkattil, Fr. John Puthuva, Fr. Joby Tharaniyil, and Fr. Siby Thannikal. A total of 160 catechism teachers from 15 centers participated in the training course.



## CATECHISM ANTHEM RELEASE



The Department of Catechesis proudly released the first-ever catechism anthem for students. The audio, unveiled by Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Most Rev. Charles Balvo on May 11, 2024, was complemented by a video release by Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil on June 11, 2024. The anthem, with lyrics written in three languages by Catechism director Fr. Mathew Areplackal and music by Albin Dominic, will be a significant addition to the Syro-Malabar catechism education.

## CATECHISM DATA RELEASE

Rev. Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil released the 2024 catechism data during the Laudato Si 4.2 second-quarter principals' conference on June 2, 2024. The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, has 59 catechism centres, 10,074 students, and 1,349 catechism teachers across Australia and New Zealand.





**PROFESSIONAL SCORING FOR CATECHISM CENTRES**

A new professional scoring system for catechism centres was introduced in 2024. Centre's participating in Department-announced programs and meetings will earn 100 points for each activity, encouraging active engagement and excellence.

**FAITH FEST DOCUMENT RELEASE**



The Department released the 4th Faith Fest Document, "Something Beautiful for God Version 4.0." This year's document, the result of over 400 hours of collaborative effort by 27 resource personnel, emphasizes the divine virtue of Charity (Love) within the context of the Ten Commandments.

**QADOSH 1 TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

On May 12, 2024, 120 participants from 27 parishes attended the Qadosh 1 training session focused on "Holy – Qurbana, Celebration of God's Love," conducted by Fr. Denny Thomas Nedumpthalil.

**LAUDATO SI 4.2 PRINCIPALS MEETING Q2 2024**

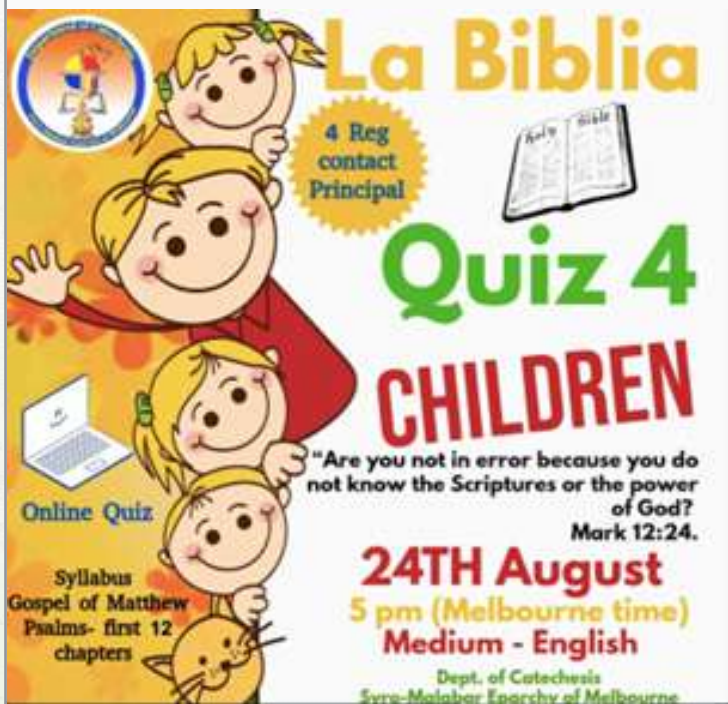
The second-quarter principals' conference, held via Zoom on June 2, 2024, was blessed by Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil. The meeting saw attendance from 39 principals.

**YEAR 12 CATECHISM ASSIGNMENT 2024**

The topic for the Year 12 catechism assignment in 2024 will be "My Lord & My God – Unveiling the Syro-Malabar Legacy." This theme aims to deepen students' understanding of their Syro-Malabar heritage.

**LA BIBLIA BIBLE QUIZ FOR CHILDREN**

The inaugural online Bible quiz for children, La Biblia, is scheduled for Saturday, August 24. Registrations are open through respective catechism centres. The quiz will cover the Gospel of St. Matthew and Psalms chapters 1-12.



**HOLY COMMUNION TEACHERS TRAINING**

The fourth training session for Holy Communion teachers was held on June 8, 2024, with 84 teachers from 34 parishes in attendance.



# Department of PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

## SAFEGUARDING NEWS AND UPDATES

### 1. VICTORIAN COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - CHANGES TO THE REPORTABLE CONDUCT SCHEME

From 1 July 2024, more types of employees will be covered by the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

The new types of employees covered by the Reportable Conduct Scheme include:

- Workers or volunteers provided by labour hire agencies, companies or other providers
- Secondees
- individual business owners who employ or engage staff
- Directors of companies where the director performs work for the organisation.

Reportable Conduct includes conduct inside and outside the workplace. The changes make sure allegations of harm and abuse by workers, regardless of their type of employment, are properly reported and investigated to create better safeguards for children in Victoria.

### 2. WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY (WEAAD) IS 15 JUNE

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 66/127, designated **15 June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)**.

WEAAD is celebrated each year, globally, providing an opportunity for communities to stand together against the abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older people.

#### WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder abuse comes in many forms. It can be financial, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, or social. Elder abuse can occur once, or many times and can vary in severity from subtle through to extreme. It can include one or a combination of the different types of abuse.

Most often, elder abuse is carried out by someone known to the older person, with two thirds of abusers being an adult child. Abusers can also be other family members, relatives, or friends.

Elder abuse affects people of all genders and all walks of life. The abuse, however, disproportionately affects women – two-thirds of people seeking help from SRV are women.



**3. TOOLKIT RELEASED TO HELP BRISBANE PARISHES FIGHT SCOURGE OF MODERN SLAVERY;**

The Brisbane archdiocese’s Legal, Governance and Risk team in conjunction with the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network has released an anti-slavery parish toolkit to help break exploitation practices and raise awareness about the reality facing tens of thousands of people in Australia.

**VIEW THE ANTI-SLAVERY PARISH TOOLKIT.**

**4. NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCING ORGANISATIONAL CHILD-SAFE PRACTICES - RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE:**

The online Symposium was facilitated by the Institute of Child Protection Studies at Australian Catholic University and the Sexual Violence Research and Prevention Unit, University of the Sunshine Coast.

The Symposium was an opportunity to focus on the importance of contextual strategies in preventing child sexual abuse and making our organisations child-safe spaces.

Following the Symposium a range of resources are now available.

- Recording of symposium (2 hours)
- Context matters: Conceptualising and operationalising the contextual prevention of child sexual abuse (Open access article)
- Contextual prevention: Going beyond individual prevention (practice resource)





**SAFEGUARDING UPDATES FROM PARISHES:  
( ST KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA MISSION- BY PSO JOY CYRIAC)**

1. **SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE:** The mission has established a safeguarding committee to oversee the implementation of safeguarding practices, policies, and procedures. This committee is crucial for ensuring that the mission events are safe environments for young children.
2. **LOCAL SPECIFIC HAZARD INSPECTION CHECKLIST:** Developing a local-specific hazard inspection checklist is a proactive approach by the mission safeguarding committee for identifying and mitigating potential risks that could lead to accidents among children during mission events. This checklist ensures that specific local hazards are addressed and minimized.
3. **ADVANCED SAFER CHURCHES TRAINING:** The mission organized an Advanced Safer Churches Training on 25th May 2024, which was attended by 30 volunteers. This training program is crucial as it equips volunteers with advanced skills and knowledge in safeguarding practices.
4. **FACILITATOR:** National Safeguarding Officer Benny Sebastian facilitated the training. His role indicates that the training was conducted by an experienced professional in safeguarding practices, ensuring that volunteers receive high-quality training.

**TRAINING UPDATES:**

So far this year, trainings have been held in the following parishes:

VIC: Melbourne North, South East and West Parish, Shepparton, Bendigo.

QLD: Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast.

NSW: Wollongong Mission, Orange, Dubbo.

WA: Perth Parish

NT: Alice Springs.

**UPCOMING TRAININGS:**

Wagga Wagga, Sunshine coast, Ballarat, Canberra, Adelaide





# Department of FAMILY APOSTOLATE

APRIL TO JUNE  
2024

## PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: MELBOURNE'S THREE-DAY RESIDENTIAL COURSE

From May 28th to May 30th, 2024, Melbourne hosted a transformative three-day Residential Marriage Preparation Course (MPC). This event drew 24 participants from various regions across Australia, adding a rich tapestry of experiences and backgrounds to the program.

The diverse group of attendees greatly enriched the experience, as they engaged with resource persons from various professional and personal backgrounds. Esteemed priests, medical professionals, and married couples led various sessions, providing a well-rounded perspective on the sacred journey of marriage. Among the notable facilitators were Fr Joseph Ezhumayil and Fr Tijo Devasia Puthenparambil, whose guidance was instrumental throughout the course.

The program featured significant spiritual components that deepened the participants' preparation process. The sacrament of reconciliation and daily Holy Qurbana (Mass) infused the event with profound spiritual significance. Additionally, Eucharistic adoration offered moments of reflection and reverence, enhancing the participants' spiritual connection and understanding of the sacred commitment of marriage.

This May's MPC was a valuable experience for all involved, providing not only practical knowledge but also fostering a strong sense of spiritual readiness for the journey ahead.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

3 DAYS RESIDENTIAL COURSE

Aug 27<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 9AM to  
Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office.familyapostolate@syromalabar.org.au)
- Last date for Registration: **10<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024**  
[syromalabar.org.au/services/marriage-preparation-course](http://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

### FUTURE MPC EVENTS

The next three-day residential MPC in Melbourne is scheduled for August 27th to 29th, 2024 (Tuesday to Thursday). Following that, another course will be held from November 26th to 28th, 2024 (Tuesday to Thursday).

### FOR ANY COURSE ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

**SANTHOSH JOSE**

**MOBILE:**  
**0423 450 768**

**EMAIL:**  
**[office@familyapostolate.syromalabar.org.au](mailto:office@familyapostolate.syromalabar.org.au)**

Embark on this enriching journey to prepare for the sacred commitment of marriage





# Department of YOUTH APOSTOLATE

APRIL TO JUNE  
2024

## DARWIN MISSION

From May 23rd to 26th, the Sliha Da'Msiha team visited St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish in Darwin to cultivate and foster the faith and fellowship of the young children! With the help of local catechism teachers, the team led a fun-filled faith fest program for children between grades 1-12. Through the program, the team also provided a valuable framework for leading similar events in the future, empowering the parish community to continue fostering the spiritual growth of their young ones.

The faith fest was a beautiful blend of learning sessions, engaging games, and moments of fellowship. Holy Qurbana and Eucharistic adorations provided spiritual nourishment and contributed to the faith formation of the children. The sessions all revealed an innate desire to learn more about their faith, and a yearning to grow closer to Christ. Through the sessions, the children were given deeper insights of how to apply in their life learnings about, hope, the Syro-Malabar Qurbana, their identity in Christ, the importance of Mother Mary, and living a renewed life. A dedicated session for parents was also delivered to ensure a holistic approach to faith formation, empowering families to grow together on their spiritual journeys.

By the conclusion of the four-day program, the entire parish community experienced a surge in spiritual vibrancy. The Sliha Da'Msiha team's dedication to empowering faith formation not only ignited a spark in the young hearts of St. Alphonsa Parish but also equipped the community to continue nurturing that flame for years to come!





## INDIA MISSION

The Sliha DaMsiha team embarked on a historic journey in late April, venturing beyond borders for their first ever International mission!

Five dedicated youth spent two transformative weeks in India. They journeyed to Odisha, where they spent two weeks visiting remote villages, leading youth camps and connecting with local children and young adults. The team then traveled to their homeland- Kerala, where they had the privilege of meeting with the Major Archbishop and other priests and leaders of our Church, as well as seminarians including the future priests of the Melbourne Eparchy.

This incredible experience left an indelible mark on everyone involved. The team's dedication and passion were evident, not only during their mission but also upon their return. On June 26th, they shared their unforgettable experiences with the Eparchy family through a captivating online session called "Mission Memoirs" with the hope that their stories ignited a spark, inspiring many more to take up opportunities for mission and spread the message of faith.





# *Parish Mission Updates*



## AVE MARIA SYRO MALABAR MISSION IPSWICH

### MATHRUVEDI'S EASTER DONATIONS IN APRIL 2024

**M**athruvedi made a significant contribution during the Easter period by donating money and non-perishable items to the sisters of Mother Teresa. This act of kindness helped support the charitable works carried out by the sisters, providing aid to those in need during the Easter celebrations.

### AMCM Ipswich Parish Thirunal and Parish Day Celebrations on May 4-5, 2024

**T**he AMCM Ipswich community came together to celebrate their Parish Thirunal and Parish Day with great enthusiasm. The event was marked by various cultural and religious activities that fostered a sense of community and celebration among the parishioners.



### Nurses Ministry Holy Mass and Seminar on May 10, 2024

**T**he Nurses Ministry organized a special Holy Mass followed by a seminar. This event aimed to provide spiritual nourishment and professional guidance to nurses, recognizing their invaluable service to society.

### Mother's Day Celebration on May 10, 2024



**M**other's Day was celebrated with joy and gratitude. Mathruvedi organized events to honor mothers, acknowledging their love, sacrifice, and the pivotal role they play in families and communities.

### Mathruvedi Day Trip on May 17, 2024

**M**athruvedi organized a day trip for its members, providing an opportunity for relaxation, fellowship, and enjoyment outside the usual environment. It was a day filled with fun activities and bonding experiences.

### Pentecost Day Multicultural Mass on May 19, 2024

**T**he Ipswich Catholic community celebrated Pentecost Day along with St. Marys Church Ipswich with a multicultural mass, reflecting the diverse cultural backgrounds of its members. The event was a vibrant display of unity in diversity, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.

### Ezhuthiniruthu Ceremony on May 26, 2024

**U**nder the guidance of Anto Achan, the Ezhuthiniruthu ceremony was conducted. This traditional ceremony marks the beginning of a child's education journey, where they are introduced to the world of letters and knowledge.

### Sunday School Term 1 Examination on June 9, 2024

**T**he Sunday School conducted its Term 1 examination, assessing the children's understanding of their religious education. It was an important day for students to demonstrate their learning and progress.

### Bible Kalolsavam on June 15, 2024

**T**he Bible Kalolsavam was a festive event where participants showcased their talents through various performances and competitions centered around biblical themes. It was a celebration of faith and creativity.

### Anto Achan's Feast Celebration on June 16, 2024

**T**he Bible Kalolsavam was a festive event where participants showcased their talents through various performances and competitions centered around biblical themes. It was a celebration of faith and creativity.





## Christ the King Syro-Malabar Mission Sydney - Holsworthy

### MOVIE DAY

Following Easter celebrations, a screening of the movie 'The Hope' was held on April 26 following Holy Qurbana. This day provided an opportunity for the community to come together and experience how we are able to praise God and spread the Good News in mediums like cinema. The movie was preceded by a barbeque fundraiser run by our SMYM team. A big thank you to all who were involved in organising for their efforts.

### MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

We showed our appreciation to the incredible mothers in the Christ the King community for their hard work and endless love on Mother's Day. Following Holy Qurbana, the Pithruvedhi organised a delicious Mother's Day lunch for everyone to enjoy.

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

Pentecost was celebrated on May 19 which as we all know is one of the most important feast days of the year that concludes the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church.

### FAREWELLING

#### FR. GEORGE MANKUZHICARY

At the end of May we farewelled our parish priest Fr. George Mankuzhikary after a blessed year leading our community. We thank George Acha for his dedicated service, spiritual guidance and unwavering support and leadership for the CTK community over the past year and wish him all the best for his future endeavours. May God continue to strengthen you and bless you in all you do.

### WELCOMING FR. JERIN ARIMBOOR

We welcomed Fr. Jerin Arimboor to our parish in early June. We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide you as you begin to spiritually guide and lead the CTK community. May your time with us be filled with blessings and joy.

### MALAYALAM CLASSES

Malayalam classes for our Catechism students officially began on June 16. These classes start at 9:00am every Sunday before Catechism. These classes could not go ahead without the support of all the volunteers who have stepped up to teach and help connect our children to their heritage through the gift of our native tongue. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen all in this initiative.

### BIBLE STUDY GRADUATES

Congrats to the graduates who completed the 1-year bible study organised by Pontifical Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Alwaye. We appreciate their dedication as this required lot of effort, as they had weekly online classes for 12 months to study the 73 books of the bible and all of them completed with flying colours. Viji Parackal, Raimol Viji, Meena Geed, Shissy Jaimes

### SMTM INAUGURATION

We also launched the SMTM (Syro Malabar Teens movement) wing in our parish to inspire and support teens in growing their love for Christ and building a strong faith community.

### SMTM INAUGURATION

Our priest and youth actively participated in this month's Soup Kitchen, an initiative by the Missionaries of Charity, prepares and serves food to the needy. They started with adoration, followed by cooking, packing, serving, and cleaning afterwards. Volunteers also spend time talking and interacting with those in need, making it a deeply enriching and blessed experience for all involved.





# MARY MATHA SYRO-MALABAR MISSION, GOLD COAST

- The feast of St. Joseph was celebrated at Mary Matha Mission on the Gold Coast on March 19th, with Fr. Anto Chiriyankandath officiated as the chief celebrant.
- 40th Friday special Holy Mass and Stations of the Cross held at Marian Valley Pilgrimage center. Approximately 500 devotees joined this sacred gathering, organized by Mary Matha Mission, Gold Coast. The Holy Mass was presided over by priests from the Qld Forane, followed by a profound Stations of the Cross ceremony
- Witness the profound display of faith and reverence during Good Friday Stations of the Cross procession by Mary Matha Syro-Malabar Mission ,Gold Coast , enacted beautifully by the SMYM youth team. Each station a poignant reminder of our Lord's Passion and sacrifice.
- The Mary Matha Gold Coast Mission celebrated Bible Fest for the Catechism students on June 22nd and 23rd. Highlights of the event included a Bible fest procession, a Bible quiz, Bible recitations, a vibrant dance competition, and a fancy dress competition.





## St. Alphonsa Cathedral Parish – Melbourne North

The past three months have been a time of fellowship and faith in our parish, filled with a multitude of events and community-building activities.

Our journey began with the SMYM-organised Youth Dinner on Sunday, 14th April. Preceding the dinner, we were blessed to have Rev. Fr Luke Thadathil, professor at St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary in Alwaye, join us for a special session. He provided deeper insights into the spatial locations of major biblical events and celebrated the Holy Qurbana with our Parish. Fr Luke also conducted a session for adults on Friday, 26th April at St Stephen's Church.

As we moved into May, we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday, 9th May, with Holy Qurbana at St Stephen's Church in Reservoir. The following Sunday, 12th May, we celebrated Mother's Day. Mathruvedi organised special gifts for all mothers, and following the Holy Qurbana, the mothers personally prepared cake pieces to share with parishioners. Mathruvedi continues to run the 12-hour adoration on the second Friday of each month.

The Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, May 19th, 2024, was marked by Eshuthiniruthu Susrusha (Vidyarambham) for young children following the Holy Qurbana services at both Reservoir and Roxburgh Park.

On Friday, 24th May, SMTM organised an exciting games night for children in grades 9 to 12 at St Stephen's Church from 6pm to 9pm. The event featured various activities and delicious food for all participants.

The Nurses' Ministry celebrated both International Nurses Day and Fatima Day with May Fest 2024. Following Adoration and Holy Qurbana at St Peter's Church, they organised a snehavirunu.

One of the most significant events this quarter was the conclusion of the Vanakkamasam to Blessed Mother Mary, which coincided with the first anniversary of Bishop John's Episcopal Ordination and his

birthday. We were fortunate to have Mar Bishop John Panamthottathil join us for the celebration and offer Holy Qurbana.

Catechism classes have been progressing well, with weekly assemblies featuring presentations on saints by different year levels. Catechism examinations for this semester were held on June 16th.

A new group has been formed for young men called 'Young Men for Christ' (YMC), aged 18 to 25 within our parish, gathering on the first Saturday evening of each month for prayer, discussions, and fellowship.

Our SMCC (Syro-Malabar Cultural Centre) has received DGR status and will continue to provide opportunities for youth engagement and advocate for our cultural importance within Australia.

Throughout these months, our Cathedral construction has continued to make progress. Overall, this quarter has been a blessing, filled with spiritual growth and community engagement.





## ST ALPHONSA SYRO MALABAR FORANE CHURCH – ADELAIDE CENTRAL SA

From March to June, St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Forane Parish came together for several events. On March 16th, 400 parishioners gathered for the Annual Lenten Pilgrimage. This pilgrimage has become a cherished tradition, allowing participants to deepen their faith during the Lenten season. The day began with the Holy Qurbana, followed by the Way of the Cross, where attendees reflected on the passion of Christ.

On March 23rd, 600 parishioners came together for the Way of the Cross at Eden Valley Lookout. This procession, marked by the carrying of a wooden cross, allowed participants to vividly experience the stations of the cross.

Holy Week was celebrated grandly at St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Forane Church. Good Friday was a particular highlight, beginning with a solemn morning service at our church. In the afternoon, a Way of the Cross service was held at a park with 1,400 people from all three parishes. The youth organized and performed a realistic and heart-wrenching Passion of the Christ play, which deeply moved all attendees.

April 21st marked the Feast of St. George, celebrated with the traditional Snehavirunnu.

On April 27th, SMYM Adelaide Central organized a basketball tournament, Christ on the Court. The event featured basketball matches between youth and teen groups, culminating in a final tournament. A girls' basketball match, dance performances by catechism students, teens, youth, and Mathruvethi, as well as food stalls by Pithruvethi, face painting, and henna stalls, highlighted the day's activities. The event, conducted under youth leadership, was a huge success and showcased the strong support for the youth within the community.

On 7th May a catechism teachers seminar was held, featuring Fr. Rev. Luke Thadathil, who focused on the theology of the Holy Bible.

On May 12th, the church held a special Qurbana for Year 12 graduates. Additionally, mothers received a special blessing in honor of Mother's Day, and SMYM youth presented a heartfelt video dedicated to their mothers. On the Friday before Pentecost, our church held an overnight adoration, allowing parishioners to be in the presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit as they prepared to enter into Pentecost.

Pentecost Sunday was observed on May 19th, followed by the Feast of the Holy Trinity on May 25th. During this feast, children who had recently received their First Holy Communion processed into the church in their holy communion dresses.





# St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish, Brisbane North

## CELEBRATING FAITH: CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION IN BRISBANE CITY



On June 2, 2024, over five thousand people participated in Brisbane's annual Corpus Christi Procession, led by Archbishop Mark Coleridge from the Cathedral of St. Stephen. The streets, decorated with flowers and banners, saw significant turnout from the St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar North Brisbane Parish, whose traditional attire added a multicultural element to the event. The procession highlighted community spirit and inclusivity, uniting people of various ages and backgrounds in a shared expression of faith.

**Ajimon Antony, Secretary to the Parish Pastoral Council**

## BIBLE KALOLSAVAM: CELEBRATING THE ART OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Bible Kalolsavam - April 13,14 Our children delved into the rich tapestry of the Holy Scriptures, bringing to life the teachings and stories of the Holy Bible. Through melodious hymns, dynamic dances, insightful speeches, and vibrant artwork, each participant showcased their profound understanding and love for the Word of God. This event highlighted their dedication and creativity, reflecting a deep connection to their faith.



## PARISH HONORS MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY



On May 12, 2024, the parish celebrated Mother's Day by honouring all mothers during a special ceremony at the church. The festivities began with a Holy Mass led by Rev. Fr. Varghese Vithayathil. Following the service, grandparents were honoured, and a cake-cutting ceremony took place.

## MATHRUVEDI ORGANISES DAY TRIP TO BULLOCKY REST JOYNER



On May 30th, Mathruvedi organised a delightful day trip for the mothers of our parish to Bullocky Rest Joyner, aiming to enhance and nurture women's social connections and well-being. The event saw the participation of around 65 members, who described the day as "a beautiful day out full of laughter, fun games, and an opportunity to get together."

## FAITH FEST

On June 22,23,24 a three day event was a celebration emphasizing love, respect and faith. Key features included a meaningful procession and an insightful exhibition by students on the lives of Catholic saints who exemplified these values. There were also inspiring lectures, enjoyable activities, and Q&A sessions for all age groups.





# St. Alphonsa Syro- Malabar Forane Parish Parramatta

## NSW & ACT Syro-Malabar Parishes Lenten Pilgrimage to Berrima

On the occasion of the 40th Friday of the Great Lent and Lazarus Saturday, devotees from NSW & ACT Syro-Malabar parishes gathered at Berrima for a Lenten Pilgrimage which included Holy Qurbana and Parihara Pradakshanam. Forane Vicar Fr. Mathew Areeplackal with distinguished Achanmar from various parishes celebrated the Holy Qurbana. The Parihara Pradakshanam was led by esteemed Achanmar from the Forane parishes, with over 1000 devotees participating. The event concluded with Snehavirunnu.

## Forane Declaration

Declaration of St Alphonsa Parish Parramatta to the Forane status was held on 13th April at St Alphonsa parish Parramatta. Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil was the main celebrant of the Pontifical Holy Qurbana, joined by Forane Vicar Fr. Mathew Areeplackal and distinguished priests from sister parishes and other neighbouring parishes. Representatives from 15 parishes of the Forane participated in the Holy Qurbana.

A mega margam kali by the host parish, group dance by catechism students and performances by the vibrant SMYM group added the cultural significance to the event..



## Mothers' Day & International Nurses Day

The parish celebrated Mothers' Day and International Nurses Day on May 12th, coinciding with the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima.

## Catechism Annual Day

The parish celebrated Catechism Annual Day on May 4th at Nagle College Hall. Rev. Fr. Damonn Sypher FSSP graced the event as chief guest. Vicar Fr. Mathew Areeplackal and the chief guest presented academic awards to Catechism students for 2023 and recognized teachers for their decade-long commitment. Mr. Sherin Jose, the Catechism Principal, extended a warm welcome to all attendees, Anu Paul and Jisha Thomas, secretaries of the catechism unit, delivered felicitation speeches, expressing gratitude and admiration for the dedication of teachers and students alike. The celebrations featured a rich tapestry of cultural performances, including dances, action songs, & skits coordinated by Sheeba Joyson. Parethan – a drama by the parish council members added more colour to the event. More than 250 students participated in the programs. The festivities concluded with "Snehavirunnu," a moment of communal reinforcing the bonds within the parish community.

## Alphonse Musical Show

The inaugural outreach program of St. Alphonsa Forane Parish Parramatta, Alphonse Musical Show, took place on June 15th, 2024, at Stanhope Gardens. Alphonse and his incredible team performed an absolutely mesmerising music event. Over 1000 Forane parishioners attended this thrilling music performance.





# St. Joseph Syro-Malabar Parish, Perth

The last few months paved the way for our community to encounter Christ through the various events that were held across all ministries. Our parish's first ever "Qadosh" was held and had an amazing turn out of around 100 teens. With the help of the catechism department and SMYM members, the event was successful, and all were filled with immense joy and blessings. Post Qadosh, the SMTM gatherings held at our parish have flourished with numbers and experiences – where the teenagers continue to grow and strengthen their relationship with God through different activities and sessions.

Our parish celebrated Easter where we had our community come together in fellowship, faith, and fun. Along with the parish Easter celebration, our parish ministries, such as SMYM, had also conducted their Easter gatherings with a really good number of members joining for a time of fellowship.

Mathruvedi held 'Grandparents Day' on April 20th 2024, reaching out to all the grandparents who are in Perth at the moment or who have settled in Perth and giving them a chance to network with one another to create more friendships and bonds.

By the grace of God, 5 missionaries from SMYM Australia were sent out for their first international mission trip to India from April 22nd 2024 to May 8th 2024. Our parish was very fortunate to have two of SMYM Perth's members, Hilda Ousephachan and Joel Biju, join the Sliha da'Msiha team in this mission along with our parish priest Fr. Anish James who joined the team for a few days.

Bible Kalolsavam 2024 was held over 3 days, on April 20th, 27th, and May 11th, for our catechism students from all across our five catechism centers. This event gave the opportunity all the students to share their talents and capabilities and use them to praise and glorify God. The event included many different single items such as essay writing, drawing, elocution, as well as many group items such as bible quiz, margamkali, biblical tableau and many more.

SMYCM (Syro-Malabar Young Couples Ministry) had their new leadership team formed under the guidance of both our Parish Priest and Assistant Parish Priest. They were able to hold a few successful events such as Games Night and Movie Night – with around 30 young couples joining in for faith, fun and fellowship. Wishing the new team all the best in this new endeavor.

SMYM Perth has held their monthly youth led adoration – "Barak" over the few months and have had the numbers of our community members increase each time. It is amazing to see our parish support the youth and come together in faith. SMYM Perth conducted a Rosary Walk for the first time whilst joining the Rally for Life event on May 15th 2024, representing our Church community and Youth Movement for the first time. We had many people from all our ministries join the youth for this good cause.





# ST. MARY'S SYRO MALABAR PARISH ADELAIDE SOUTH

## APRIL 6: PUTHU NJAYAR THIRUNNAL AND DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Our community celebrated Puthu Njayar Thirunnal and Divine Mercy Sunday with devotion, marked by solemn prayers and communal participation.

## APRIL 13: PARISH FAMILY FUNDAY

The Parish Family Funday on April 13th was a joyous event filled with fun and laughter, thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and participants.

## APRIL 14: FEAST OF ST. GEORGE

The Feast of St. George was celebrated with a solemn Holy Qurbana, followed by Ladeenju and Sneha Virunnu, drawing a large gathering of the faithful.

## MAY 9: FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

On May 9th, we observed the Feast of the Ascension with a Holy Qurbana led by Rev. Dr. Luke Thadathil, reminding us of the Lord's ascension and His eternal presence.

## MAY 11: FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 11th featured a Holy Qurbana and litany led by our Parish Nurses Ministry, praying for all parishioners, especially our nurses.

## MAY 12: MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Mother's Day was celebrated with special prayers and blessings from Fr. Sibi Kurian and Fr. Luke Thadathil, honoring all mothers and those who fulfill a motherly role.

## MAY 19: FEAST OF PENTECOST

The Feast of Pentecost on May 19th included a Holy Qurbana, followed by Adoration and Ezhuthiniruthu, offering a moment of spiritual renewal for the community.

## JUNE 23: FEAST OF ST. ANTONY

The Feast of St. Antony was celebrated with a solemn Qurbana, followed by a Novena and Sneha Virunnu, bringing parishioners together in faith and fellowship.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for the Catechism Bible Kalolsavam on July 20th at 9:00 am at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood, SA. This event promises a day of faith, learning, and community engagement





# St. Marys Syro-Malabar Mission New Castle NSW

മാർച്ച് 19 വിശുദ്ധ യൗസേപ്പിതാവിന്റെ തിരുനാൾ ആഘോഷിച്ചു. ആഘോഷമായ തിരുനാൾ കുർബാനയ്ക്കുശേഷം വിശുദ്ധ രൂപം വഹിച്ചുള്ള പ്രദക്ഷിണവും നേർച്ച വിതരണം നടത്തി. മാർച്ച് 24 -ാം തീയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച ഓരോന്നിനും രാവിലെ 10 മണിക്ക് കുരുത്തോലയും കൈയിലേന്തിയുള്ള പ്രദക്ഷിണവും വിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയും നടന്നു. വിശുദ്ധവാരത്തിലെ ദിനങ്ങളിൽ പുത്തൻ പാന വായന നടത്തി. ദുഃഖവെള്ളിയാഴ്ചത്തെ ശുശ്രൂഷകൾ രാവിലെ പത്തിന് ടൊറോ പള്ളിയിൽ നടന്നു. വി. കുർബാനയ്ക്ക് ശേഷം കുരിശിന്റെ വഴി ദൃശ്യാവിഷ്കാരം മതബോധന വിഭാഗത്തിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ നടന്നു. ദുഃഖ ശനിയാഴ്ച രാവിലെ വി.കുർബാനയോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് പുത്തൻ വെള്ളം വെത്തിരിപ്പും ജ്ഞാനസ്നാനവ്രത നവീകരണവും നടന്നു. ഈസ്റ്റർ കർമ്മങ്ങൾ രാത്രി 9 മണിക്ക് ഷോർട്ട്ലാന്റ് പള്ളിയിൽ നടന്നു.

ഏപ്രിൽ ഏഴാം തീയതി പുതുഞായറാഴ്ച ദൈവ കരുണയുടെ തിരുനാളും ആഘോഷിച്ചു. മെയ് ഒന്നാം തീയതി ബുധനാഴ്ച മാതാവിന്റെ വണക്കമാസാരംഭവും തൊഴിലാളി മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥനായ യൗസേപ്പിതാവിന്റെ തിരുനാളും വിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് ആഘോഷിച്ചു.

മെയ് 12 ന് മാതൃദിനത്തിൽ മാതൃവേദിയുടെ ആദിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ വി.കുർബാനയ്ക്ക് ശേഷം എല്ലാ അമ്മമാരെയും പ്രത്യേകം ആദരിക്കുകയും സമ്മാനങ്ങൾ നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു.

മെയ് പതിനഞ്ചാം തീയതി ബുധനാഴ്ച നഴ്സസ് മിനിസ്ട്രിയുടെ ആദിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ നഴ്സുമാർക്ക് സമ്മാനങ്ങൾ നൽകി ആദരിച്ചു. സ്നേഹവിരുന്നോടുകൂടിയാണ് അന്നത്തെ കർമ്മങ്ങൾ അവസാനിച്ചത്.

മെയ് 19 ന് പെന്തക്കുസ്താദിനത്തിൽ കുട്ടികൾ ആദ്യാക്ഷരം കുറിച്ചു. അന്നേ ദിവസം സ്നൈമരൂഢലേപനവും നടത്തി. SMYM നേതൃത്വം നൽകുന്ന യുവജനങ്ങൾക്കായുള്ള Meet and Greet Program നടന്നു.

മെയ് 31 വെള്ളി മാതാവിന്റെ വണക്കമാസ സമാപന തിരുനാൾ ആഘോഷിച്ചു. ജൂൺ മാസം - തിരുഹൃദയമാസം - ഇടവകയിൽ ബൈബിൾ മാസമായി ആഘോഷിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശ്യം നടത്തി. 73 കുട്ടികൾ 73 ബൈബിളിലെ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ കൈയിലെടുത്ത്, വികാരിയച്ചൻ വിശുദ്ധ ഗ്രന്ഥം പ്രതിഷ്ഠിച്ച് കൊണ്ട് ബൈബിൾ മാസം ഉദ്ദേശ്യം ചെയ്തു. ബൈബിൾ പഠന ക്ലാസ്, ബൈബിൾ ക്വിസ്, ബൈബിൾ പകർത്തിയെഴുതൽ, ബൈബിൾ വാക്യപഠനം, ബൈബിൾ വായനയ്ക്ക് കൂടുതൽ പ്രാധാന്യം നൽകുക തുടങ്ങിയവ ഈ മാസത്തിൽ നടത്തപ്പെടുന്നു.





# ST. THOMAS SYRO MALABAR MISSION, CAIRNS

## FAITH FESTIVAL

In June, the St. Thomas Syro Malabar Mission in Cairns hosted a vibrant faith festival for children, organized by the Catechism department. This two-day event was coordinated by Principal Mr. Jomon Jose, along with Smitha Jomon and Robin Antony, under the guidance of Fr. Roy Neervelil. The festival saw tremendous success, with 120 enthusiastic children participating and engaging in various faith-based activities.

## FUNDRAISING FOOD FESTIVAL

In addition to the faith festival, the mission also held a food festival in May as part of its fundraising efforts. This event was well-received by the community and contributed significantly to the mission's activities and outreach programs.

## A BLESSED COMMUNITY

The St. Thomas Syro Malabar Mission community in Cairns feels deeply blessed by the Almighty for the success of these events and the active participation of its members.



June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Saturday (from 9.30 AM to 4 PM) @ St Joseph School Hall  
 For year 1 to year 11 students Sunday (from 10 AM to 5 PM)





# St Thomas The Apostle Syro-Malabar Parish - Melbourne South East

## ALPHONS MUSICAL LIVE BAND

As part of the church construction fundraising, we organised "Alphons Musical Live Band (Oscar selected music director from India) on Sunday 9 June 2024 at St John's Regional College Stadium 5/11 Caroline St, Dandenong VIC 3175. The event was a great success. Around 1,300 members were attended.

## CHURCH CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We are thrilled to announce that the construction work on our beloved church has resumed. After a brief pause, Anmlex Commercial Projects Pty Ltd has taken over the construction, and we are pleased to report that the project is progressing rapidly.





# ST. EUPHRASIA SYRO-MALABAR PARISH, ADELAIDE NORTH

The month of April brings many blessings and excitement, uniting our hearts and homes in a shared experience. The most important season in our religious celebration is filled with prayers, fasting, abstinence, and sharing, as well as the hope of resurrection at the end of the journey of Lent. Continuing the spirit and blessing of Easter, we celebrated the Feasts of Ascension of our Lord, Ezhuthiniruthal, the 75th year of the Marian Procession, Youth gathering and the feast of divine mercy, a testament to our faith, harmony and devotion.

## KADOSH 2024

On June 8th, our highly anticipated community event, Kadosh 2024, was a celebration filled with immense joy and fervour. From the inauguration of the ticket sale by Siby Achan to the day of the event, it was a journey of great excitement. The relentless efforts and dedication of our community bore fruit, bringing together around 1000 people from different parts of Australia, all sharing in the thrill and anticipation of this grand event. We were blessed to have music legends Alphonse Joseph and Neha Venugopal, who provided a musical extravaganza filled with fun, excitement, and spirit. Hats off to Ashly Chemparathy, the entire Kadosh committee, parishioners, and our sponsors for making the event a great success and a memorable one under the leadership of Ajith Achan.

## ST. ANTONY'S FEAST

The month of June marks another important celebration of our patron saint's feast, with nine days of Navanal, followed by the celebrations of the feast with all prayers and festivities, including high mass, novena and Thirusheshippu vanakkam.





# St. Joseph's Syro-Malabar Mission, Caboolture

St Joseph's Syro-Malabar Mission, Caboolture continues to inspire the people from Caboolture and surrounding suburbs as a source of Spiritual development.

## FIRST THIRUNNAL

The first Thirunnal by St. Joseph's Syro Malabar Mission, a significant milestone in our community's journey, was celebrated on May 4th and 5th, 2024. It was a memorable and blessed event as 40 families put all their efforts together to make the Thirunnal a grand success, a testament to our community's growth and progress. The Holy Mass on Thirunnal eve was celebrated by Fr. Tijo Puthenparambil, with adoration and a procession of the Holy Eucharist led by Fr. Varghese Vitheyathil made the Thirunnal inauguration a blessing to the SJMC community. A flash mob by 21 parishioners was performed on the Thirunnal eve, which transitioned the Thirunnal into celebration mode—followed by various games, food, and toy stalls, which further enhanced the night festivities. Fr. Anto Chiriyankandath was the primary celebrant on the main Thirunnal day. The procession on Thirunnal Day depicted our deep roots in the Syro-Malabar tradition. There was an auction, raffle ticket prize distribution, a Thanksgiving lunch, and various stalls, which made the event colourful and reflected our community's vibrancy and diversity.



- SJMC's mission honoured the commissioning of our 14 devoted altar servers on 28th April to serve the altar with passion and the purpose of drawing closer to God.
- SJMC mission witnessed the "Ezhuthiniruthu" – the initiation of a child into the world of letters on Pentecostal Day, May 19th, 2024
- Mother's Day was celebrated on May 19th, 2024. The parishioners extended their arms and prayed for all the incredible mothers in the SJMC community. A delicious breakfast was served after the cake-cutting by the grandmothers of the community.
- Mathruvedhi was officially inaugurated on May 26th, 2024. Five inspired mothers from the SJMC community embraced Mathruvedhi's leadership.





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

## ANNUAL RETREAT

Our Annual retreat was conducted on March 8th, 9th and 10th. Retreat was led by Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal (Director of Youth Apostolate, Europe), a wonderful spokesperson and an exceptional musician who enlightened us on the Stations of the Cross, our relationship to God and grace of the Eucharist in each of our lives. It was a compelling and thought-provoking session, and thank Binoj Achan for giving us this wonderful experience. Through this annual retreat, parishioners had a spirit-filled 3 days to prepare themselves well during Lent for Easter.

## HOLY WEEK

St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Wagga Wagga, celebrated Holy Week in 2024 with a full schedule of events including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Easter Vigil, and Easter Mass. Community came together to observe this important week in the liturgical calendar. Palm Sunday was celebrated with the procession of tender coconut leaves. For the Maundy Thursday celebrations, our vicar Father Sibi Achan performed the washing of the feet of our current parish council members. Good Friday celebrations included Stations of the Cross and were undertaken at Marian Hills Divine Mercy Shrine, Kyemba, NSW.

## INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

International Nurses Day was served on the 8th of May with the Holy Mass and Adoration. This was also followed by an excellent seminar provided by Daiby Shiji, NSW Nurses ministry coordinator. Nurse's ministry leaders and church trustees arranged a snehavirunnu for all health professionals after the mass. Fr. Sibi blessed and gave scapular and St. Joseph's prayer card to all the health professionals.

## BISHOP'S VISIT AND CATECHISM AND PARISH DAY

Our Bishop John Panamthottathil visited our mission on May 19th, 2024. Our community welcomed the Bishop canonically and was the main celebrant for the Holy Mass. The entire Holy Bible (Malayalam) was hand-written by 30 members of our community and was blessed by the Bishop after the mass. Bishop also inaugurated Catechism Annual Day and Parish Day. The day was filled with cultural and entertaining events organised by students from different catechism classes and youth within the parish. This event provided an opportunity for the community to interact and showcase their talents.





# St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission Wodonga



On 27th March 2024, Holy Thursday celebration was conducted in the church. Fr. Siby washing the feet, symbolizes Last supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.



20 th May, we were blessed with holy presence of imminent person to our small community. Extremely grateful to Bishop John Panamthottathil for making us special with his presence. On the same day, cultural celebrations were presented by our catechism students and concluded with a community feast.



On 24 th February, was our formal inauguration of catechism. Commenced with offertory and procession by teachers and catechism students, followed by lamp lighting ceremony and holy Qurbana. Wrapped up spiritually by holy adoration for the students.



# ST. MARY'S SYRO MALABAR MISSION GRIFFITH



Bishop John Panamthottathil visited St. Mary's Mission Griffith on 21st May 2024. We were really blessed with his presence and are extremely thankful to him for visiting our small parish even on his busy schedule.



St. Mary's Mission Griffith commenced Catechism classes for kids on 25th February 2024. We believe our young people will continue their catechism and grow in maturity in their relationship with God, and in faith



Holy week celebrations gave immense blessings to St. Mary's Mission Griffith. Washing of feet and Holy Qurbana on Maundy Thursday and Easter Vigil by Fr. Siby was an incredible experience for us.



Annual retreat was conducted on 13th March 2024 lead by Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal. Retreat helped us in deepening our relationship with and commitment to Jesus. We were able to reflect on the meaning of our existence, taking a step back before making important choices and giving importance to faith and lead our younger generation through examples.



## St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission, Sunshine Coast

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** On April 7th, Divine Mercy Sunday was celebrated with Solemn Holy Qurbana emphasising God's boundless love and forgiveness.

**INTERNATIONAL NURSE'S DAY AND FATHIMA CELEBRATION:** On May 11th, Nurses Ministry celebrated the International Nurse's Day honouring and appreciating the dedicated nurses in our community with special prayers and Holy Qurbana.

**MOTHER'S DAY:** On May 12th, Mother's Day was celebrated with special prayers and Holy Qurbana to appreciate the unwavering dedication of our loving mothers in the community. Mothers were also handed special gift as a token of appreciation by Fr. Tijo Puthenparampil.

**EZHUTHINIRUTHU CEREMONY:** We celebrated the Feast of Pentecost on May 19th. This was a special day for all young children who partook in Vidyarambam. Our Parish Vicar blessed children starting their academic journey by teaching them to write the Holy name of Jesus in rice.

**BIRTHDAY OF OUR VICAR:** We joyfully celebrated the birthday of our Vicar Fr. Tijo Puthenparampil with a cake cutting ceremony on May 26th after the Sunday Holy mass.

**MULTICULTURAL MASS:** On June 16th, the members of St. Mary's Syro Malabar Mission, Sunshine Coast attended the annual multi-cultural mass at Stella Maris Catholic Church. Our Vicar was one of the celebrants at the Holy Mass along with Priests from other cultural groups. There was an Indian food stall that was set up along with other international stalls and our kids also participated in the cultural activities on the day.

These events and celebrations reflect the active engagement and deep faith of our Parish community fostering a sense of unity, devotion and joy among our members.





## ST. MARY'S SYRO MALABAR PARISH MELBOURNE WEST

### HERMANEUTICAL QUESTS AND QUESTIONS

We had a very informative and useful session on Bible Interpretations for Catechism teachers, SMYM, Pithruvedy, Mathruvedy, Grade 11 and 12 students on 7th April at the church by Rev. Dr. Luke Thadathil, President, St Joseph Pontifical Institute, Alwaye. Fr Luke substituted Fr Abraham during his annual vacation and preached our Annual Retreat during his 45 days of stay in our parish.

### BOTTLE RECYCLING FUNDRAISER FOR CHURCH

Our parish has started a new initiative to raise fund for the church by recycling 10c bottles at the Victorian recycling centres and transferring the money to the church account by using a barcode. This enables the families to indirectly support church and to recycle the used bottles

### LECTIO BREVIS AND CONVOCATION CEREMONY PAROLA DI DIO 2024

The Bible Apostolate of the Syro Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne had organized a yearlong Bible Study class for the interested lay people initiated by the Pontifical Institute Alwaye. There were around 400 participants for the course from all over Australia. Those who successfully completed the course with assignments and exams were given the Certificate of the Pontifical Institute on 17th April in a convocation ceremony at St.Mary's Church, Melbourne West, presided over by Mar John Panamthottam. Rev.Dr.Luke Thadathil, the coordinator of the Bible Course and Rev.Dr.Sibi Pulickal, the Director of the Bible Apostolate were present on the occasion.

### GARDENING DAY AT CHURCH

Our parishioners came together to plant roses and do gardening at the church premises on 25th April.

### MAY FEST

Nurses ministry Melbourne West celebrated 'May Fest' on 13th May on the occasion of the International Nurses' day and Fathima day with Holy Qurbana and sharing of testimonials by members of the Ministry.

### ANNUAL BIBLE KALOLSAVAM

Bible Kalolsavam was held on 18th May from 9am to 5 pm. Bible quiz, bible reading, solo singing, elocution, storytelling, Bible Verses writing, essay writing, story writing, painting, colouring etc. were the main items.

### STEFM WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

St Thomas Ecumenical Fellowship Melbourne organised a session on parenting by Dr Priya Alencherry on May 25th in our church. Members of different Syro Malabar parishes and other denominations attended the conference.

### BLESSING OF KURISADI AND CORNER STONE LAYING OF ST MARY'S GROTTO

Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil blessed the new Marthoma Sleeva Kurisadi and laid corner stone for St Mary's Grotto on May 26th Sunday after the Holy Qurbana.

### RAISING BOYS AND GIRLS AS MEN & WOMEN

Department of catechism of this parish has organised two sessions on parenting by Sunitha Thomas, from USA, who has over 20 years of experience in psychiatry and Paediatrics. The third session on "Raising Girls to be successful women" will be on 23rd June from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm.





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

**SANTHOM INSIGHTS:** Santhom Insights (6th Edition) was released on March 30th, 2024, by our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Abraham Nadukunnel, following the Easter Vigil Services. This outstanding production, led by a dedicated team of volunteers under Sebastian Anthikkattu, serves as a powerful tool for evangelization and communication within the parish and the broader community. It features valuable information about parish activities, updates from various ministries, creative contributions from community members, and is accessible to all age groups.

### MOTHER'S DAY AND NURSE'S DAY CELEBRATION

On May 12th, 2024, the Nurses Ministry celebrated International Nurses Day and Mother's Day. The parish honoured nurses who completed 30 years of service in their nursing careers, as well as all mothers in our community.

**PARENTS AND YOUTH SEMINAR:** On May 12th, 2024, the SMYM Brisbane South Parish Unit organised a youth seminar that drew participation from almost 85 youths from our parish and neighbouring parishes.

**ACHIEVEMENT BY PARISHIONERS:** Many of our parishioners have been attending the one-year online Bible course offered by the Always Pontifical Institute. This year, 13 parishioners successfully completed the course and received certificates. Congratulations to all for their dedication and accomplishment!

**CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION:** On June 2nd, 2024, our parish proudly participated in the Corpus Christi procession, a cherished Roman Catholic tradition honouring the Eucharist, or the Body of Christ. Nearly 150 parishioners joined in this solemn event, which featured a procession with the consecrated host carried in a monstrance through our streets, accompanied by hymns, prayers, and the active participation of clergy and parishioners.

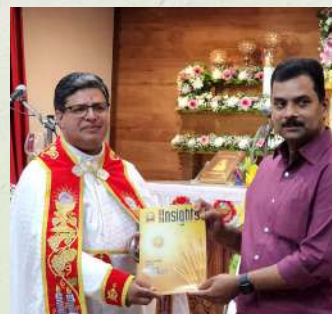
**POTHUPANI:** The Parish Pastoral Council, under the leadership of the Vicar and Trustees, organised a Pothupani on June 29th, 2024. Almost 45 volunteers generously contributed their efforts to this initiative.

**PARISH FEAST RAFFLE:** In connection with the parish feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, the Parish Feast Committee organised a raffle ticket fundraiser. Sponsored raffle prizes contributed to the Church Development

Fund, emphasizing community support for our new church construction.

**FAITH FEST:** The Sunday School organised a successful Faith Fest on June 22nd and 23rd, 2024, at our Catechism Centre. One hundred fifty catechism students participated in engaging activities, including Bible readings, discussions, and classes on various biblical topics. Parents and children alike provided positive feedback on the event.

**FORANE LEADERSHIP MEETING:** A Forane Leadership Meeting, attended by Vicars, Trustees, Parish Pastoral Council Secretaries, and representatives from the eparchial pastoral council, was held on June 15th, 2024, at the Parish Office. Forane Vicar Fr. Abraham Nadukunnel chaired the meeting, with priests from other parishes leading discussions. Trustees and other members actively participated in planning an official Forane Proclamation event scheduled for August 3rd, 2024, inviting Bishop John Panathottam CMI, Bishop of the Eparchy of Melbourne, to celebrate the Holy Qurbama and formally proclaim the Forane.





**DAYS TO REMEMBER**

**July**

- 3 - Dukhrana of St. Thomas, the Apostle
- 6 - St. Maria Goretti
- 11 - St. Benedict
- 15 - St. Kuriakose and St. Julitta
- 16 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 19 - Mar Mari, the disciple of Mar Addai
- 25 - St. James, the Apostle
- 26 - St. Joachim and St. Anne
- 28 - St. Alphonsa
- 29 - St. Martha
- 31 - St. Ignatius of Loyola

**August**

- 1 - St. Alphonse Liguori
- 4 - St. John Maria Vianney
- 8 - Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- 8 - St. Dominic
- 10 - St. Lawrence
- 11 - St. Clare
- 14 - St. Maxmillian Kolbe
- 20 - St. Bernard of Clairvaux
- 21 - St. Pius X
- 24 - St. Bartholomew, the Apostle
- 27 - St. Monica
- 28 - St. Augustine
- 29 - St. Euphrasia

**September**

- 3 - Pope St. Gregory the Great
- 5 - St. Theresa of Calcutta
- 8 - The Nativity of Our Lady
- 13 - St. John Chrysostom
- 14 - The Exaltation of the Cross
- 14 - St. Maxmillian Kolbe
- 21 - St. Mathew, the Apostle
- 27 - St. Vincent de Paul
- 29 - Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
- 30 - St. Jerome



## EPARCHY MEDIA COMMISSION

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

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