

# Marthoma Vision

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SYRO- MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE MELBOURNE



*Congratulations and Prayerful Greetings*

**To His Beatitude  
Mar Raphael Thattil**



**On his enthronement as the Major Archbishop of  
the Syro-Malabar Church.**



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

# CONTENTS

**Editorial** **04**

---

**BISHOP'S MESSAGE** **05**

---

**Circulars /  
Pastoral letters** **07**

---

**Eparchy Updates** **15**

---

**Department News** **17**

---

**Parish Updates** **32**

---

**Days to Remember** **50**

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# EDITORIAL

gratulations and prayers for his ministry. Known for his wisdom, humility, and deep commitment to the faith, His Beatitude brings a wealth of experience and a passion for serving the Church and its faithful.

In this edition of the Marthoma Vision, we are delighted to bring you news and updates from across the eparchy as we reflect on the blessings and achievements that have marked the beginning of 2024. Amidst the various pastoral activities across Australia and New Zealand, we are pleased to highlight the initiatives of departments such as catechism, youth apostolate, and family apostolate. The recent success of the Youth Apostolate's flagship program, "Unite," held in New Zealand, is a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of our young people in spreading the message of faith and unity.

As we express our gratitude to all who have contributed to this edition of the Marthoma Vision, we extend our warmest wishes to everyone on the glorious occasion of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May this holy feast fill our hearts with joy, renew our spirits, and inspire us to live lives worthy of our Saviour's wondrous love and sacrifice.

***Wishing you all abundant blessings and joy,***

**Editorial Team**

## Celebrating the Resurrection: A Message of Joy and Renewal

As we celebrate the wondrous occasion of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is with hearts filled with profound joy and gratitude that we extend a warm welcome to the latest edition of the Marthoma Vision, the official eparchial bulletin of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne.

The Feast of the Resurrection stands as the crowning glory of our Christian faith, a beacon of hope and triumph over darkness and despair. Rooted in history and steeped in the rich traditions of our faith, this sacred event invites us to partake in the victory of resurrection, echoing the timeless words of St. Gregory: "Yesterday I was crucified with Christ; today I am glorified with Him."

A significant development for our church was the enthronement of His Beatitude, Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, as the new father and head of the Syro-Malabar Church. With his ascension to this esteemed position, a new chapter begins in the history of our Church, filled with hope, vision, and renewed zeal for the Gospel. Together with the entire Syro-Malabar Church, we extend our heartfelt con-





## Prayerful Easter greetings to all !

Our life is a circle of sadness and happiness; hopelessness and hope; darkness and light. If we are going through unhappiness and darkness of life, have faith that good times and light are on the way.

The Easter season is a time of reflection and renewal for us, commemorating the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Good Friday is a day of sadness and mourning, marking Jesus' crucifixion and ultimate sacrifice for humanity's sins. It is a time to remember the suffering and death of their savior. In today's world filled with conflict and despair, the darkness of Good Friday can feel overwhelming, leaving many feeling lost and without hope.

However, just as the darkness of Good Friday gave way to the light of Easter Sunday, we can find hope and renewal in our own struggles. Easter Sunday is a day of joy and new life, symbolizing Jesus conquering death and offering salvation to believers. The resurrection represents victory over sin and death, reminding us that light can overcome darkness, hope can triumph over despair, and love can conquer all. In a world where many feel lost and desperate for hope, Easter's message is more relevant than ever. It serves as a reminder that there is always light at the end of the tunnel, offering a glimmer of hope in a seemingly hopeless world. As we celebrate Easter, may we all find comfort in the message of renewal and hope it brings. Let us remember that even in our darkest moments, there is always the promise of new beginnings, redemption, and salvation. Just as Jesus rose on Easter Sunday, we too can find hope and renewal in our own lives.

Wishing You all the blessing of the Joyous feast of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Bishop John Panamthottathil CMI**

Syro Malabar Eparchy of

St Thomas the Apostle Melbourne



# EPARCHY DAY

MARCH 25



## 10 th Anniversary of the Inauguration of Our Eparchy

Syro Malabar Community: 85,300

Parishes: 13

Mission Centres: 58

Forane Parishes: 4

Catechism Students: 7318

Catechism Teachers: 1082

Priest serving the eparchy: 43

Seminarists: 25

Newly Built / Consecrated Churches: 4

Churches Under Construction: 2

**10** Years  
of Blessings



Region: Australia,  
New Zealand, & other  
Oceanian countries

*As we celebrate a decade of our Eparchy's journey, let us lift our hearts in gratitude to the divine for His boundless blessings. In this milestone moment, we honour the tireless efforts of our bishop, bishop emeritus, vicar general, clergy, and entire syro-malabar community, whose steadfast commitment has shaped our community's journey. Let us forge ahead with renewed vigor, united in our mission to spread love, compassion, and the transformative power of faith to all corners of our community. Together towards Christ!*



MY LORD MY GOD

# *Circulars*

# *Pastoral Letters*



*He is risen*



## PASTORAL LETTER

### 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!

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

I am addressing you for the first time through this pastoral letter after assuming the Office of the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church. The First Session of the XXXII Synod of Bishops, held at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church, Mount St. Thomas Kakkanad from 8 to 10, January 2024, elected me the Major Archbishop and His Holiness Pope Francis confirmed the election. I was enthroned as the Major Archbishop on 11 January. I take this occasion to express my gratitude to the whole Church, for having prayed for the election of the new Major Archbishop. I also express my deep appreciation and gratitude to Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia Bishop, who being the Administrator of the Church convoked the Synod and executed everything regarding the election and enthronement in a very meticulous and grace filled manner.

The history of the Syro-Malabar Church is a miraculous story of Divine interventions. This community which was born from the missionary work of St. Thomas, the Apostle, had to pass through several harrowing instances of suffering and complicated situations down through the centuries. This community, which overcame the temptations to be separated from the Catholic communion, continued relentlessly its efforts to form and solidify its self identity. Even though the Syro-Malabar Hierarchy was established in 1923, all the canonical structures were developed only in 1992 when the Syro-Malabar Church was elevated to the Major Archiepiscopal Status. We should thank the Providence which guided our Church in the last two thousand years. On this occasion, I do remember in a special way the devoted service of His Beatitude Cardinal Mar Antony Padiyara, the first Major Archbishop, His Grace Mar Abraham Kattumana, the Pontifical Delegate, and His Beatitude Cardinal Mar Varkey Vithayathil, the second Major Archbishop of our Church.

The services of His Beatitude Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, the third Major Archbishop of our Church, are unparalleled and unique. His life is marked with simplicity, pure love for the Church, unwavering commitment to the Gospel and tireless work. His foresight enabled the Syro-Malabar Church to get all-India jurisdiction and to get eparchies established in Melbourne, Mississauga, Great Britain, and the Apostolic Visitation in Europe, giving our Church a global dimension. It was his determination and able leadership that made possible the uniform mode of celebration of the Holy Qurbana and the revision of the Liturgy of the Hours, at a time when the efforts for the liturgical reform were always complicated in our Church. We offer our gratitude to His Beatitude for his selfless commitment for the good of the Church.

His Holiness Pope Francis, in his letter confirming my election, asked me to care for the poor and the marginalized. Jesus identified himself with those who were deprived of food, water, clothing, shelter, land of their own, and freedom (Mt. 25:35-36). We must take every effort to live Pope Francis' vision, "the Church of the poor". Extravagance, luxury and ostentatious display are sins against the Gospels. The dream of simplicity that Jesus had about His Church should be reflected in all areas of the Church activities. The simplicity of the Gospels should be the guiding light of all our celebrations connected with parish feasts, marriages, ordinations and our constructions. Any institution that is not accessible to the poor has no right to be known as an institution of the Church.

We have to be consciously aware of the discrimination that is being experienced by the Christians in Kerala and in India as a whole. We have to preserve and protect all the constitutional provisions that guarantee the growth and development of our community as a minority group. Farmers, unorganized labourers and small-scale traders are all neglected in all sectors. As the government is failing to protect the lives of the people in the hilly areas of Kerala, many lives and their hard-earned work are lost on account of the attacks of wild animals. In all these cases, organized movements in a democratic way are becoming essential.

We should never forget that Christians are always the spokespersons of religious harmony. We believe that the redemption that was brought about by Jesus is for all. Hence there is no place for racism or separatism in Christian life. We have to work with great care not to lose the harmony and fraternal relationship with different religions.

The blessings that our Church has received from God are manifold. There are more than 50 lakhs of faithful in 35 Eparchies, Apostolic Visitation in Europe and in other unorganized communities. Also, the Church is blessed with many vocations to priesthood and to consecrated life. We are proud of our priests and consecrated persons who serve not only in our eparchies and institutions but also in other Churches and around the world. The Church wants her priests and religious to inculcate a more spiritual perspective in order to render their service more effectively and not losing the brightness of priesthood and consecrated life by the human shortcomings and proper character traits. The ten lakhs families of our Church are our strength. Only those families that grow in love and mutual respect can confront and survive the disintegration of this age.

The faith life of our youth and children is the blessing of the Lord to our Church. We have to walk with the youth and strengthen them to confront the challenges they face in life. The faith formation of the youth and children should be considered the responsibility of the whole Church. Our youth and children must grow in their conviction to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour in their own lives and to profess it before others. The faith formation should be focused on this goal.

God has blessed the Syro-Malabar Church abundantly to imbibe the missionary character of the Universal Church in all its dimensions. We have to remember in our prayers all our missionaries who work in our mission eparchies and the other mission areas. We know that there are organized attempts to drive out our missionaries by levelling baseless allegations and filing court cases against them who work in many undeveloped areas in India by establishing schools, orphanages and clinics in such areas, providing compassionate care and selfless love. The whole Church has to pray for these missionaries who are being persecuted for the sake of Gospel. Let us not forget that it is the duty of each one of us to give all possible support to their activities in the mission areas.

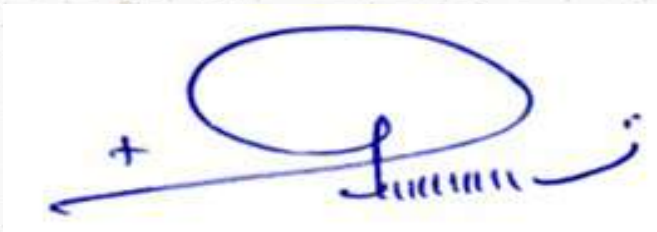
The Church in India is facing another phase of migration. The youths and young families are immigrating to foreign lands for higher education, better job opportunities and higher standard of life. The eparchies in India should join with the eparchies abroad to accompany the individuals and families who migrate and to give assistance to them. There are instances when the expatriates are deceived concerning the type of education or jobs offered to them before leaving India. I would urge all concerned to examine the cases of the young who leave their mother country immediately after the Plus Two and the tendency of placing a heavy debt burden on the families in order to send the children to abroad. We should explore the possibility for the opportunities for higher education and jobs in India itself.

God is opening new horizons before the Syro-Malabar Church. We should never forget that the great asset of the Church is its faith and communion. We should be guided by the vision of St. Pope John XXIII that in the growth and development of every individual Church, the faithfulness to the traditions (resourcement) as well as the openness to renewal (aggiornamento) are of prime importance. Traditionalism and liberalism are complementary in nature and therefore we should not approach them as causes of division. We should remember that it is the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, that becomes wounded when such wrong-headed people throw out accusations against one another through social media.

I am sure that you are aware of the crisis existing in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly regarding the implementation of the uniform mode of the celebration of the Holy Qurbana. Let us pray fervently and work together to heal this wound in our Church. The Apostolic See has entrusted Archbishop Cyril Vasil' SJ, the Pontifical Delegate and Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur, the Apostolic Administrator, to find a solution to this problem. All are requested to cooperate with them in their effort to sustain unity in our Church. Nobody can step backward from the repeated exhortations given by the Holy Father to implement the decision of the Synod on the uniform mode of celebration. We have to remain in the communion of the Catholic Church by living total docility to the Holy Father.

Dearly beloved, I place my trust in your prayers, faith and love as the Lord entrusts me with the responsibility of shepherding the Syro-Malabar Church. Even when we pass through adversities, we should have the deep faith that "He never withdraws His mercy from us. Although he disciplines us with calamities, He does not forsake His own people" (2 Macc. 6:16). The words of Jesus "you did not choose me, but I chose you" (Jn. 15: 16) strengthens us. May the deep conviction of St. Paul expressed through his words: "the one who calls you is faithful" (1 Thess. 5:24) make us bold! As the children of the Syro-Malabar Church, which is one among the Eastern Churches sui iuris, let us remain in love and unity to give the witness which our time demands from us in communion with the Universal Church and in docility to the Holy Father. I commend all of you to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the intercession of St. Thomas the Apostle, our Father in Faith. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Given this from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas, Kakanad on February 22, 2024.



**Mar Raphael Thattil**

Major Archbishop of the  
Syro-Malabar Church





## സർക്കുലർ

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയപ്പെട്ട വൈദികരേ, സഹോദരി സഹോദരന്മാരേ, കുഞ്ഞുമക്കളേ,

തന്റെ ജീവിതം ശരിയായ ദിശയിൽ അല്ലെന്നു തോന്നിയ ധനികനായ ഒരു വ്യക്തിയെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള കഥയുണ്ട്. അയാൾ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ തിരക്കിനിടയിൽ തന്റെ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുപോയ വിശ്വാസ ജീവിതത്തിലേക്ക് മടങ്ങുവാൻ ആഗ്രഹിച്ചു. തന്റെ പാപങ്ങൾ നിരവധിയാണെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു വൈദികന് മാത്രമേ അയാളുടെ പാപങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് മോചിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുകയുള്ളുവെന്നും അയാൾ ഉറച്ചു വിശ്വസിച്ചു.

ഒരു ദിവസം വളരെ നന്നായി ഒരുങ്ങിയ ശേഷം ഒരു വൈദികന്റെ പക്കൽ അദ്ദേഹം തന്റെ പാപങ്ങളെല്ലാം തുറന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. പാപങ്ങളെല്ലാം ശ്രവിച്ച ശേഷം വൈദികൻ അയാളെ ആശ്വസിപ്പിച്ചു, എനിട്ട് പറഞ്ഞു

“താങ്കൾ ദൈവത്തിൽ നിന്നും സഹോദരങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഏറെ അകന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് പാപപരിഹാരമായി 50 ദിവസം തുടർച്ചയായി വിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്ത് ദൈവത്തോട് മാപ്പപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും ദൈവാനുഗ്രഹം തേടുകയും ചെയ്യുക.

ഇത് കേട്ട് ആ ധനികൻ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു: ‘പിതാവേ ഞാൻ തിരക്കുള്ള ഒരു വ്യക്തിയാണ് എല്ലാ ദിവസവും വിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയ്ക്ക് പോകുവാൻ എനിക്ക് സാധിക്കുകയില്ല, എനിക്ക് മറ്റെന്തെങ്കിലും പാപപരിഹാരം തരിക. വൈദികൻ പറഞ്ഞു. “എങ്കിൽ 50 ദിവസം ഉപവസിക്കുന്നത് നല്ലതാണ്. പക്ഷേ ആ ധനികൻ വൈദികനോട് വീണ്ടും അപേക്ഷിച്ചു: “പിതാവേ, ഞാൻ രാവിലെ മുതൽ വൈകുന്നേരം വരെ വളരെയധികം ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്ന ആളാണ്. ചെയ്യുന്ന ആളാണ്. ഉപവാസം എടുത്താൽ അത് എന്റെ ആരോഗ്യത്തെ ബാധിക്കും, എൻറെ ജോലിയെയും ബാധിക്കും. അതുകൊണ്ട് മറ്റൊരു ഉപദേശം നൽകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ സന്തുഷ്ടനായിരിക്കും.

വൈദികൻ തുടർന്നു: “എങ്കിൽ വിശുദ്ധ ഗ്രന്ഥത്തിലെ ഓരോ അധ്യായങ്ങൾ രാവിലെയും വൈകിട്ടും തുടർച്ചയായി വായിക്കുക. അപ്പോഴും അയാൾ ഒഴിവ് പറയുവാൻ തുടങ്ങി: “പിതാവേ കൃത്രിമ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ രാവിലെയും വൈകുന്നേരവും വായിക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമുള്ള ആളാണ് ഞാൻ.

അവസാനം വൈദികൻ അയാളുടെ ചെവിയിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം മന്ത്രിച്ചു: “ഉല്പത്തി പുസ്തകം, മൂന്നാം അധ്യായം പത്തൊൻപതാം തിരുവചനം നീ ഇടയ്ക്കിടെ ആവർത്തിക്കുക. ആ വചനം ഇപ്രകാരമാണ്: “മനുഷ്യാ നീ മണ്ണാകുന്നു, മണ്ണിലേക്ക് നീ മടങ്ങും.

ആ ധനികൻ സന്തോഷപൂർവ്വം സ്വദ്രവനത്തിലേക്ക് മടങ്ങി. അല്പദിവസത്തിനുശേഷം അയാൾ തിരികെ വന്ന് വൈദികനോട് പറഞ്ഞു: “ഇപ്പോൾ എനിക്ക് എല്ലാ ദിവസവും ദേവാലയത്തിൽ പോകുവാനും, വിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുവാനും, വിശുദ്ധ ഗ്രന്ഥം വായിക്കുവാനും, ഉപവസിക്കുവാനും സാധിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ ഭൂമിയിലെ എൻറെ ദിവസങ്ങൾ എണ്ണപ്പെട്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള ബോധ്യം എൻറെ ജീവിതത്തെ മാറ്റിമറിച്ചു. ഒത്തിരി നന്ദി.

വിദ്യുതി തിങ്കളാഴ്ച ദിവസം വൈദികൻ ദസ്തം കൊണ്ട് നമ്മുടെ നെറ്റിയിൽ കുരിശു വരച്ചപ്പോൾ ഗായകസംഘം ആവർത്തിച്ച് പാടിയത് ഇപ്രകാരമാണ്:

മനുഷ്യാ നീ മണ്ണാകുന്നു,  
മണ്ണിലേക്ക് മടങ്ങും നൂനം,  
അനുതാപ കണ്ണുനീർ വീഴ്ത്തി  
പാപപരിഹാരം ചെയ്തുകൊൾക നീ.

ഭാരിച്ച ഉത്തരവാദിത്വങ്ങൾക്കും ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ തിരക്കിനുമിടയിൽ നമുക്ക് നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു പോകുന്ന ഒരു സുപ്രധാനകാര്യം ദൈവവുമായുള്ള അടുപ്പവും സഹോദരങ്ങളുമായുള്ള ബന്ധവുമാണ്.

ദൈവത്തോട് കൂടുതൽ അടുക്കുവാനും ദൈവിക കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ വ്യാപൃതരാകുവാനും കൂടുംബാംഗങ്ങളോടും സഹോദരങ്ങളോടും കൂടുതൽ ഐക്യപ്പെടുവാനും ദൈവം നൽകിയ മനോഹരമായ ഒരു അവസരമാണ് ഈ വലിയ നോമ്പുകാലം.

ലോകം കണ്ടതിൽ വച്ച് ഏറ്റവും മികച്ച അധ്യാപകനായ ഈശോമിശിഹായുടെ ഏറ്റവും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കപ്പെട്ട പ്രത്യേകത ഈശോ ജീവിച്ചത് പഠിപ്പിച്ചു. പഠിപ്പിച്ചത് ജീവിച്ചു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. മരുഭൂമിയിൽ 40 ദിവസം നീണ്ടുനിന്ന ഉപവാസത്തിലൂടെയും പ്രാർത്ഥനയിലൂടെയും പരിത്യാഗത്തിലൂടെയും ഈശോ നാഥൻ നമ്മെ പഠിപ്പിച്ചത് നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ പ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെയും ഉപവാസത്തിന്റെയും പരിത്യാഗ പ്രവൃത്തികളുടെയും ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ചാണ്.

ജീവിതത്തിൽ കാതലായ മാറ്റങ്ങൾ, പരിവർത്തനങ്ങൾ എന്നിവ ഉണ്ടാകണമെങ്കിൽ ബോധപൂർവ്വമായ ശ്രമം നമ്മുടെ ഭാഗത്തുനിന്ന് ആവശ്യമാണ്. നോമ്പിന്റെ 50 ദിവസങ്ങളും പ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെയും ഉപവാസത്തിന്റെയും, ഉപവിയുടെയും ദിനങ്ങളായി മാറ്റുവാൻ നമുക്ക് ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി പരിശ്രമിക്കാം. സാധിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം ഈ ദിവസങ്ങളിലെ വിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുവാനും അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഈ നോമ്പ് കാലത്ത് നാം സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന വാർഷിക ധ്യാനത്തിൽ മുടങ്ങാതെ പങ്കെടുക്കുവാനും, ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ കു

മ്പസാരത്തിലൂടെ ദൈവവുമായും സഹോദരങ്ങളുമായും ഐക്യപ്പെടുവാനും ആഴപ്പെടുവാനും നമുക്ക് സാധിക്കട്ടെ എന്ന് ഞാൻ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

കഴിഞ്ഞ എട്ടു മാസക്കാലമായി ഞാൻ നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയിലെ വിവിധങ്ങളായ ഇടവകകളും മിഷനുകളും സന്ദർശിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. എനിക്ക് വളരെ അഭിമാനം തോന്നിയ ദിവസങ്ങൾ ആയിരുന്നു. നിങ്ങളുടെ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ സഹകരണത്തിനും സ്നേഹത്തിനും കരുതലിനും ഞാൻ നന്ദി പറയുന്നു. എൻറെ സന്ദർശനവേളയിൽ പലരും ചോദിച്ച ഒരു ചോദ്യം രൂപതയുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയെക്കുറിച്ചും ഭാവി പ്രവർത്തനത്തെക്കുറിച്ചുമാണ്.

നമ്മുടെ രൂപത ആത്മീയവും ഭൗതികവുമായ വളർച്ചയുടെ പാതയിലാണ്. അടിസ്ഥാനപരമായ നമ്മുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നിരവധിയാണ്. ഈ രൂപത നമ്മുടെ സ്വന്തമാണെന്നും ഈ രൂപതയുടെ വളർച്ച നമ്മുടെ തന്നെ വളർച്ചയാണെന്നും കരുതുന്നവരാണ് നിങ്ങൾ. അതിൽ എനിക്ക് സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്.

ദൈവാനുഗ്രഹത്താൽ ധാരാളം യുവജനങ്ങളും കുട്ടികളും ഉള്ള രൂപതയാണ് നമ്മുടേത്. അതു കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ അവരുടെ ഭാവിയെ കുറിച്ചുള്ള ചിന്തകൾ നമുക്ക് ഓരോരുത്തർക്കും ഉണ്ടാകണം.

നമ്മുടെ യുവജനങ്ങൾക്കും കുട്ടികൾക്കും ആത്മീയമായ വളർച്ചയ്ക്ക് ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന ധാരാളം പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നമുക്കിനിയും ആസൂത്രണം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. അവർക്ക് ഭാവിയിൽ ആത്മീയ നേതൃത്വം നൽകുവാൻ ധാരാളം വൈദികരെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ട്. ഭാവിയിൽ നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയ്ക്ക് ആത്മീയ നേതൃത്വം നൽകേണ്ട വൈദികരെ കണ്ടെത്തുകയും വൈദിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുക എന്നുള്ളത് എൻറെയും നിങ്ങളുടെയും വലിയൊരു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമാണ്.

ഇപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ രൂപതക്കുവേണ്ടി വിവിധ സെമിനാരികളിലായി 18 വൈദിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ പഠിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. നമ്മളുടെ വൈദിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ പഠിക്കുന്നത്

മെൽബണിലും സിജിയിലും റോമിലും ഇന്ത്യയിലുമുള്ള വിവിധ സെമിനാരികളിലുമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ പഠന ചെലവും ഭാരിച്ചതാണ്. നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയ്ക്ക് അത് താങ്ങാവുന്നതിന് അപ്പുറമുള്ള ചിലവാണ്. ഒപ്പം തന്നെ നമ്മുടെ യുവജനങ്ങൾക്കും കുട്ടികൾക്കും വേണ്ടിയുള്ള വിവിധങ്ങളായ ആത്മീയശുശ്രൂഷകൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനും അതിന് നേതൃത്വം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും നിങ്ങളുടെ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ സഹകരണം അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്.

അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ നോമ്പുകാലത്ത് നാം ഉപവാസത്തിലൂടെയും പരിത്യാഗപ്രവർത്തിയിലൂടെയും കണ്ടെത്തുന്ന തുക നമ്മുടെ വൈദിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ പഠന ചെലവിനായും, സെമിനാരി നടത്തിപ്പിനായിട്ടും അതുപോലെതന്നെ നമ്മളുടെ യുവജനങ്ങളുടേയും കുട്ടികളുടെയും ആത്മീയ ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്ക് ഉതകുന്ന പരിപാടികൾ ആസൂത്രണം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇക്കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി നിങ്ങൾ ഉദാരമായി രൂപതയെ സഹായിക്കുമെന്ന് എനിക്ക് ഉറപ്പാണ്.

നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയിലെ സാധിക്കുന്ന കുടുംബങ്ങൾ ഒരു വൈദിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയുടെ ഒരു മാസത്തേയോ ഒരു വർഷത്തേയോ പഠന ചെലവ് സ്പോൺസർ ചെയ്യുവാനായി ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ദയവായി നിങ്ങളുടെ വികാരിയച്ചനെയോ എന്നെയോ അറിയിക്കണമെന്ന് അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു..

നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയുടെ ഈ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി Bishop's Lenten Appeal എന്ന പേരിൽ ഒരു കവർ നിങ്ങളുടെ ഓരോരുത്തരുടെയും ഭവനങ്ങളിൽ ഇടവക കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാർ എത്തിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും. നിങ്ങളുടെ പേരും, തുകയും, തന്നിരിക്കുന്ന കവറിൽ പ്രത്യേകമായി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്. ആർക്കെങ്കിലും രസീത് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ രൂപത കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ നിന്നും അവ നൽകുന്നതായിരിക്കും. ഇപ്രകാരം നമുക്ക് ലഭിക്കുന്ന തുകയുടെ വരവ് ചിലവ് കണക്കുകൾ അടുത്തവർഷം നിങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും.

നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയുടെ വളർച്ചയിൽ നിങ്ങളുടെ എല്ലാവരുടെയും ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ സഹകരണവും പ്രാർത്ഥനയും ഞാൻ പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. എല്ലാവരോടും മുൻകൂട്ടി നന്ദി പറയുന്നു. അനുഗ്രഹപ്രദമായ ഒരു നോമ്പുകാലം നിങ്ങൾക്കേവർക്കും നേരുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവീശോ മിശിഹായുടെ കൃപയും പിതാവായ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്നേഹവും, പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെ സഹവാസവും നാമെല്ലാവരോടും കൂടി ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കട്ടെ!

മിശിഹായിൽ,

**മാർ ജോൺ പനംതോട്ടത്തിൽ C.M.I**

ഈ സർക്കുലർ 2024 ഫെബ്രുവരി 18-00 ഞായറാഴ്ച പള്ളിയിൽ വായിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.





# *Eparchy Updates*



*He is risen*

JUBILEE GREETINGS

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**& PRAYERFUL JUBILEE GREETINGS**  
**25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD**



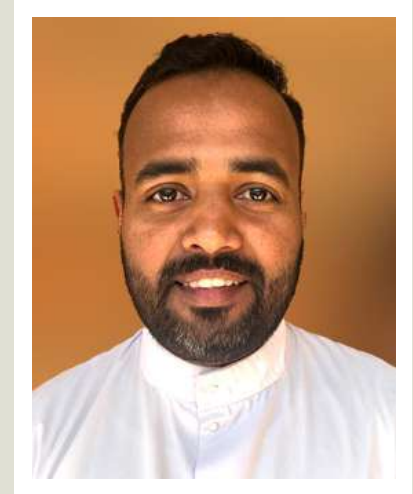
FR. JOSEPH EZHUMAYIL

FR. MATHEW AREEPLACKAL



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

WELCOME TO THE EPARCHY FAMILY



Fr Jerin Ariboor

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS



Fr. Alex Velliyamthadathil VC

Chaplain , St Mary's Syro Malabar mission Ballarat VIC



Fr. Thomas Pezhumkattil

Chaplain of St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission Wyong , Holy Family Syro-Malabar Mission Gosford , St Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission Broken Bay.

# SEMINARY UPDATES

## Vestition Ceremony

The Eparchy of Melbourne and the St John Paul II minor seminary joyously announces the vestition of four seminarians, a sacred ceremony marking their progression towards priesthood. This pivotal event is scheduled at St. Joseph's Church, Nirmalapuram, Koorkenchery, Thrissur, Kerala on April 11 at 3:00 pm.

### The seminarians to be vested are:

1. Bro. Jojin Aynikkal, from St. Joseph Church, Nirmalapuram, from the Trissur Archdiocese.
2. Bro. Jibin Karuthedath, from Holy Cross Major Episcopal Pilgrim Center, Nadavayal, from Mananthavady Diocese.
3. Bro. Jomin Thekkekumbalavayalil of St. Joseph Church, Kuthupara, from Idukki Diocese.
4. Bro. Prince Padayatty, belonging to Infant Jesus Church, Puthenvelikara, from the Irijalakuda Diocese.

This ceremony is a celebration of faith and dedication, symbolising the seminarians' commitment to their calling and service to the Church. The Eparchy of Melbourne extends prayerful wishes to all four of them at this joyous occasion, as they take this significant step in their vocation journey!



## കൂടെ

### 2k24- Vocation Promotion Camp

കൂടെ 2k24 is a three-day journey with Jesus. It's a special vacation camp designed for catechism students at the Parish level. The leadership for this camp is provided by the seminarians of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy, Melbourne, under the guidance of Fr. Lawrence Thaikattil, the rector of the minor seminary. The central theme of the camp is "With Jesus." It comprises six discussions on various topics related to this theme, including ways to be with Jesus, the young saints who walked with Jesus, notable figures who accompanied Jesus, and discussions on how to be with Jesus in the current era of AI.

Additionally, the camp includes sessions of Adoration, games, action songs, and more.

We are confident that this camp will feel like being in His WhatsApp group!



# *Department News*



*He is risen*



# Department of CATECHESIS

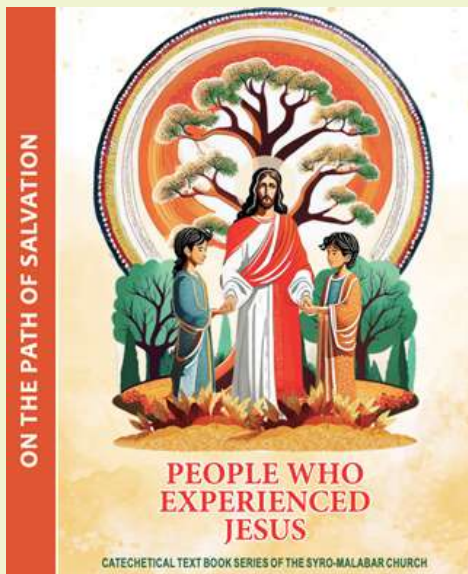
JANUARY TO  
MARCH  
2024

## YEAR BEGINNING LETTER

Department issued a year beginning letter to all the catechism centres in preparation for the reopening of catechism classes. The letter includes critical and important matters required for the running of catechism centres which includes details of volunteer agreement, staff meetings, Catechism inauguration etc.

## NEW YEAR 6 TEXT BOOK

The Department issued the second text book of its revision series. Year 6 text is the second book of the revision series. Year 7 text was revised in 2022. The main purpose of this revision was to integrate the Australian context and pedagogical methodology into our catechetical textbooks while updating the content with the latest teachings of the Church. It was a team work of year 6 catechism teachers of various parishes, catechism students & youth of 2023. It took 220 days (almost 8 months) to complete the project



## TEXT BOOK DESPATCHES

Department of catechesis despatched, Year 6 & 7 text books & Holy communion work books to 50 catechism centres across AUS & NZ.

## LUMEN FIDEI 4.1: VIC REGIONAL CATECHISM TEACHERS CONFERENCE

**conference**

TRAINING & CERTIFICATION  
IN  
SOFT SKILLS & PEDAGOGICAL  
TECHNIQUES

**SATURDAY**  
24 FEB 2024  
AT 09 AM - 04:30PM

**PARTICIPATING PARISHES & MISSIONS**

- Ballarat St Marys
- Bendigo St Thomas
- Melbourne Cathedral
- Melbourne West, ,
- Melbourne south east
- Melbourne Knanaya,
- Geelong St Sebastians
- Shepparton StAlphonsa
- Wodonga

**Venue**  
St. Johns College,  
5-11 Caroline Street,  
Dandenong VIC 3175

**REGISTER NOW**

VIC Catechism teachers conference was held on 24th February at St Johns College, Dandenong VIC. 80 participants from 9 centres attended the full day program. Training sessions on Soft Skills and pedagogical techniques by Noby Joseph and discussion on difficult topics faced by catechists were conducted during the event. It was a great opportunity for the catechism teachers of the region to empower their knowledge and to share their experiences with fellow teachers.



### LAUDATO SI 4.1 PRINCIPALS MEETING Q1 2024

The first quarter principals conference was held on Saturday 2nd March on zoom. The meeting was blessed by Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil. The Department welcomed all new principals and thanked all outgoing principals during the meeting. 33 Principals from various catechism centres attended the meeting.

### REVAMP: NEW YEAR 6 TEXT BOOK TEACHERS TRAINING

A meeting of year 6 teachers and training on the new year 6 text book was conducted on 9th March 2024 on zoom. Bishop Mar John Panamthottathil inaugurated the meeting and shared insightful thoughts on text book revision process. Fr Mathew Areepalackal, Director of department of catechesis explained the process & time line and the contents of the revised text. A demo class was taken by Anu Paul. Approximately 50 year 6 teachers attended the training course.





**SYNODAL DISCUSSION ON catechism**

Dept of Catechesis Syro-Malabar Eparchy Melbourne

Inaguration

Fr. Sijoesh Pullankunnet Chancellor

All the Catechism Principals are invited

JOIN ON ZOOM

10 MARCH SUNDAY  
08.00 pm  
Melbourne time

**SYNODALITY DISCUSSION**

A Synodal discussion on catechism was conducted by the department on 10th March 2024. The discussion on was inaugurated by chancellor Fr Sijeesh Pullenkunnet. The synthesis report on Synodal Church in Mission by the Syro- Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle was the basis for discussion.

**GANA RACHANA COMPETITION**

With the theme "The PASSION OF OUR LORD" The department is conducting a song writing competition in English and Malayalam. The competition is open for everyone with no age limit



**Gaana Rachana**

THEME: THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

Lyrics - Minimum 12 lines & maximum 16 lines.

Original writing  
Malayalam or English  
Age limit: Nil

Selected lyrics may be used by the department  
First prize \$ 51

Certificates for entries selected by the jury  
Consent form will be sent for completion after submission

Last date March 5th, 2024

Dept. of Catechesis  
Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne

**EASTER MASHUP MUSICAL CHALLENGE**

Department of Catechesis invites all its catechism centres to participate in a musical challenge with the aim of evangelisation and also to build team spirit amongst the catechism teachers. Last date for submission is 23rd March



**Easter Mashup Musical Challenge**

your MUSIC CAN CHANGE A HEART

By March 5th



# Department of FAMILY APOSTOLATE

JANUARY TO  
MARCH  
2024

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A three day residential marriage preparation course (MPC) took place in Melbourne from Feb 27th to Feb 29th, 2024.

The course attracted a total of 21 participants, hailing from different regions across Australia. The diversity of the attendees contributed to the enriching experience.

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

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

Our Rev Bishop John Panamthottathil CMI celebrated Holy Qurbana on the first day and gave a homily.

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

Each day we concluded our sessions with Eucharistic adoration, providing a moment of reflection and reverence for all participants, deepening their spiritual connection and understanding of the sacred commitment of marriage.

The residential marriage preparation course in Feb 2024 was a valuable experience for all involved, fostering not only practical knowledge but also a strong sense of spiritual readiness for the journey ahead.

**NEXT 3 DAYS RESIDENTIAL MPC AT MELBOURNE IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2024 ( 28TH TO 30TH).**

**FOR ANY COURSE ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**SANTHOSH JOSE  
MOB: 0423 450 768**

**EMAIL:**

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

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE**  
3 DAYS RESIDENTIAL COURSE

May 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 9AM to  
May 30<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> MAY 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**

**PRO-LIFE DAY (MARCH 25, THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION)**

On 25th March 2005, Pope St. John Paul II, the champion of Pro-life and pro family causes, through his Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* ( the Gospel of Life) announced March 25th Feast of Annunciation as Prolife day.

- According to ‘Science’ Life Begins at Fer-tilization with the Embryo’s Conception.
- Baby in the womb is not a lump of flesh, but a person who has emotions and can feel pain.
- According to the teachings of Catholic Church, Life is a precious gift from God and that needs to be protected.

**In India, 44,000 (Forty-Four thousand) unborn babies are killed by abortion per day.**

**In Australia 100,000 abortions performed annually (<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajo.13501?af=R>)**



**WHAT IS PROLIFE?**

**Defending the gift of life from the moment of conception until natural death.**

**WHAT IS PROLIFE MINISTRY**

**Spiritual movement of people who pray and act to protect and nurture Human LIFE.**

**WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ABORTION?**

- Death of that Baby
- Destruction of the generation that comes through that child.
- Destruction of God's intended plans and goodness through that child
- Physiological and psychological effects to mother
- Saying Yes to Satan's plan to destroy God's plan of salvation.

Abortion is a grave sin. However, if someone performed abortion, and confessed their sins through Sacrament of Reconciliation with repentance, God will forgive their sins.

No need for feeling guilty after Confession as that guilt is from Satan.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more (Hebrew 8:12)

**SYRO MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, MELBOURNE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT**

Raising awareness, praying, and fasting to liberate God's people from:-

- Abortion, euthanasia, murder, suicide etc. which destroy human life
- Alcohol, smoking, drugs etc. which are harmful to life
- Wrong concept of reducing the number of children in the family (Birth control and Use of Artificial Contraceptives).
- Other moral evils

**INTENTION OF MOVEMENT**

**Save, protect, and nurture human life at every stage of its existence**

**DR JOSEPH EZHUMAYIL  
DIRECTOR, FAMILY APOSTOLATE DEPT**

**ജീവൻരക്ഷ പ്രാർത്ഥന**

ജീവദാതാവായ ദൈവമേ, അമ്മയുടെ ഉദരത്തിൽ ഉരുവാകും മുൻപേ അങ്ങയുടെ ഉള്ളംകൈയിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പേരു രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ഈ മനോഹര പ്രപഞ്ചത്തിൽ ജീവിക്കാൻ അനുവദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതിനു ഞങ്ങളേക്കു നന്ദി പറയുന്നു. ജീവനുണ്ടാകുവാനും അതു സമൃദ്ധമായി ഉണ്ടാകുവാനുമായി സ്വപുത്രനെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പക്കലേക്കയച്ച ദൈവമേ, ജീവന്റെ കാവൽക്കാരാകേണ്ടവർ, അതിന്റെ ഘാതകരായിത്തീർന്നതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ അങ്ങയോടു മാപ്പപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ദൈവദാനമായ മക്കളെ ലോകത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ഗർഭച്ഛിദ്രം ചെയ്യുന്ന എല്ലാ മാതാപിതാക്കൾക്കു വേണ്ടിയും ഞങ്ങൾ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. ഈ തിന്മയിലേയ്ക്കു വഴി തെളിക്കുന്ന അധർമ്മിക ജീവിതസാഹചര്യങ്ങളെ നേരിടുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട ശക്തിയും കൃപയും നമ്ക്കി എല്ലാ മക്കളേയും നീ അനുഗ്രഹിക്കണമേ. അജ്ഞതകൊണ്ടോ സ്വാർത്ഥത മൂലമോ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളെ വധിക്കാൻ ഒരുങ്ങുന്നവരെയും അതിനു കൂട്ടുനിൽക്കുന്നവരെയും അതിൽ നിന്നു പിന്തിരിപ്പിക്കണമേ. ജീവന്റെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനായി നടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെയും അങ്ങ് വിശുദ്ധീകരിക്കുകയും വിജയിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമേ. പിതാവും പുത്രനും പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവുമായ സർവ്വേശ്വരാ എന്നേയ്ക്കും ആമ്മേൻ. (3 നന്ദ. 1 ത്രിത്വ )

ഞങ്ങളുടെ അമ്മയായ പരിശുദ്ധ കന്യാമറിയാമേ. ഞങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി അപേക്ഷിക്കണമേ



# Department of SAFEGUARDING

JANUARY TO MARCH 2024

## MAJOR SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITIES ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SYRO MALABAR PARISH, BRISBANE SOUTH

Manage and monitor all types of safety-related issues of the parish members' and escalate to the eparchy's safety team if required.

1. Advising the Parish priest, parish council and trustees on parish safety-related issues and follow-up
2. Blue Card: - Blue Card is compulsory for a volunteer to work in a parish setting.
3. Co-ordination of Parish Safety Team and First Aid Team
4. Risk Assessment for the parish events and parish facilities.
5. Organise Safeguarding Training for the parish volunteers and provide offer letters.
6. Attend training and communicate with Eparchy's safeguarding team to update the safeguarding policies and regulations.
7. Organise periodic PST ( Parish Safety Team) team meetings regularly and review the Parish Safety
8. Three fully equipped first aid boxes were placed - one each in church, catechism centre and presbytery.
9. New Defibrillator was wall mounted in church with a list of regular church attendees who are ALS/ BLS competent.
10. A fire drill for Sunday school and Malayalam school is underway.

## MEET OUR TEAM

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS - PSO



**JIMMY ARIKKATT**

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



**MINI JOLLY**

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



**LISSA BABY**

St Alphonsa Syromalabar Church Darwin, NT.



**THOMAS GEORGE**

St Alphonsa Syromalabar Church Darwin -NT.

### ST. ALPHONSA MISSION SHEPPERTON, VIC

Rise and Shine Programme for the youth were held on 11th march 2024



**JISHA SEBASTIAN**

St. Alphonsa Mission Shepperton, VIC.

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**

**The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) create a framework for Catholic entities to promote the safety of children and adults at risk.**

The NCSS outline the policies and activities that will prevent, respond to, and support reporting of concerns regarding abuse. The Standards work together to ensure that every entity, ministry and organisation across the Catholic Church places the safety of children and adults at risk at the core of how they plan, think and act. The 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards incorporate recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and also the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, contextualising these requirements for the Catholic Church in Australia. The Standards have been adopted by the Catholic Church in Australia.

The first phase in developing the Standards focused on safeguarding practices to protect children. The second phase incorporates care and protection of adults, with a focus on adults at risk, in keeping with the recommendations of the Royal Commission. The second edition of the NCSS has now been published.

**Standard One**



**Committed leadership, governance and culture**

The safeguarding of children and adults is embedded in the entity's leadership, governance and culture

**Standard Two**



**Children and adults are safe, informed and participate**

Children and adults are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

**Standard Three**



**Partnering with families, carers and communities**

Families, carers and communities are informed and involved in promoting the safeguarding of children and adults

**Standard Four**



**Equity is promoted and diversity is respected**

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice



**Robust human resource management**

People working with children and adults are suitable and supported to reflect safeguarding values in practice



**Effective complaints management**

Processes for raising concerns and complaints are responsive, understood, accessible and used by children, adults, families, carers, communities, and personnel

Standard Seven >



**Ongoing education and training**

Personnel are equipped with knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and adults safe through information, ongoing education and training

Standard Eight >



**Safe physical and online environments**

Physical and online environments promote safety and contain appropriate safeguards to minimise the opportunity for children and adults to be harmed.

Standard Nine >



**Continuous improvement**

Entities regularly review and improve implementation of their systems for keeping children and adults safe

Standard Ten >



**Policies and procedures support the safety of children and adults**

Policies and procedures document how the entity is safe for children and adults

# Department of YOUTH APOSTOLATE

JANUARY TO  
MARCH  
2024

## SEEK - PERTH

From the 5th to the 8th of March, the Sliha Da'Msiha team led the second Seek retreat of the year for the youth from St. Joseph's Syro-Malabar Parish, Perth. It was an incredible four days where God worked in our lives, even in the smallest ways. Every day started with Sapra and throughout the day there was Holy Qurbana, sessions, personal sharings, music and fellowship and every night ended with a beautiful Eucharistic Adoration where we truly felt God's love and presence. The team was joined by Simon Carrington from Fire Up Ministries who led a few sessions on chastity and the Theology of the Body. These sessions were particularly impactful, and we could see an eagerness among the participants to learn more and bring about a change in our communities. By the end of the retreat, we all left with a rekindled fire for the Lord and His church, and a greater passion to spread His love.



## CALLED TO LOVE - YOUNG COUPLES RETREAT - PERTH

Following the youth retreat, from the 8th to the 10th of March, Called to Love – a retreat for young couples was held at the same location. 9 couples participated, and over three beautiful days, we covered the many aspects of a loving marriage and Catholic family life and were taught more about how to lead as examples in the community. Once again, the days were filled with beautiful experiences of Holy Qurbana and Eucharistic Adoration as well as opportunities for the couples to reconnect and grow in faith, together. The retreat ended with the election of a new young couples' leadership team and there are many great plans for the future in this ministry.



## SEEK - ADELAIDE

In February of 2024, Adelaide hosted SEEK, a residential program for young people. With a turnout of over 60 enthusiastic participants, the youth of Adelaide experienced a profound rekindling of their spiritual fervour, delving into a deeper connection with the Lord. Spearheaded by the Eparchy's retreat team, the Sliha daMsiha team, and featuring Simon Carrington from Fire Up Ministries, the program offered a transformative journey for attendees.

Throughout the event, participants engaged in a diverse range of activities such as thought-provoking sessions, engaging discussions, uplifting praise and worship, Holy Qurbana and Eucharistic Adoration. Moreover, Simon Carrington, renowned for his expertise in matters of chastity and Theology of the Body, delivered captivating sessions that challenged participants to explore crucial aspects of their faith. His insights on aligning our perspectives with God's plan resonated deeply, inspiring attendees to embrace their God-given purpose and dignity.

SEEK 2024 left an indelible mark on the youth of Adelaide, igniting a fervent passion for the Spirit within their hearts. As they departed from the program, participants carried with them a renewed sense of purpose and zeal to live out their faith in their daily lives, empowered by the transformative encounters they had experienced.



## YOUTH APOSTOLATE EXECUTIVE TEAM



Youth Apostolate, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

## SMYM NATIONAL TEAM 2024-26



Wishing everyone a blessed and Holy Easter

## YLS 2024 AND APPOINTMENT AND COMMISSIONING OF NATIONAL TEAM 4.0 AND YA



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### SMYM AUSTRALIA’S INSPIRING MISSIONARY: TONIA KURISUNKAL

This year, SMYM Australia is blessed to have Tonia Kurisunkal as our full-time missionary. A passionate young leader from St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission in Campbelltown, Tonia took a leap of faith in late 2023 to dedicate herself to serving the youth for a year as a full-time missionary.

Previously a full-time Orthoptist, Tonia felt called to deepen her commitment. Now, not only does she serve as a missionary, but she also holds the role of Formation Coordinator within the current National Team. Her dedication knows no bounds, having previously blessed our Eparchy as the National Joint Secretary, vocalist and guitarist for our SMYM band - Songs of Seraphim, and Coordinator for SMYM Campbelltown.

Inspired by Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose,” Tonia was reassured to trust in God’s plan, even when things don’t go as expected. Today she embarks her mission, travelling across Australia and inspiring young people, just like herself to embrace our own missionary callings.

# SMYM NEW ZEALAND

## UNITE 2024

UNITE 2024, the NZ Syro Malabar National Youth Conference, serves as a transformative gathering aimed at enriching the spiritual lives of young individuals. Rooted in the mission to strengthen their connection with Jesus Christ, the conference endeavours to equip and embolden them as disciples in today's complex world. Hosted over four days from February 2nd to 5th, the event radiates with the vibrant essence of the Syro Malabar Catholic Church, both in New Zealand and within the Syro Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne.

With the esteemed presence of Bishop John Panamthottathil and led by revered personalities such as Fr. Daniel Poovannathil and Mr. Sojin Sebastian, the conference offers a dynamic platform for spiritual growth and community engagement. Live bands, compelling speakers, plenary sessions, and heart-touching worship experiences form the core of this enriching event. Moreover, motivational workshops, creative spaces, and a sprinkle of Syro-Malabarian traditions infuse the conference with a unique blend of spirituality and fun.

UNITE 2024 beckons young participants to delve deeper into their faith, encouraging them to live out and share their beliefs with passion and conviction. Through this immersive experience, attendees are invited to encounter Jesus Christ in profound and transformative ways, setting the stage for a journey of spiritual renewal and empowerment like never before.

**SMYM HAMILTON LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024-26**

<b>Fr. Joy Thottamkara</b> Chaplain	<b>Ginto Varghese</b> Animator	<b>Febin Mathew</b> Parish Council Representative	<b>Mariya Dias</b> Coordinator
<b>Aiwin Jacob Rejith</b> Asst. Coordinator	<b>Sneha Maria Viju</b> Secretary	<b>Anila Jacob</b> Asst. Secretary	<b>Meha Manoj</b> Teens Coordinator
<b>Alphonse Jabin Sebastian</b> Asst. Teens Coordinator	<b>Maria Rose</b> Intercession Coordinator	<b>Ritta Rijo</b> Media Coordinator	<b>Shreya Dias</b> Finance Coordinator
<b>Rinu Rijo</b> Music Ministry Coordinator	<b>Fiona Paul</b> Events Coordinator	<b>George Joseph</b> Young Families Coordinator	<b>Mariya George</b> Young Families Coordinator

Youth Apostolate, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of ST. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne





# *Parish Updates*



*He is risen*

# Ave maria Syro-Malabar Mission Ipswich QLD

The period from December 31st to February 22nd was marked by a series of special events and gatherings that brought the parish and our Ave Maria Catholic community together in celebration, reflection, and spiritual growth.

The New Year's welcoming and thanksgiving mass on December 31st set the tone for the upcoming year. This joyous occasion not only allowed for collective reflection on the year gone by but also providing an opportunity for members of the community to come together in gratitude and anticipation for the year ahead.

As the calendar turned to February, the community witnessed the restart of Sunday school, a pivotal moment that signified the reinvigoration of educational and spiritual growth opportunities for the children. This restart was accompanied by a heartfelt farewell to the 12th graders, acknowledging their achievements and wishing them well in their future endeavours. The parishioners came together to Honor the graduating students, celebrating their accomplishments and offering them support and encouragement as they embarked on the next chapter of their lives.

Our parish Ave Maria Catholic Mission joyously celebrated the sacred Ash Monday marking the beginning of spiritual journey towards Easter. And also, every Friday parishioners join together in the church to celebrate the Way of the Cross as part of our preparations for Easter.

Additionally, we feel truly fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in an annual retreat led by our beloved bishop, Bishop Thomas Tharayil on February 20th, 21st, and 22nd. This retreat further enriches our understanding and strengthens our faith as we gather for a time of spiritual renewal and growth during this lent period. The community eagerly embraced the arrival of Bishop Thomas Tharayil, recognizing the significance of his presence and leadership within the community.



# Mary Matha Syro-Malabar Mission Gold Coast

## Feb 9th- Commemoration of the Dead

On February 9th, Mary Matha Mission Gold Coast Parish paid tribute to the departed souls in a solemn ceremony. Led by Fr. Asok, devotees gathered to offer flowers in remembrance and gratitude during a special Mass and Office for the Dead.

26th February - Welcomed Bishop Most Rev John Panamthottathil to Mary Matha mission Gold Coast.

Bishop Panamthottathil's presence was marked by prayers, reflections, and heartfelt interactions with the mission community. His words resonated deeply, inspiring renewed dedication to the mission's values.

Expressing gratitude for the warm reception, Bishop Panamthottathil emphasized the importance of unity, faith, and service. The mission looks forward to continuing its journey under his guidance, strengthened by the spirit of fellowship and faith.

March 8th, 9th & 10th - Annual Retreat. By Fr Bijil Chakkiath MSFS

Over 350 attendees gathered for the Annual Retreat at Mary Matha Mission Gold Coast Parish, showcasing the community's resilience and support. Father Bijil's stirring message, especially aimed at the youth, urged embracing missionary work with fervor. The retreat fostered deep bonds of faith and togetherness, leaving attendees inspired and renewed. As memories of the day linger, the parish remains committed to spreading God's love wherever they go, guided by the spirit of unity and faith.

## YOUTH Participation- Youth Leaders Summit

Applause to the vibrant youth from our parish who have successfully completed their participation in the Youth Leaders Summit in Melbourne! Your dedication to leadership and personal development has undoubtedly left a lasting impact.



# St. Alphonsa Parish Brisbane North



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2023

On the evening of December 24th, Christmas mass was joyously celebrated by Father Varghese Vithayathil. It wasn't just a routine religious service; it was a profound manifestation of faith, where each attendee carried the spirit of the newborn Jesus in their hearts. The entire parish community came together to embrace the joyous essence of the season. From heartfelt prayers to jubilant carols, every aspect of the celebration resonated with the spirit of unity and love. The twinkling lights, the scent of incense, and the warmth of fellowship created an ambiance that truly captured the essence of Christmas. It was a time when bonds were strengthened, spirits were lifted, and the message of hope and goodwill reverberated throughout the parish, leaving an indelible mark on all who attended.



## PARISH NEWS BULLETIN

On Christmas Eve, the St. Alphonsa Parish Media team proudly released the inaugural edition of the parish news bulletin, presented by Fr. Varghese Vithayathil to the parish trustees. This project represents a significant achievement for the media team, led by Mr. Sheen Paul.

## WELCOMES OUR YEAR 1 STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2024

St. Alphonsa Parish is delighted to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to our year 1 students as they commence their spiritual journey for the academic year 2024. As these young learners step into this new chapter of their lives, our dedicated teachers are here to offer them guidance, support, and encouragement every step of the way.



## ALL WINNERS OF THE BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

The winners of the Bible reading challenge are individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, commitment, and proficiency in engaging with the scriptures. Through their diligent study, reflection, and understanding of the Word of God, they have not only deepened their spiritual connection but also inspired others to delve into the teachings of the Bible. These winners serve as shining examples within the community, encouraging a culture of reverence for scripture and fostering a deeper understanding of faith among their peers.

## ST. ALPHONSA PARRISH PTA VOLUNTEER FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2024

The St. Alphonsa Parish PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) volunteers for the academic year of 2024 play a vital role in fostering a supportive and enriching educational environment within our community. These dedicated individuals generously give their time, skills, and energy to support various initiatives and activities aimed at enhancing the overall educational experience for our students.



## LENTEN RETREAT

The Lenten Retreat of 2024 was a deeply enriching experience that impacted all who attended. Bishop Thomas Tharayil's profound teachings resonated deeply with us, offering wisdom and inspiration to navigate our spiritual journey. His engaging delivery and thought-provoking messages encouraged introspection and growth, fostering a deeper connection with our faith. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a transformative retreat, and we carry the lessons learned forward with renewed faith and conviction.

# St. Euphrasia Parish, Adelaide North

## WELCOME 2024

Yet another exciting and promising year is here. We began prayerfully, grateful for all the blessings we had during the previous year, and hoping for and expecting more faith and harmony. Prayerful greetings to our new Major Archbishop, Mar Raphael Thattil.

## PRAVESHANOLSAVAM 2024

With their smiles, enthusiasm, and excitement, our children joined hands to begin their spiritual journey this year by lighting lamps and sharing the light of wisdom at Praveshanolsavam on February 4th. Teachers renewed their oaths with lighted candles and pledged their dedication and commitment to imparting this journey of faith and togetherness, promising a bright and promising year ahead.

## LENTEN RETREAT

“Lent is the autumn of the spiritual life during which we gather fruit to keep us going for the rest of the year.” -St. Francis de Sales. Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal led this year’s Lenten retreat from February 19th to 21st. He is a wonderful spokesperson, musician, and songwriter who led us on a spiritual journey that emphasised love and harmony among families. Sibi Achan and Ajith Achan enhanced and enlightened the experience by leading us through Holy Mass, Adoration, and prayers. Everyone had a great and unforgettable experience.

## LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

The pilgrimage to Seven Hills and Eden Valley, which the three parishes combined as a family, was a great experience of devotion, harmony, and brotherhood as we remembered the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## YOUTH - OUR HEART AND SOUL

With their presence, charisma, and active involvement, our youth made this lent more beautiful and meaningful. In addition to their activities, they are really supporting the church by conducting weekly fundraisers, which is a huge success. A huge shout-out to you guys...

## FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

On 19th March, we celebrated the feast of St. Joseph and offered the holy mass—all the parishioners in the name of St. Joseph were remembered and honoured as prasudenthis and special prayers offered for them, followed by an ootunercha organised by them.

## KADOSH 2024

A proud and exciting moment for our parish, Kadosh 2024, was announced to be conducted on June 8th. It will be filled with lots of fun, excitement, and surprises... Stay tuned for more in the next issue..



# ST. JOSEPH SYRO-MALABAR MISSION CABOOLTURE

## FIRST MEETING AND NAME SELECTION

The mission's journey officially commenced with the special meeting held on April 25th, 2023, at St Peter's Catholic parish centre Caboolture. During this gathering, James Varghese, Sunil Varghese, and Alan Thomas were appointed as trustees. Other Mission council members were selected, and Jasmine Sony was elected as the parish secretary. The collective decision was made to christen the mission as St. Joseph Syro-Malabar Mission, Caboolture (SJMC). Approximately 40 Syro-Malabar Catholic families in Caboolture displayed great enthusiasm and invested maximum effort in ensuring the smooth functioning of church activities.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND INITIATION OF ACTIVITIES

The mission is divided into two family units: St. Mary's unit, and St. Dominic Savio unit. Family unit meetings commenced in June 2023. Regular Sunday masses, a cornerstone of the mission's calendar, were inaugurated on September 17th, 2023. The active participation of the community in Sunday masses, family unit prayers, and meetings contributes to the sense of unity and shared purpose within the community. At the very beginning of the mission itself, liturgical items and other parish-related properties were purchased and owned due to the unity of the parish members, despite there being only 40 families in the community.

## OFFICIAL INAUGURATION

SJMC marked its official journey with a grand inauguration ceremonial mass led by Rev. Bishop John Panamthottathil CMI on October 8th, 2023. Fr. George Mankuzhikary and Fr. Tijo Puthenparampil concelebrated the mass and blessed the official commencement of SJMC. On the same day, the mission witnessed a significant milestone as 13 children received their first holy communion from Bishop John Panamthottathil, reinforcing the commitment of mission members.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The mission organized family unit rosaries, conducted over 10 days at the residences of each family unit, and a Japamala Rally on October 30th, 2023, at St. Peter's Church Caboolture. During this event, children dressed up in outfits reminiscent of their favourite saints, creating an atmosphere filled with blessings. This initiative successfully engaged the community in spiritual practices, fostering a profound sense of reverence and celebration.

## CATECHISM INAUGURATION

Catechism classes commenced on 4th Feb 2024 as a testament to SJMC's Commitment to nurturing spiritual growth among children and laying a strong foundation in the Catholic faith.

## LENTEN RETREAT

The Lenten retreat, led by Rev Bishop Thomas Tharayil, occurred on the 27th and 28th of February 2024. It was an incredible spiritual awakening, offering valuable insights into recreating happiness in family life. Despite the parish having only 40 families, every individual actively contributed, working together to make this retreat exceptionally fruitful.

SJMC continues to flourish spiritually as its members remain unified with Jesus in their journey of faith and passionately pursue Jesus with hearts on fire to reach the lost. May each step forward by SJMC be guided by the power of the Holy Spirit in peace and love.



# St. Marys Syro-Malabar Mission New Castle

## ക്രിസ്തുമസ് 2023

ലോകരക്ഷകന്റെ തിരുപ്പിറവിയോടനുബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ഈ വർഷത്തെ ആഘോഷങ്ങൾ ഷോർട്ട്ലാൻഡ് പള്ളിയിൽ വച്ച് ഡിസംബർ 24 ന് രാത്രി 8.30 മുതൽ ക്രിസ്തുമസ് തിരുക്കർമ്മങ്ങളും പ്രദക്ഷിണവും വി.കുർബാനയും നടന്നു. അതിനുശേഷം മത ബോധന വിഭാഗവും കുടുംബ യൂണിറ്റുകളും നടത്തിയ Gloria 2023 ന്റെ മത്സര ഫലപ്രഖ്യാപനവും സമ്മാനദാനവും ക്രിസ്തുമസ് കരോൾ ഗാനങ്ങളും ഏറെ മനോഹരമായിരുന്നു. പള്ളിപ്പരിസരത്ത് ക്രമീകരിച്ച ക്രിസ്തുമസ് ട്രീയും നറുക്കെടുപ്പും സമ്മാനങ്ങളും ഇത്തവണത്തെ ക്രിസ്തുമസ് ആഘോഷങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏറെ മിഴിവുകി.

## പ്രത്യാശയുടെ ദൈവമക്കൾ

ഇശോയെ അറിയാനും ഇശോയുടെ സാക്ഷികളായി ജീവിക്കുവാനുമുള്ള വിശ്വാസ പരിശീലനത്തിന് തുടക്കം കുറിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് 40ലധികം കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങൾ ഇത്തവണ ഒന്നാം ക്ലാസ്സിലേക്ക് പ്രവേശനം നേടി. Feb 18 ന് കുർബാനയോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് നടത്തിയ പ്രവേശനോത്സവത്തിൽ വച്ച് കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളും അവരുടെ മാതാപിതാക്കളും കാഴ്ചയർപ്പണം നടത്തി.

അഭിവന്ദ്യ ജോൺ പനന്തോട്ടത്തിൽ CMI പിതാവ് ന്യൂകാസിൽ സെയ്ന്റ് മേരീസ് മിഷനിൽ ഇടയ സന്ദർശനം നടത്തി. ഫെബ്രുവരി 29 വ്യാഴാഴ്ച വൈകിട്ട് ന്യൂകാസിൽ വിമാനത്താവളത്തിൽ വച്ച് പിതാവിനെ സ്വീകരിച്ചു. മാർച്ച് 1 വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച രാവിലെ മോർപ്പത്ത് പള്ളി സന്ദർശനത്തിന് ശേഷം മെയ്റ്റ്ലാൻഡ് ന്യൂകാസിൽ രൂപതാ മെതാൻ ബിഷപ്പ് മൈക്കിൾ കെന്നഡിയും വികാരി ജനറാൾമാരായ ഫാ.ഗ്രേഗ് ബാർക്കർ, ഫാ. മാത്യു മുള്ളർ എന്നിവരോടൊപ്പമുള്ള ഭൗതിക മീറ്റിംഗിനും ഉച്ചദക്ഷിണത്തിനും ശേഷം വൈകിട്ട് ഷോർട്ട്ലാൻഡ് പള്ളിയിൽ മാസാദ്യ വെള്ളി ശുശ്രൂഷകൾക്ക് കാർമ്മികത്വം വഹിക്കുകയും ധ്യാനം, ആരാധന എന്നിവയ്ക്ക് നേതൃത്വം വഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു.

രണ്ടാം തിയതി ശനിയാഴ്ച ഇടവകയിൽ സജീവമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന വിവിധ സംഘടനാപതിനിധികളുമായുള്ള കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചകൾ നടന്നു. വൈകിട്ട് ഇടവകയിലെ വിവിധ യൂണിറ്റ് മീറ്റിംഗുകളിൽ പിതാവ് പങ്കെടുത്തു. മൂന്നാം തിയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച വിവിധ കുടുംബ യൂണിറ്റ് മീറ്റിംഗുകളിൽ പിതാവിന്റെ സന്ദർശനം തുടർന്നു.

അന്ന് വൈകിട്ട് പിതാവ് മതബോധന വിഭാഗത്തെ സന്ദർശിക്കുകയും സാരോപേദശങ്ങൾ നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു. ആഘോഷമായ വി.കുർബാന മധ്യേ പിതാവ് നൽകിയ സേനശത്തിൽ ഒരോ ക്രൈസ്തവനും സഭയുടേയും കിസ്തുവിൻ്റെയും ശബ്ദമാക

ണമെന്നും, സഭയിലൂടെ മക്കൾ വളരണമെന്നും, പള്ളി രണ്ടാമത്തെ വീടായി കാണണമെന്നും ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്തു. നാലാം തിയതി വൈകിട്ട് താരി കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റിയിൽ വി.കുർബാനയർപ്പിച്ചതിന് ശേഷം പിതാവ് മെൽബണിലേക്ക് തിരികെ യാത്രയായി.

ബിഷപ്പ് മാർ പ്രിൻസ് പനന്തോടൻ നയിച്ച ഈ വർഷത്തെ ഇടവകാധ്യാനം മാർച്ച് 16, 17, 18 ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ നടന്നു.



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH MELBOURNE SE

## CATECHISM DAY INAUGURATION

Catechism Day inauguration was held on 25 February 2024. Teachers and students were involved in the ceremony. The function began with Holy Qurbana. Vicar Msgr. Francise Kolencherry, Assistant Vicar Fr. Joyis Kolamkuzhiyil CMI, and catechism leadership team lit the lamp. New students were welcomed during the function.



## CHURCH CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Church construction Work is progressing quickly. 95% of the roofing completed. Electrical and plastering work are in progress

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Our parish organised two sessions of Safeguarding training. More than 150 volunteers from various parishes attended the training.



## CATECHISM TEACHERS CONFERENCE - LUMEN FIDEI 4.1

Our Parish hosted Catechism Teachers conference LUMEN FIDEI 4.1 on 24 February 2024 at St. John's College, Dandenong organised by the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne. Almost 75 teachers were present from 8 centres.



# St. Alphonsa Forane Parish Parramatta

## CATECHISM CLASSES COMMENCES

2024 Catechism classes commenced on Feb 11th 2024. 360 students from KG to year 12 have been registered for the 2024 classes. Catechism teachers and students conducted Special adoration and spent Holy hour with the Lord in preparation of the commencement of 2024 catechism classes.

## CATECHISM INAUGURATION & PRAVESANOTSAVAM



## FEAST OF ST SEBASTIAN

Parish celebrated the feast of St Sebastians on Sunday 25th Feb. Holy Qurbana was followed by Ladinju pradakshinam, nercha and Kazhunu edukkal



## VIBHOOTHI THIRUNAL

Ash Monday Holy Qurbana and Vibhoothi liturgy was celebrated on 12th



## ALL SOULS DAY FEB 9TH



## VACHANA PRAGHOSHANAM & NIGHT VIGIL.

## BERRIMA LENTEN PILGRIMAGE.

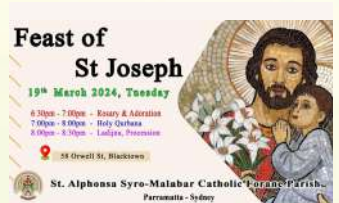
## STUDENT COUNCIL FORMATION.

## NEWLY GRADUATED YEAR 12 JOINING SMYM & OFFERTORY QURBANA

## DISCUSSION ON SYNODALITY 10TH MARCH.

## ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT 15TH & 16TH MARCH LED BY MAR THOMAS THARAYIL & CONFESSION

## FEAST OF ST JOSEPH 19TH MARCH 2024



# St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission - Shepparton

## CATECHISM

2024 Catechism classes started on Sunday, 8 February. Newly enrolled kids involved in the procession of the offertory before the Holy Qurbana. An inaugural ceremony followed the holy mass

## LENT

The Lenten period begins on Monday, 12 February, with Vibhoothi Thirunaal. The Way of the Cross is held every Friday during Lent, after the Holy Qurbana.

## LENTEN RETREAT

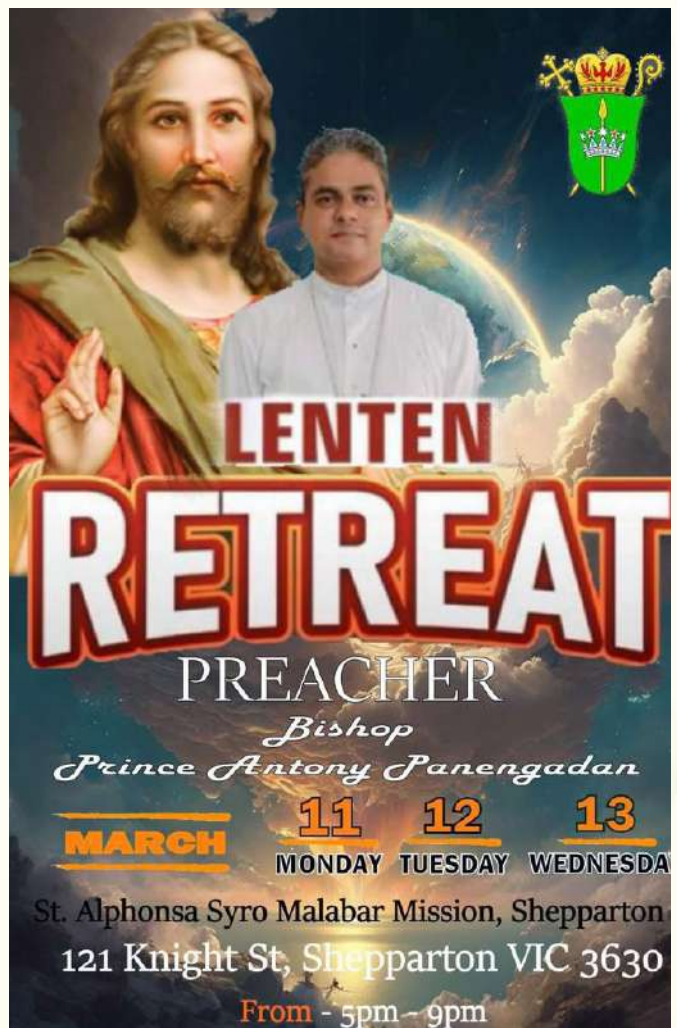
A 3-day Lenten Retreat led by Bishop Prince Panengadan was organised from Monday, 11 March to Wednesday, 13 March.

## RISE & SHINE: A ONE-DAY GATHERING FOR TEENS

Was organised on Monday, 11 March for the Catechism students from Year 8 to Year 12.

## ST. JOSEPH DAY CELEBRATION

The Feast of St Joseph is celebrated on Sunday, 17 March 2024, with "Paachoru Nercha" and the official inauguration of Pithru Vedhi after the holy Qurbana.



# ST. JOSEPH SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH, PERTH

## PARISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The first event we had at our parish was the Christmas and New Years Celebration on 6th January 2024. The celebration was filled with many programs performed by Catechism Students, Prayer Groups, Mathruvedi, SMYM and SMYCM. The event was complemented by a Christmas Dinner, a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree and many attractive gifts.

## ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT



In preparation for Easter, our parish was fortunate to have Fr. Jensen LaSalette visit us and conduct our Annual Lenten Retreat over a span on three days. The retreat welcomed not only families, but young couples and youth and was a meaningful opportunity to renew life in Christ. The parish had the chance to spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament for all three days.

## YOUTH RETREAT



Catered towards the needs of SMYM and SMYCM, "SEEK 2024" and "Called to Love" were two residential retreats that occurred in March. Both retreats were led by the Sliha daMsiha team and had amazing turnouts in participation. Every Youth that gathered at SEEK 2024 encountered Christ in a very special and personal way. The Young Couples had the time to bond with each other as well as develop a stronger relationship with their spouse and in Christ. Both residential retreats were very powerful and we look forward to seeing more Youth and Young Couples join us in future events.

## SMTM: ENCOUNTER



The inaugural SMTM (Syro-Malabar Teens Ministry) Gathering for the year, "ENCOUNTER," occurred on Friday, 1 March. This gathering was a blessing to start the year, culminating in a powerful Eucharistic Adoration session. We had an amazing turnout and the teens enjoyed everything that was prepared for them at the gathering. Prayers were lifted for the spiritual well-being of our youth and teens throughout the gathering.

## BISHOP JOHN PANAMTHOTTATHIL'S WELCOME



Our Parish was really blessed to have His Excellency Mar John Panamthottathil come down from Melbourne to be with us and celebrate our Parish Perunaal - Feast of St. Joseph. Mar John celebrated Holy Qurbana with us on the day of his arrival and blessed our newly made statue of Blessed Mother Mary.

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

### SMYM MOVIE NIGHT

Outdoor movie night was organised at the church compound by Melbourne West SMYM on 20th January. 'Joseph: king of dreams' an English animated movie was played along with a talk on the character of Joseph from the Old Testament and the lessons can be learned from his life. This was an opportunity for the teens and youth to reflect on their life targeted on faith and fellowship.

### COMMENCEMENT OF FAITH FORMATION CLASSES.

Fr. Abraham Kazhunnadiyil, along with catechism department team, students, and PTA representatives, lit the candle to inaugurate 2024 catechism on 4th of February. Fr. Abraham handed certificates to accomplished Year 12 graduates. Fr. Abraham also presented special gifts to various kids for their remarkable achievements in their spiritual journey. Catechism prep students were welcomed by the parish members into the beginning of their faith formation journey.

### WESTERN JINGLES

St. Mary's parish Melbourne West conducted the second multicultural fest 'Western Jingles' on 10th of February Saturday 10am to 7pm at 68 Katherine Drive, Ravenhall. About 1000 people from different cultures and ethnicities attended the event. It was a showcase of art, music and food from different nationalities and people came together to celebrate their rich culture under one platform.

Dr. Sushil Kumar, Consulate General of the Indian Embassy, Melbourne and the Mayor of Melton City Council were the chief guests at the concluding public gathering. Our aim was to bring together a spectacle of unity, diversity and cultural harmony featuring fusion of traditional arts, captivating dance, delicious food, exciting rides, and enchanting music from diverse countries and cultures, all under one vibrant celebration. There were on-stage and off-stage performances such as flash mob, ethnic wear parade, tug of war and live group dance displays. Lots were taken at the function for the Raffle Draw and four attractive prizes were awarded to the winners during the function.

### SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH

A thanksgiving Holy Mass was celebrated on February 19 at 7pm on the second anniversary of the consecration of our church. We were grateful to have Bishop John Panamthottathil as the main celebrant and Fr. Jose Thekkanadiyil of Mananthavady Diocese and Fr. Abraham our parish priest concelebrating.

### TREE PLANTING DAY

Volunteers joined their hands together on 24th February to plant trees and fruit trees on the parish grounds to provide for environmental sustainability and contribute to the wellbeing of future generations.

### HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

Holy communion preparation classes commenced on 10th of March and will be held on every Sunday one hour before the Holy Qurbana.

### ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

Altar servers training is planned for 16th of March for the newly joined and current altar servers.

### ANNUAL RETREAT

Parish annual retreat is scheduled for March 22, 23 and 24. Rev. Dr. Luke Thadathil, Professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary Alwaye will preach the Retreat.

### SMYM HIKE

SMYM of our parish organized a hike for all the Youth members in Melbourne on 9th of March. Around 60 Youth from different parishes in Melbourne joined the hike. Rev. Dr. George Thadathil SDB of Calcutta Province had an interesting session with the Youth during the hike.



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

The year began with a spirit of gratitude and prayer as we welcomed the new year with a Thanksgiving Mass and Adoration, setting the tone for an eventful year ahead.

## PINDI KUTHI THIRUNAL

The Denaha Thirunal on January 6th was marked by a special Pindi kuthi Thirunal celebration, where each of our six family units brought forth their beautifully decorated Pindis. The Parish community joyously celebrated the spirit of Denaha on this memorable day.

## FEAST CELEBRATIONS

Throughout these months, our Parish commemorated various feasts including St. Chavara Kuria-kose, St. John the Baptist, St. Devasahayam Pillai, and St. Sebastian with grandeur and reverence. Special Masses were held for the departed souls and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was observed with devotion. Ash Monday was celebrated on February 12th which marked the beginning of the Lent season and a period of prayer, Sacrifice, love and commitment to our faith and ourselves leading to Easter.

## CATECHISM INITIATIVES

The inauguration of the Catechism Academic Year 2024 was a significant event, with 205 students embarking on their faith journey. The Back-to-School Blessing Ceremony on 21st January to seek God's grace for the new academic year. This event featured Holy Qurbana led by Fr. Tijo, followed by a special blessing for all the students, where parents gathered to pray for their children's success and well-being. With a strong sense of community support and faith, families departed with renewed optimism for the educational journey ahead.

## JOYFUL CONNECTIONS '24

The Catechism Department organized a two-hour session called " Joyful Connections ' for the young children ( 5-12 years and youth) with Bishop Thomas Tharayil on 29th February 2024, 5-7 pm. Around 100 children participated in this session and they all enjoyed their beautiful moments with Bishop Mar. Thomas Tharayil further enriched the spiritual growth of our young learners.

## SPIRITUAL SYMPOSIUM

A Spiritual Symposium was organized for catechism teachers, with Bishop Mar. Thomas Tharayil leading the session. This gathering provided a revitalizing experience for the teachers, enhancing their spiritual knowledge and commitment.

## LENTEN RETREAT 2024

The Parish Annual Lenten retreat, led by the esteemed Bishop Thomas Tharayil from March 1st to March 3rd, was a spiritually enriching experience for the entire Parish community. Through his teachings, Bishop Thomas Tharayil blessed us with profound insights and guidance for the Lenten season.

We are grateful for the blessings and growth we have experienced as a community, and we look forward to continuing our journey of faith and service this year.



**BP. MAR. THOMAS THARAYIL**

# JOYFUL Connections

Exclusively for Grade 3 - Grade 12 including youngsters

Experience a captivating spiritual event as the esteemed Bishop engages and enlightens youngsters with his profound teachings. A sacred atmosphere awaits with

- Talk
- Q&A session
- Prayers
- Adoration

**29 February 2024** Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm

UNITY COLLEGE CHAPEL  
87 LOMOND CRES., CALINDRA WEST

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SYRO-MALABAR FORANE CHURCH, BRISBANE SOUTH

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES

**Christmas Carol**- Each family units in our church conducted Christmas Carol under the leadership of family unit leaders.

**Carol singing performance by the family units**-Ward wise Carol singing performance conducted on Friday 22nd December after the Holy Qurbana.

**Christmas Tree**-Our SMYM members set up a Christmas tree outside the church with attractive gift packs for our children to buy. \$5 per gift pack.

**Year end & New Year Services:** Started Year-end prayers with Adoration at 6:00 pm on 31st December 2023 followed by Holy Qurbana at 7:00 pm and Adoration till Midnight. We also had Holy Qurbana at 9:00 am on 1st January 2024.

### PRIESTHOOD AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF OUR PARISH PRIEST

We celebrated our vicar Fr Abraham Nadukunnel's priesthood and the birthday on 3rd January 2024. Celebrations organised by Trustees and parish council.

### DENAHA

Celebrated the feast of Denaha on Sunday, 6 January 2024. Denaha Thirunal or Pindikuthi Perunnal or Rakkuli Perunnal is a traditional and important festival of Saint Thomas Christians .The liturgical season Denha Kaalam (Epiphany season) begins with the Sunday nearest to Pindikuthi Perunnal.

### POTHU PANI

We have conducted Pothu Pani on 7th October 2023 and 26th January 2024 to clean our church, catechism centre and its surroundings. Many parishioners contributed to this event with their time and effort.



### CATECHISAM & MALAYALAM CLASS

The Catechism classes and Malayalam language classes for the academic year 2024-25 were inaugurated on Sunday, 28 January , 2024 after the Holly Mass at 9.00 am in the presence of a large gathering of children, parents and parishioners. The Parish Priest Rev.Fr.Abraham Nadukunnel extended a warm welcome to all the teachers , children and parents.

### NAVIGATING ADULTHOOD

SMYM Brisbane South organised 'Navigating Adulthood' with guest speaker Fr. Saji SJ on Sunday 4th February 2024 Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.

### ASH MONDAY ( VIBHOOTHI THIRUNAL)

Services started at 6:30pm on 12th Feb 2024.

### RECOGNITION

St Thomas Syro Malabar Forane Church South Brisbane has recognised our Distinguished Achievers (ATAR score of 95% or above) of last year 12 examination 2023 . The high performers have received mementoes from the Vicar Fr.Abraham Nadukunnel .

### 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Couples who are celebrating their 25th Wedding anniversary received mementoes from Fr.Abraham on 3rd March 2024.

### PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

Parish Lenten Retreat was conducted on 8th,9th and 10th March 2023.Lead by Bishop Thoams Tharayil.A special Youth Session for our SMY members conducted on Saturday 9th March 9:30am-11:30am.



# St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission, Bendigo

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission in Bendigo Celebrated Lenten Retreat and Sunday School Anniversary.

The St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission in Bendigo recently hosted a Lenten retreat and marked the anniversary of its Sunday school on February 3rd, 2024.

The retreat offered spiritual reflection and renewal, while the anniversary celebration honored the Sunday school's role in nurturing young minds. These events reaffirmed the community's commitment to faith, love, and service.



# ST. MARY'S SYRO-MALABAR PARISH ADELAIDE SOUTH

## Parish Highlights: Jan to March 2024

**January 1st** – The community came together to commemorate the 28th Sacerdotal Anniversary of our beloved Vicar, Rev. Fr. Siby Pulickal. We extend our heartfelt prayers for continued blessings from the Almighty.

**Feast of Denaha** – January 6th was marked with celebrations as we observed the Feast of Denaha.

**February 4th** – The inauguration ceremony of the Catechetical year 2024 was held, accompanied by an Award Presentation ceremony for the academic year 2023.

**Parish Feast** – On February 11th, Sunday, St. Mary's Syro Malabar Parish joyously celebrated the Joint Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Sebastian. The solemn Qurbana was presided over by Rev. Fr. Joyis Kolamkuzhiyil C M I, with the participation of Rev. Frs. John Shanahan and Ajith Cheriakara. Approximately 450 faithful joined in the feast celebrations and Sneha Virunnu.

**February 23rd to 25th** – The Parish Annual Lenten Retreat was conducted, led by Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal, providing spiritual nourishment and reflection for the community.

**Feast Of St. Joseph** – March 19th witnessed the celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph, marked by Holy Qurbana followed by Litany and Oottu Nercha.

**Upcoming Events:** Parish Funday – April 13th, Saturday, is reserved for the Parish Funday, promising a day of fun-filled activities and community bonding.



# St. Alphonsa Cathedral Parish Melbourne North

St Alphonsa Cathedral Parish looks forward to all the blessings in store for us during 2024. Our Cathedral construction project is progressing steadily and different works are being done around the site including work on the altar and tiling. Various working bee days were organized for parish members to visit the site, witness the progress, and lend a hand in cleaning and organizing the construction site.

At the start of the year, we celebrated the Feast of Denha on Friday 5th January along with our First Friday Night Vigil. The service was a very powerful experience, revealing the importance of having an open mind and heart towards Jesus who revealed himself to us.

One of the biggest events of our calendar took place during February. From 2nd February to 10th February, we had our Novena to St Alphonsa preceding the celebration of our Feast. On 10th February we also had our Community Fun Day. During the Fun Day, different activities and rides were organised. There was also a variety of food stalls offering very delicious and enjoyable food. Then, on 11th February, we celebrated our feast day, with a special Holy Qurbana and procession. The couples who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary (silver jubilee) were also commemorated during the feast. The youth also organised a special dance to be presented following the feast day and everyone participated in the snehavirnu afterwards.

The resumption of Catechism on February 4th was met with a special inauguration ceremony at both centres, symbolized by the blessing of books and the lighting of lamps by students, teachers, and the headmaster alongside the priest. There was also a special meeting held for all catechism teachers led by Fr Abraham Kazhunnadiyil regarding the importance and responsibilities associated with being a catechist.

Our Viboothy was held at two churches on 12th February, including St Peter's Church and Our Lady's Parish. Bishop John Panamthottathil graced us on

the day and offered the Holy Qurbana at St Peter's Church.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate our Annual Retreat scheduled for March 22nd to 24th, culminating on Palm Sunday (Oshana Njayar), a time for spiritual renewal and reflection as we journey through the Lenten season.

The dawn of this new year has already been marked by a tapestry of faith, community, and celebration, promising a year filled with growth, grace, and shared blessings as we continue our journey together.



# St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Forane Church - Adelaide Central

St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Forane Church had a dynamic start to 2024, marked by both reflective and celebratory events that strengthened the community's spiritual foundation. The year kicked off with a New Year's Mass and Adoration, followed by a joyous celebration of Rev. Fr Siby's 28th ordination anniversary, acknowledging his dedication to the community.



Significant events in January included the Denha Thirunal Qurbana led by Fr Jijo Kadavan and Fr Siby, and the visit of Rev. Fr George and Fr Gerard from the Netherlands for Holy Qurbana, enhancing international spiritual fellowship. The vibrant St Sebastian's Feast featured traditional festivities, while Moonu Nombu observance included Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Rosary, and Holy Qurbana, deepening the communal faith experience.



The launch of 2024 catechism classes was marked by a procession and a pledge by Sunday school teachers, emphasizing the church's commitment to spiritual education. The month concluded with gratitude expressed to the outgoing Parish Pastoral Council committee members for their service.



February's focus was the Lenten season, beginning with Ash Monday led by Fr. Joyis Kolamkuzhiyl CMI. The community also remembered departed souls through Holy Qurbana, and the youth participated in a transformative SEEK retreat led by the Sliha Da Msiha team. Eucharistic Adoration sessions fostered a deeper connection with faith among the youth.



The Annual Lenten Retreat from March 1st to 3rd was a highlight, offering profound reflection and spiritual renewal. It included special sessions for children, underscoring the inclusive approach to faith formation.



These activities from January through March illustrate St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Forane Church's vibrant engagement with its traditions, education, and community spiritual growth.



# DAYS TO REMEMBER

## APRIL

01 - 5 Fri- Feast of Martyrs  
(Feast of All Saints)

02 - 21 Sun - World Prayer Day  
for Vocations

03 - 24 Wed- St. George

04 - 25 Thu - St. Mark, the  
Evangelist

05 -28 Sun- Mar Addai

06 -29 Mon- St. Catherine of  
Sienna

## MAY

01 - 1 Wed - St. Joseph, the  
Patron of the working class

02 - 2 Thu - St. Athanasius

03- 3 Fri- St. Philip and St.  
James, Apostles

04 - 6 Mon- St. Dominic Savio

05 -9 Thu - Ascension of the  
Lord

06 -14 Tue - St. Mathias, the  
Apostle

07 -19 Sun- The Feast of Pente-  
cost

08 -26 Sun - Feast of Holy Trinity

09 -30 Thu - Feast of the Body  
and Blood of Christ

10 -31 Fri- Visitation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

## JUNE

01 - 1 Sat - St. Justin

02 - 7 Fri - Feast of the Sacred  
Heart of Jesus

03 - 8 Sat - Immaculate Heart of  
Mary , St. Mariam Thresia

04 - 9 Sun - Mar Aprem

05 -11 Tue - St. Barnabas, the  
Apostle

06 -13 Thu- St. Antony of Padua

07 -22 Sat- St. John Fisher and  
St. Thomas Moore

08 -24 Mon - Birth of John the  
Baptist

09 -28 Fri - St. Irenaeus

10 -29 Sat - St. Peter and St.  
Paul, the Apostles



**WE ARE WISHING  
EVERYONE ABUNDANT  
BLESSINGS ON THE  
GLORIOUS FEAST OF  
THE RESURRECTION OF  
OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST**

**Marthoma Vision**



## EPARCHY MEDIA COMMISSION

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

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