



THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE EPHREMITES



BULLETIN OF THE EXARCHATE OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE

VOL II | NO. 9 | January 2017



The Feast of *Denho* - The Baptism of Our Lord

Glimpses from the Fourth Pastoral Council Meet



Foundation Stone Laying and Inauguration of the New Principal's Office of Mar Gregorios Public School, Chennai

The Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

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VOICE OF THE EXARCH

I greet you, my dear brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord!



In divine providence, we were called to celebrate one more Christmas in the spirit of the first Christmas at Bethlehem. We are now in a New Year with renewed fervor and commitment to live in the Christmas experience and to share it with the world at large. The presence of a Christian in a place is the symbol of the presence of Jesus in the world! I wish you all, once again, a grace-filled prosperous new year!

In the year 2017, we have a definite vision and mission before us. We have goals to achieve. In the light of the life lived yesteryear, growth in faith, growth in the renewal of our family life in the light of the teachings of *Amoris Laetitia*, the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Pope Francis, the deepening of our commitment for evangelization and the building up of the necessary infrastructure for our Exarchate are a few of our main focus of the year 2017. In this pursuit, I remember with gratitude all our benefactors, well-wishers and our own faithful who stood in solidarity with the Exarchate. The last year was the year of God's mercy. This year we continue in the outpouring of the divine mercy and share it with our brothers and sisters, especially with those who have not come to light and joy of the Gospel.

Let me share with you some of the highlights of our activities and their follow up?

Priests' Meet

The fourth official gathering of the Priests serving in the Exarchate held on 24 November 2016 at St Mary's Cathedral was a very enriching experience personally for me and the communion of our Priests who are ardently involved in the ministries assigned to them. The opening session on Emotional Quotient by Ms Geena Binoy, a parishioner of our Cathedral and the Vice-President of Tata Technologies, gave enough material to ponder over the emotional skills priests have to develop for a fruitful priestly

ministry. An evaluation of the events conducted in the past six months in the Parishes, Districts and the Exarchate was done in detail. Future plans were discussed and finalized in the meeting. A detailed report of the gathering is published in this edition of The Ephremite.

The communion of the Priests is the back-bone of any Eparchy or Diocese. We are really blessed with a group of Priests who are committed to their Priesthood and dedicated to the service of the People of God. Kindly submit me and the Presbyterium of our Exarchate in prayer to the Lord, the Shepherd of shepherds.

Pastoral Council

The fourth Pastoral Council of the Exarchate was held on 25 November 2016 at St Mary's Cathedral, Khadki. Apart from the routine evaluations and discussions on the Commissions, this time the Pastoral Council took up two main tasks to be implemented in the new year: To begin a full-fledged mission at Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh and to construct the Minor Seminary of the Exarchate at Khopoli, Navi Mumbai, where we are planning to materialize the Exarchial Head Quarters.

The genuine enthusiasm shown by the Pastoral Council members in extending the service of the Exarchate to mission areas gives us courage and strength to begin formal mission activities in different parts of the Exarchate. Already we have initiated Mission Activities in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru and Pune.

It is our dream to build the Minor Seminary with the support of the faithful of the Exarchate. A minor seminary is the 'cradle of priesthood'. If a child gets adequate care and ample nurturing in the cradle, s/he blooms to a fully matured person in the future. So the role of the Minor Seminary in the life of the future priests of the Exarchate is vital. Let us be united in realizing this noble dream of building up a Minor Seminary for the Exarchate. I will formally reach out to you through a circular and with concrete action plan.

A detailed report of the Pastoral Council is published in this edition

of the Ephremite for your reference.

Closing Ceremony of the Holy Year of Mercy

The closing of the Holy Year of Mercy was conducted on 27 November 2016 at St Mary's Cathedral, Khadki. Rt Rev. Msgr Varghese Mattamana, the Protosyncellus of the Exarchate led the liturgical celebrations. The participation of a large number of faithful at the event clearly shows how much we are concerned about our spiritual well-being. Let us remember that God beckons us always to His door of mercy which He keeps open for us always!

Land Bought at Nashik

We have bought some land in Nashik for the purpose of shifting the School at present working in the parking area of the Nashik Church. It has been bought with the help of a loan in the name of Mar Gregorios College, Chennai. Let me gratefully acknowledge with gratitude the expertise and consistent commitment of Rt Rev. Msgr Varghese Mattamana (Protosyncellus), Rev. Fr Varghese Kaithon (Finance Officer), Rev Fr. Sabu Varghese Maruthoor, the Secretary of the MSC Trust Chennai, Rev. Fr Jose Konnathuvila (Parish Priest of Nashik), Mr Sunny, Mr Joykutty and Mr Kunjumon (Nashik) and Mr Johny Yohannan, Mr John Mathew, Mr Babu George, Mr Zacharia Pawath and Mr Tony Pawath (all from Mumbai) in realizing the sale deed.

Western Region Bishops' Council and Western Region Catholic Council

The Western Region Bishops' Council (WRBC), which is composed of Bishops from the states of Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat, was convoked on 9 December 2016 at Nadiad in Gujarat. The Western Region Catholic Council (WRCC) which includes the representatives of the Priests, Religious and the Laity along with the Bishops of the region was also convoked on 10 and 11 December 2016 at Nadiad. The main agenda focused on the study of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* on the renewal of

family life and to chalk out Diocesan plans to implement it. From our Exarchate, apart from the Exarch, Rev. Sr Kiran SIC, Rev. Fr George Mathew OIC, Mr PV Thomas and Ms Sojisha Samuel participated. The programme was very enriching.

We in our Exarchate have already started making available the Apostolic Exhortation. The study has begun. I urge the Family Commission of our Exarchate to chalk out means to ensure its study and implementation.

First Semester Catechism Examination

The First Semester Catechism Examination in the Exarchate was conducted on 4 December 2016 across all the centres of the Exarchate. I am very happy to know that Sunday Schools were begun in the newly erected Parishes - Ayapakkam, Carmelaram, Dombivili and Goa. I am even happier to know that Catechism Classes were initiated in the Mission Centres - Tambaram and Nanganallur in Chennai. It was really amazing that the results were announced in five days. I wholeheartedly congratulate Rev. Fr Valikodath who steered the whole process from his bed recovering from the fracture of his leg and the subsequent operation. I thank the Sunday School Teachers all those who worked before and behind the scenes conducting the examination, evaluating the answer sheets and tabulating the mark sheets.

Chronological Bible Reading in One Year

The Commission for Bible Apostolate of the Exarchate is on a new venture of 'Reading the Bible in the Order of Chronological Events' in the new year 2017. This is in continuation to 'Read the Bible in One Year' executed in 2016. I personally came to know that many of our faithful in the Exarchate have taken this challenge in great spirit and are determined to complete the task on 31 December 2017. I exhort all the faithful of the Exarchate to take seriously this new venture and take advantage of understanding the events from the creation of the universe to the second coming of Christ in a chronological perspective. The details of the

programme and the schema of reading for two months are given in this edition of The Ephremite.

Vijayawada Mission

For the last four months, we have been zealously trying to initiate our mission activities in and around Vijayawada. Rev. Fr Varghese Valikodath was leading the spadework in this regard. We are at the threshold of officially inaugurating the Mission in Andhra Pradesh in the month of January itself. Rev. Fr. Stephen Chempakathoppu, till now parish priest of Goa Parish, is getting ready to lead the team locally. Along with him two sisters from Nirmala Province of the DM Congregation, Rev. Sr. Mercy Xavier DM and Rev. Sr. Geo DM, will work with him full time in the mission. A team comprising of Mr VA George, Mr Alex Valavil, Mr Zacharias Pawath, Mr Joshi Raphel and Mrs Mary Joshi and few others will support them with their presence as and when required. This is a divine opportunity for the members of Suvisesha Sangham to involve in the mission according to the mission command of Jesus.

Let me also bring to your attention that our mission work has to be supported by your spontaneous and voluntary offerings. Suvisesha Sangham has to chalk out some actual plan for this.

Welcome to Rev. Fr. Augustine Konnathuvila

I welcome Rev. Fr Augustine Sunil Konnathuvila from the Eparchy of Marthandom, who is on a temporary mission to the Exarchate and has taken over the charge of our parish in Goa in the place of Rev. Fr Stephen Chempakathoppu who is chosen to lead our mission team to Vijayawada. Fr Sunil is the younger brother of Rev. Fr Jose Konnathuvila, the Parish Priest of Nashik. I thank him for volunteering for the service and wish him a fruitful ministry in the Exarchate. We owe our thanks to Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos, Metropolitan of the Eparchy of Marthandam for lending the service of Fr Sunil for the Exarchate.

Church Unity Octave

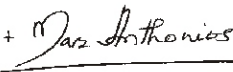
The month of January is known not only as the opening month of the year, but also as a month dedicated to prayer for the unity of all Christians. The Church Unity Octave prayers from 18 to 25 January is an occasion for us to pray together with all Christian denominations. By our active participation at such prayer-events organised by us and by other Churches, let us declare our Christian solidarity and pray ardently for Christian unity.

Patron's Day of our Bavathirumeni

The New Year begins with the Feast of St Basil, the Patron saint of our beloved Major Archbishop-Catholicos, His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, the Father and Head of our Church. We, his spiritual sons and daughters, wish him a HAPPY FEAST and pray that God shower his choicest blessings on him through the intercession of St Basil. His Beatitude has decided to set apart the offerings he receives on the occasion for the mission work of the Eparchy of Gurgaon and the Exarchate of St Ephrem Khadki. We thank our beloved Bavathirumeni for his great encouragement and love for spreading the joy of the Gospel.

Dear brothers and sisters! May Jesus Christ and His Holy Family bless you abundantly throughout the New Year!

Lovingly Your Aboon

+ 

✠ **Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC**
Apostolic Exarch

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from.

1. The Fourth Pastoral and Finance Council Meet Held

The fourth Pastoral and Finance Council Meet of the Exarchate of St Ephrem was held on 25 November 2016 at St Mary's Malankara Syrian Catholic Cathedral Church, Pune.

Pastoral Council Report

The fourth Pastoral Council Meeting of the Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune, was held on 25 November 2016 at St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Cathedral Khadki Pune. The gathering began with the Holy Qurbano celebrated by the Exarch His Excellency Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. The Holy Qurbano was concelebrated by seventeen Reverend priests serving in the exarchate.

The pastoral council meeting, chaired by the Exarch started at 10.30 AM. The following 66 members attended the meeting.

Priests

Msr V. Rev. Fr Varghese Mattamana	Fr George Mathew OIC
Fr Joseph Venmanath	Fr Varghese Kaithon
Fr Mathew Iranathara OIC	Fr John Thundiyath OIC
Fr Varghese Kadakketh	Fr Varghese Maruthoor
Fr Joseph Noble OIC	Fr Cyril Anand OIC
Fr. Philip Kaleeckal	Fr Stephen Mathar
Fr Samuel Thoppil	Fr Philip Pulipra
Fr Jose Konathuvila	Fr Stephen Chembakathoppu
Fr Augustine Konathuvila	

Rev. Sisters

Sr Pradeepthi SIC	Sr Keerthi SIC
Sr Lucia SIC	Sr Mahima SIC
Sr SajeevaDM	Sr Krupa SIC
Sr Ann Mary DM	Sr Arpana DM

Finance Council

Mr Biju S.R	Mr D David	Mr NC Jose
Mr Babu George	Mr Xavier Pawath	Mr TM Johnson
Mr Alex Valavil	Mr Zachariah Pawath	Mr Jose George
Mr KN Sebastian		

Elected members from parishes

Mr NepoleanVarkey	Mr Abraham Mathew	Mr Daniel Babu
Mr Babu George	Mr Sam Thomas	Mr KO Abraham
Mr Thomas P George	Mr TD Mathew	Mr Roy Abraham
Mr PG Koshy	Mr Thomas Daniel	Mr VJ Thomas
Mr Biju John	Mr KN Sebastian	Ms Mini Shibu
Mr Kunjumon Thomas	Mr Eapachen Abraham	Mr S Lawrance

Ex officio members

Ms Sara Mani Kuriakose	Mr PV Thomas	Ms RosammaRajan
Ms Lizy Koshy	Mr TM Johnson	Mr Saju Thomas John

Nominated members

Mr P Varghese	Mr Ninan Jacob	Mr CM Varghese
Mr TC Joykutty	Mr Jose Alexander	Ms Julie Philip
Mr M D Jose	Mr Sunny Varghese	Mr PG John

The following members, most of whom had requested leave of absence from the Exarch due to unavoidable circumstances, were absent:

Fr Paul Naveen OIC	Fr Zacharias Nanthiatt OIC	Fr Manoj Varghese OIC
Fr Joseph Thomas OIC	Fr Varghese Valikkodath	Sr Rani SIC
Sr Chinnamma HSS	Sr Vimal SIC	Sr Lincy Maria SIC
Sr Infant Mary SIC	Dr Abraham VM	Mr PK Cherian
Mr Saji P Jacob	Mr Saji Daniel	Mr SL Samuel
Mr Joshua KG	Mr Mani Kuriakose	Mr PA Joykutty
Mr Baby Samuel	Mr Salu TThomas	Mr V Jose
Mr VA George	Mr Biju Varghese	Mr Joy Varghese
Mr Roy Augustine	Mr KC Punnoose	Mr John Raj Y
Mr Joy CE	Mr MV George	Mr Jose Mathew
Mr KV John		

INAUGURAL SESSION

For the inaugural session Bar Itho Kasiro Mr PV Thomas, Bars Itho Kasirto Ms Sara Mani Kuriakose, Mr TM Johnson, President MCA, Ms Lizy Koshy, President Mathrusangham and Mr Saju Thomas John, President MCYM, were on the stage along with the Exarch, Proto-Syncellus Rev. Fr Varghese Mattamana and the Secretary of the Pastoral Council. The meeting started with a prayer by the Exarch. The Proto-Syncellus, Very Rev. Monsignor Varghese Mattamana welcomed the gathering.

In the inaugural address H.E Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios started with the Gospel reading of the day for the Holy Qurbono, Luke 4:31-34. H.E said that Jesus Christ taught with authority in the synagogue and every one listened to him with astonishment. Jesus Christ has entrusted the same authority to the Church. And we are the Church. Each one of us, whether a Bishop, Priest, Religious or Lay Person, according to their vocation, share in this authority and present Jesus Christ to the world with authority to the astonishment of all. We partake in the Pastoral Council with such an authority for the betterment of our Church.

The Exarch then delved on the twin aims of the ecclesial life in the exarchate, namely deepening in faith and sharing the faith through evangelization. H.E emphasized the need to follow the guideline given from Exarchate for liturgical celebrations. H.E chided the laxity of those who failed to follow the guideline. It is noted that there is some resistance to accept the guidelines in certain parishes. The priests, religious, laity, choir and the altar servers need to understand the mystical aspect of the liturgical celebrations and celebrate the mysteries in a simple and non-pompous manner. H.E asked if the altar boys are adequately prepared to serve at the Holy of Holies. H.E also highlighted the need to prepare with prayer and fasting for the celebration and reception of the Holy Qurbono. The Exarch then asked the religious sisters to take up this ministry of preparing the altar servers more seriously.

The next point which needs attention of the whole church is the

mission ministry. This has to be taken up by the entire church with participation from all. The Church is a missionary in herself and we have been specially appointed by the Lord to spread the message of Gospel of love to all corners of the world. We need to glow in the light of the Word and spread its light in the world. The Exarch detailed the initial preparations to take up the works of Evangelization at Bapatla near Vijayawada and Visakhapattanam and in two regions, one in Tamil Nadu and the other near Bengaluru. All our religious organizations viz: MCA, Mathrusangham, Pithruvedi, suvishesha sangham as well as religious houses have to come forward to serve in the mission. H.E complimented the role taken up by Suvishesha sangham under the leadership of Rev Fr Varghese Valikkodath and lay leaders like Zachariah Pawath, V.A George, Alex Valavil, Joshi and Family. More people need to take this mission very seriously.

A concise report of the third Pastoral Council meeting held on 27th May 2016 was then read by the Secretary.

SHARING SESSIONS

Missions

Mr Zachariah Pawath (Sunny) explained and shared on the initial activities of the mission team at Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh. He said that here were eight pastors under the leadership of Pastor Vijay to help them in the area. Rev DM Sisters from Venniyoor province also helped in the initial missions. People in the area are very enthusiastic about the mission. The immediate need is to get a flat on rent for the missionaries to stay, especially for the Rev Sisters. He also said that we need more people to come to the area and be ready to stay for short periods to enable the mission to grow.

Rev Fr Varghese Kadakketh shared the mission activities taken up by the Exarchate at Bengaluru and various places in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Fr mentioned that Rev Fr Sunil Maria Benedict, the Rev. SIC Sisters and a group of lay people are actively involved in helping in these missions.

Particular Law:

Rev Fr Joseph Venmanath, the Secretary of the Commission for the Codification of the More Particular Law of the Exarchate explained the work done so far in this direction. Fr mentioned that a meeting held on 07 November 2016 formed various committees to study and formulate the initial draft of various sections of the law. It was also pointed out that the bye-laws for pastoral council and religious organizations like MCA, Pithruvedi, Mathrusangham, etc. will be formulated along with this drafting of more particular laws.

Suvisesha Sangham

In the absence of Rev Fr Varghese Valikkodath, Msgr Mattamana handled this session. He mentioned that formation and training of various groups are being done at Church level in Trivandrum and at district level in all districts of the Exarchate. Kaiveppu (laying on of hands) will be given to district level Suvisesha Sangham members and is being planned for May/June 2017. Unit level initiatives are also being taken up and by the next two years every parish needs to have a Suvisesha Sangham unit with at least ten members. It is praiseworthy that the Laity has come forward in good numbers to support this ministry. Monsignor exhorted more faithful to join the evangelization ministry at places where Exarchate has taken up new missions.

Infrastructure project at Khopoli:

Shri Babu George gave a briefing on the progress of the project. He mentioned that 13.5 acres of land has been purchased in the name of the Exarchate. Survey of the land has been completed and registration done and 'saathbara' obtained. Necessary approval for R Zone conversion and plan approval from MSRDC is being pursued. An expense of at least Rs.50 lakhs will be incurred for initial ground work to get all papers and titles cleared. It is planned to construct a seminary and a school to start with and the estimated cost for this phase is about 3 crores. A core committee under the

leadership of Rev Fr Varghese Kaithon, the Exarchial Finance Officer, is at present managing the site preparation for the project.

A new trust for development of infrastructure will be formed for the Exarchate with its base in Bengaluru. Founding members need to pool in a minimum share of Rs. 10 lakhs and shall be ready to invest Rs. 50 lakhs for the project. This trust will take the lead to start new projects at various places in the Exarchate. Any malankarite in the Exarchate can invest in the trust. The bye laws for the trust will be prepared and approved. It will be ensured that just returns are provided to the members.

Finance:

The financial officer of the Exarchate Rev.Fr Varghese Kaithon then presented the financial status of the Exarchate. Fr said that, by the grace of God and with the support and complete dedication of our beloved Exarch and all concerned, the finances of the Exarchate has been smoothly running without any major crisis. In spite of our infancy problems, Exarchate paid the highest donation among all dioceses for the Reunion Day celebrations at Puttur. Fr mentioned that 4.75 crore has been invested in the Khopoli project. Finance for the same include a debt of Rs 2.75 crores which was taken as interest free loan from 33 individuals, mostly pastoral council members. A 3 acre plot is being purchased for the school at Nashik shortly,with loan from bank, mortgaging properties in Chennai.

He informed that 12 A registration has been obtained for the Trust of the Exarchate. Medi-claim insurance policy for priests is also being worked out.

He also mentioned that the parishes have cooperated well in the revenue generation and guidelines given in this regard. Along with Mr NC Jose and Mr VA George orientation meetings were conducted for trustees and secretaries of all parishes at three district centers. The Finance Officer also brought to the attention of the members of the PC, the fact that the priest support fund

collected and sent to the curia by the parishes were not sufficient to meet the allowance being disbursed to Rev Fathers. At present 21 lakhs is needed for paying allowance to 20 priests at Rs.9000 per month. There is a deficit of Rs.7 lakhs in the head of account of priest support fund itself.

Regarding the support from units, Fr mentioned that more clarity will be given vide circular regarding the heads of account in which 15% returns need to be given to the Exarchate. He said that units have cooperated well to the requests for sending the dedicated offertories to the Exarchate, as soon as the collection is made at unit level.

H.E the Exarch then stated that grass root level participation needs to be more and people have to come forward for this cause without much compulsion. The leadership of the Laity for the Sakinaka School is exemplary and we need to setup such projects at Borivli and Nashik. The Exarch mentioned that the institutions in Chennai viz: Mar Gregorios College, Sacred Heart school, are being managed well under the leadership of Fr Sabu Maruthoor, Fr Philip Kaleeckal and Rev Sr Mahima SIC. In this context H.E mentioned that all institutions are directly run by the Exarchate and not by the local parish H.E stated that even though there is a debt of Rs 15 crores, the investments are safe and there is no reason for concern.

H.E then expressed gratitude to Kuwait mission and Bethany sisters of Trivandrum province for their financial support for the mission initiatives. The Malankarites in Gulf deserves appreciation as they are contributing not from their excess but from their hard earned earnings. We need to document the charitable services made on their behalf and send appropriate reports to the donors along with photographs.

Mar Ivanios Vidyaniidhi award for students in the Exarchate and Mar Baselios Vidyasree award for the highest marks in state syllabus at Class X instituted by MCA at MCC level were announced.

Open Discussion On Various Sharings

The next session was the Open session of sharing on the topics discussed earlier. The session was moderated by the Exarch and the Protosyncellus.

Zachariah Pawath, Kharghar: More lay people are needed for evangelical missions for short stay and urged people to come forward.

Rosamma Rajan, Borivli: Parishes need to allot people for mission. She also mentioned that SuviseshaSangham requires a bye-law in the Exarchate.

P.V Thomas, Pune: He exhorted the PC members to become more active in the mission ministry.

Fr Stephen Mathar, Chennai: Fr emphasized the need to project ourselves as Syro-Malankara Catholics without restricting ourselves with language barriers. Mission can grow only if such a universal outlook is maintained.

P Varghese, Khadki: All families in the Exarchate need to support mission ministry financially.

Alex Valavil, Dehu Road: The financial needs of Andhra/Telengana is about 2 lakhs per year and this can be easily managed by a contribution of Rs 120 per month from all families in the Exarchate. Responding to query from Shri Babu George, Shri Alex mentioned that the expenses at this region includes flat rent at Rs. 7500 per month, maintenance and support of pastors and transport expenses.

Ms Julie Philip, Borivli: Suvisesha Sangham volunteers should be initiated to mission ministry. Orientation for mission should be given to the Laity.

Fr Cyril Anand OIC, Ramwadi: Eighteen brothers from the Pune Bethany Ashram seminary had visited the dioceses of Bijnor, Indore and Ujjain to study the evangelization program taken up in these dioceses. Feedback report on the success, as well as failure

stories, of the program have been prepared and the same can be shared with mission ministers. A common gathering of the mission ministers along with the brothers can be arranged for the same.

Lawrance, Ayapakkam: It is important that the needs of the Tamil speaking community be taken care with regard to liturgy, catechism and all religious organizations.

Response :In response to various discussion the Exarch said that, in general, it is noted that only a select few are involved in various ministries of the Exarchate. While appreciating the lay leaders who have voluntarily taken up the lead in this ministry, H.E said that we need more people from the grass root level from all parishes to come forward in the ecclesial ministry. The Church basically is missionary and hence we need to fearlessly come forward. There is dearth of finances. However, we need not worry. God provides us in time, and we go forward like the way Abraham went ahead for the sacrifice at Mount Moria, believing in God's providence. We need more evangelists and also more importantly, more vocations to diocesan and religious priestly ministry as well as to congregations of sisters. At the same time MCC members need to have a broader vision for accepting people in the church irrespective of their language, culture etc. The present work being taken up by our members in North East and other areas of the Eparchy of Gurgaon are also highly appreciable. In the matter of communication, the Exarch complimented Rev Fr George Mathew OIC for the timely publication of the Ephremite, the bulletin of the Exarchate.

At 1 pm the PC assembled in the church for noon prayers and later proceeded for lunch. After lunch break the meeting commenced at 2 pm.

Release of various fund raising campaigns

- a. A brochure of the Nirmal Hriday seminary in Pune was released. The Exarch explained that there are two options for supporting the seminarians. One is general support, wherein

annual contributions can be made for the seminary. The second option is to support an individual seminarian wherein there is a spiritual relation between the sponsor and the seminarian. In the second case a sponsor pays Rs. 5000 per month for the expenses of seminarian. He also spoke of the long term merits of endowments of lump sum of Rs 7,20,000/- for complete period of 12 years. This can be taken up by individuals, families and parishes or organizations.

- b. At the time of blessing church at Ayapakkam/Chennai MSCC a souvenir is being released in February 2017. The brochure of the same was released by H.E the Exarch by handing over the brochure to Shri TM Johnson, President MCA
- c. For the fund raising for the construction of the church at Padi/Chennai MSCC a drama is being organized in January 2017. The tickets of the same were released by H.E the Exarch by handing them over to six pastoral council members.
- d. H.E requested the pastoral council members to sponsor the sound system for the church community at Ayapakkam. It was mentioned that out of Rs. 6.5 lakhs required for the same, some offer has been received from parishes in Pune, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

Open Discussion continued.

The topic of the allowance of priests was taken up. It was unanimously agreed to increase the allowance of the priests serving in the Exarchate to Rs. 10,000 per month.

For this, it was recommended that the contribution from parishes shall be increased by 25% in 2017-18 and once more by another 25% in 2018-19 financial year. Exemptions if any, will be decided by Finance Officer of the Exarchate in consultation with Exarch and Protosyncellus.

Thereafter the topic of 15% of the income of the parish to be remitted to the common fund of the Exarchate was taken up for discussion.

NC Jose, Sakinaka: A fixed amount for each unit may be fixed by the Exarchate based on the overall transaction history of the unit for the last few years.

Fr Mathai Iranathara OIC: At present exemption is given for special projects and works by the Exarchate. Same system can continue and for all other income 15% collection can continue.

Fr Philip Pulipra: There are practical difficulties in expenses incurred on income sourced for specific purposes and many times the intended purpose is not met after deducting 15%.

Fr Joseph Venmanath: It is better to follow systems followed in established dioceses so that there is no ambiguity.

Shri Joykutty, Nashik: There is no confusion in this regard.

Msgr Varghese Mattamana: It is not appropriate to compare established dioceses with the Exarchate because the assets and infrastructure they hold are large, whereas in our case it is very limited.

H.E then concluded the discussion on finance with the following resolutions

- a. It was recommended that the allowance for Rev Priests serving in the Exarchate be increased to Rs. 10,000 per month with effect from 1st April 2017. The additional income for the same shall be proportionately shared by parishes.
- b. 15% contribution being collected from units will be on the gross income of the parish. This will exclude income for dedicated purposes which are so recognized by the Exarch and income generated for specific charity works undertaken by a parish.

Zero hour discussion

Shri MD Jose, Sakinaka: Clarification was sought, whether the 10 lakhs given by Mumbai district pastoral council (MDPC) was included in the 2.75 crore interest free loan received for the

Khopoli project. He also queried about criteria for various awards viz: Mar IvaniosVidyanidhi award and Mar BaseliosVidyasree awards which were declared.

Response: Rev Fr Varghese Kaithon stated that the amount provided by MDPC was not included as loan, but as contribution to the Exarchate and it is included in amount paid to buy the land. Regarding the awards Msgr informed that the circular from MCA at the church level regarding the awards was distributed to unit vicars and Sunday school HMs and criteria etc were informed of the same.

Shri Biju John, Hennur: He asked about the possibility of getting a resident priest for Hennur as the parish was big.

Response: H.E the Exarch informed that as and when we get more priests for service in the Exarchate, this arrangement can be done. At present we have shortage in the number of priests and requested all to pray for more vocations.

Shri Thomas Daniel, Khadki: Suvisesha Sangham should be promoted at parish level by the parish priests more seriously. We need to start Suvisesha Sangham for children. Also unit level programmes should be given emphasis and it helps people to adoptit as a way of life.

Shri P Varghese, Khadki: *Suvisesha Sangham* members should be initiated into mission program. Also financial assistance should be given to the deserving who are willing participate in the Church-level orientation program of *Suvisesha Sangham* in Kerala.

Response: The Exarch informed that a meeting of all the members of the *Suvisesha Sangham*, who have received “kaiveppu” will be called and necessary initiation to missions will be taken up in Andhra/Telengana and Tamil Nadu. Parish priests will be invited for the meeting and together, we shall plan the future programmes following which, dutiesshall be assigned to the members of the *Sangham*.

Dates of Next Meetings in 2017

Following program in Exarchate for next year were announced:

- Blessing of church-Aypakkam, Chennai: 4th & 5th February
- Blessing of church-Padi, Chennai: 17th & 18th February
- Exarchate Priests and Religious Meet: 11th May 2017 at Pune
- 5th Pastoral and finance council: 12th May 2017 at Pune
- Minor Orders and Vestition of Seminarians: 13th May 2017 at Pune
- Exarchate General Convention and 6th Pastoral & Finance Council meet: Oct/Nov 2017 at Chennai.

Conclusion

The Exarch said that the pastoral council is a communion of the people of God in joy. H.E expressed thanks to the dedication of the members in the various ministries of the Exarchate. The experience in the Exarchate has been very providential and thanked everyone for their cooperation.

The Exarch then reemphasized some of the points dealt with in the opening address, namely, the worthy and fervent celebration of the liturgy. H.E also emphasized the need of giving prime importance to evangelization in Exarchial activities.

Regarding the Khopoli project, the Exarch said that the construction of the minor seminary is an immediate need. He requested financial contribution for the same from all. It can be given as construction cost at Rs. 2000/- per square feet. About 10000 sq ft of construction is being planned initially and H.E requested that each member of the Exarchate sponsor construction of at least a single sq. ft. to any number of sq. ft., according to one's capability.

The Exarch invited all members to Chennai in February 2017 for the blessing of the new churches at Ayapakkamb and Padi.

H.E requested all to pray for the Christians being persecuted in the name of faith across the world, especially in the Middle East.

Ecumenical programs like united Christmas/Easter need to be initiated in the Exarchate at unit and district level. H.E wished everyone all the blessings of Advent season and exhorted all, to religiously observe the lent for preparation to Christmas.

Finally H.E mentioned that all should sincerely pray for more vocations and sincerely look for more youngsters to join the seminary and religious congregations. Vocation camps should be organized in all regions.

The meeting ended at 4 pm with vote of thanks by the Secretary.

H.E the Exarch then made the concluding prayers and gave the apostolic blessing to all members.

Finance Council - Report

A meeting of the Finance Council of the Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki Pune was held at 16.30 hrs on 25th Nov 2016 at St. Mary's MSC Cathedral Khadki Pune and presided over by His Excellency Most Rev Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. The following members attended the meeting.

Priests:

Msgr Fr Varghese Mattamana	Fr. Varghese Kaithon
Fr Joseph Venmanath	Fr Mathai Iranathara OIC
Fr. Varghese Kadakketh	

Members:

M Alex Valavil	Mr Biju SR
Mr TM Johnson	Mr David D
Mr NC Jose	Mr KN Sebastian
Mr Babu George	Mr Xavier Pawath
Mr Zachariah Pawath	Mr Jose George

Other Invitees

Mr Daniel Babu	Mr CM Varghese
Mr MD Jose	

The meeting started with a prayer.

Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and Finance officer Rev Fr Varghese Kaithon apprised the meeting of the immediate agenda. Discussions were held and the following decisions were taken

- c. It was recommended that the allowance for Rev Priests serving in the Exarchate be increased to Rs. 10,000 per month with effect from 1st April 2017
- d. Priest support fund contribution from units to be increased by 25% in 2017-18 and once more by 25% in 2018-19 financial year. Exemptions if any will be decided by Finance Officer of the Exarchate in consultation with Exarch and Proto Syncellus.
- e. 15% contribution being collected from units will be on the gross income of the parish. This will exclude income for dedicated offertory to be given to exarchate and income for charity works. Any other exemptions for projects or purposes have to be obtained from the Exarch.
- f. A new trust for development of infrastructure will be formed for the exarchate with its base in Bengaluru. Founding members need to pool in a minimum share of Rs. 10 lakhs and shall be ready to invest Rs. 50 lakhs for the project. Shri SR Biju will work out the feasibility plan for the same within 15 days.
- g. For the khopoli project the proposal of the pastoral council for funding the seminary construction was discussed and agreed upon. The proposal is to get sponsors for construction costs at Rs 2000 per sq. ft and this can be from a minimum 1 sq. ft up to 100 sq ft or more. It was agreed that the working committee appointed for the project will continue ground work for getting required regulatory clearances for construction.

The Exarch concurred to the decisions made and urged everyone that we need to be more proactive and takes steps towards faster implementation of decisions being taken.

Daniel Babu P
Secretary, Pastoral Council

THE EXARCHATE NEWS

1. Exarchate Priests and Religious Meet

The priests in the Exarchate gathered together at the Bishop's House on 24 November for a one day meet. 19 priests including the diocesan and religious clergy participated in this meeting. The day began with the welcome note by Msgr. Varghese Mattamana and prayers by Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. The programme proper began with an Orientation Talk led by Mrs. Geena Binoy, the Vice President and member of the Cathedral Church, Khadki Pune. The talk focused on the IQ and EQ leading to the thoughts of how to be good leaders. The session was followed by the first session of discussion where the Proto Presbyters of the districts briefed the various activities in their own districts. At 12:30 all the priests celebrated Holy Qurbono with the Bishop. After the lunch, discussions of various matters including the maintenance of records, the emergence of new missions, parish administration, re-arrangements of the priests, seminary etc were held. In this session the Bishop focused about the liturgical decorum to be maintained and instructed the priests on various matters of governance of the parish and priestly life. The meeting ended with the agape.

2. FABC Meet, Colombo-Sri Lanka

The federation of Asian Bishops Conference's XI plenary Assembly "the Catholic Family in Asia: Domestic Church of the poor on a mission of Mercy" from 28 November- 04 December, at Colombo was attended by Most Rev Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC. The conference was attended by a total of 137 participants including 11 Cardinals, 22 Arch Bishops, 53 Bishops, 31 Priests and 18 laity. The assembly largely discussed and formed concrete solutions on areas of the vision of Church on Family, the Church of the Poor, the joys in Family life and the challenges to Family life in Asia.

3. WRBC & WRCC Meetings Nadiad, Gujarat

The western region Bishops conference began on the 09 December



Exarchate Priests Meet, Pune



Closing Ceremonial Qurbano of the Year of Mercy at the Cathedral Church



Bishop's Visits to Carmelaram Parish



Year of Mercy Concluding Session, Chinchwad



Resource Team Session, Kalewadi



Suvisesha Sangham Formation, Bangalore and Chennai



**Catechism Teachers Seminar,
Pune District**



Sunday School Workshop, Hennur

Resource Team Session



Mathikare



Hyderabad



Chennai



Mumbai

Sarva Seva Sangh Orphanage visited by Kalewadi & Warje Parishes



The Cathedral Parishioner's visit Prerana Bhavan



Christmas Carols, Goa



Parish Retreat, Kalewadi



Christmas Carols - St Alphonsa MSCC, Carmelaram



The MCYM Kalewadi bags 3rd Prize for the Carol Singing Competition



**Br. Libin Puthenpurakal
(1st Year Theology)
receives 1st Prize for Sermon
Elocution Competition, Kottayam**



**Br. Sanu Mathew (2nd Year Minor Seminary)
receives 1st Prize for Painting
Competition at the National Level**



**The Vishrantwadi Boys & Girls team win the football tournament
organised by the MCYM of Dehuroad & Chinchwad Parishes**

2016 at the Pastoral at Nadiad in Gujarat. Most Rev Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC also participated in the meeting attended by Bishops from 16 diocese from 3 states of Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat. Along with the Bishops, the western Region Catholic Council held at the same place mentioned above was attended by Rev. Fr. George Mathew OIC, Rev. Sr. Kiran SIC, Bar Itho Kashiro P.V Thomas and Ms. Sojisha Samuel. The theme of the council was '*Amoris Laetitia*' and its implications for India. It was attended by around 80 members and 16 Bishops from 16 diocese. The council discussed how to implement the message of *Amoris Laetitia* in our Church, Dioceses, parishes and families.

4. The Exarch Meets the Minor Seminarians, Pune

Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios came to visit the seminarians on 23 November 2016. He celebrated Holy Qurbano, the co-celebrants were Fr. John Berchmans OIC and Fr. Stephen Chembakathoppu. The Bishop met each brothers personally and had talk with them. At the end there was a common meeting too, in which he insisted bothers to speak in English and learn various languages for pastoral life in the Exarchate. Bishop also asked everyone to grow in their vocation and respond to their individual call in the right way. He explained the brothers the advantages of self-formation. The seminarians had a blessed time with the Bishop who left the seminary at 04.30 pm.

5. Concluding Ceremony of the Year of Mercy, Khadki

The closing ceremony of the Extra Ordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy was conducted in the Exarchate of St. Ephrem on Nov. 27, Sunday, 2016. The function of the closing ceremony started with Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet followed by the Morning Prayer, at the Grotto of the Cathedral Church. After the Morning Prayers, the priests, religious and the faithful moved to the Cathedral in a procession. Immediately after the procession reached the cathedral, an exhortation on the continence of the good result of the observance of the year of mercy, was delivered by Rev. Fr. Manesh MCBS from Satara, Maharashtra.

The solemn Holy Qurbano was celebrated and the closing ceremony was officiated by Msgr. Varghese Mattamana along with the other Priests from the ecclesiastical District of Pune including Rev. Frs. Joseph Noble OIC, Sunil Konothuvila, Varghese Kaithon and Joseph Venmanath. Rev. Sisters from Bethany and Daughters of Mary Convents and large number of faithful also attended the function. The function ended with the agape, and vote of thanks was proposed by the District Vicar of Pune Fr. Joseph Venmanath.

6. Priests and Religious Meet, Pune District

The Pune District Priests and Religious meet was held on 06 December at the Bishop's House in Khadkhi. The meet began with evening prayers led by Most Rev Thomas Mar Anthonio, Rev. Fr Joseph Venmanath, the district Vicar Welcomed all the vicars and religious in the Pune District. The Bishop inaugurated the meeting encouraging the priests and religious and focusing on the vision of the Church to be implemented in the Exarchate and especially in the District of Pune. The priest and religious meet of Pune District was fixed on the 1st Tuesday of every month. The district director's charge for Catechism was taken up by Fr. Venmanath and District animator by Rev Sr. Jeffin SIC. The meeting concluded with thanks extended by Fr. George Mathew OIC and Apostolic Blessings by the Exarch.

Days of Remembrance

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | : | Feast of Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos
Erection of the Eparchy of Mavelikara |
| 06 | : | Feast of Denho (The Baptism of Our Lord) |
| 08 | : | Feast of Bp. Philipos Mar Stephanos |
| 15 | : | Erection of the Eparchy of Muvattupuzha |
| 17 | : | Feast of Bp. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC |
| 18 | : | Feast of Commemoration of Moran Mor Cyril Baselios
Catholicos and Bp. Joseph Mar Severios |
| 22 | : | Feast of Bp. Geevarghese Mar Timotheos |
| 25 | : | Erection of the Eparchies of Pathanamthitta and Puttur |
| 29 | : | Feast of Bp. Joshua Mar Ignathios |

EXARCHIAL COMMISSION NEWS



Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune
Commission for Faith Formation

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DoC / 2016 / 11

12 December 2016

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Headmasters, Teachers and Students of Sunday School,

Prayerful Greetings from the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation!

Let me thank you all first for the great work you have done in conducting the Examination and sending the Answer Sheets in a systematic and secure way. Your sincere efforts are really appreciated and acknowledged. When most of the Parishes are keen in updating the details of the students and sending the Answer Papers, a few Parishes still continue to fail in these two important aspects concerning the smooth functioning of the Centralized Examination System. Strict instructions will be forwarded to those Parishes in the future communications and they are obliged to adhere to it.

The Answer Papers are indications to the fact that some of the communications from the Centre are not properly reaching the Teachers and the Students. It will have to be considered as grave negligence on the part of the Headmasters, which is really unbecoming for a Centralized System which demands genuine commitment, sincere efforts and timely interventions from the Headmasters.

The Headmasters are requested to take special care in teaching the students the Bible Verses, the Liturgical Hymns and the Liturgical

Prayers. The audio of liturgical songs are available in the following link

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B59zpL06y-ZpM0h3LVBNaFQxTUU>

Kindly copy paste this link on Google Chrome Browser.

Those who have got E Grade and those who have not attended the Examination have to repeat the Exam. Rev. Fathers and Headmasters are requested to make arrangements for the Re-Exam on 15 January 2017. Kindly make sure that all those who have got E Grade and those who did not appear for the Exam make it this time. There are certain modifications in the pattern of Re-Exam brought about by the instruction of the Apostolic Exarch. The following guidelines have to be taken into consideration regarding the Re-Exam:

1. All those who have got E Grade and those who did not appear for the Semester Exam have to compulsorily attend the Re-Exam.
2. The Question Papers for the Re-Exam will be prepared from the Centre.
3. The Valuation of the Re-Exam will be at the Centre as same as the Semester Exam.
4. The Re-Examination is also valid for Classes X and XI.
5. In order to receive the Certificate of Classes X and XII, each student has to obtain at least D Grade separately in both the Semesters.
6. Those who do not obtain at least a D Grade in the Re-Exam have to appear for a THIRD Exam.
7. Those who do not appear for any one of the Semester Exam or re-Exam are bound to repeat the year.

Regarding the result of students, we have tried our best to make things fool proof. Still if you have some doubt concerning the Grades of anyone from your Centre, you have the provision for

both recounting and revaluation. The Headmasters have to apply with the consent of respected Rev. Vicars specifying the UIN of the student with a nominal fee of Rs. 100/-. The amount will be given back if there is any change in the Grades.

A by-law for the Department of Catechesis is in the pipeline. A detailed reading and evaluation of a draft By-law will happen in the months of January and February. The Commission for Faith Formation has the right and responsibility to draft and constitute the By-law for the Department of Catechesis. The Commission will have a formal gathering in the month of January or February to finalize the By-Law of the Department. A draft of the By-Law will be sent to the members of the commission, as early as possible, to read in detail and make necessary suggestions to be discussed in the formal gathering.

Let me conclude with a personal note: My health is improving. Thanks to all your prayers!

Wishing you all a fruitful and blessed Christmas Season,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Varghese Valikkodath

Secretary

Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation

Thanks for Favours Received

Thanks for the favours received from
God through the intercession
of St Jude - Devotee.



1. First Semester Catechism Examination

The First Semester Catechism Examination conducted by the Department of Catechesis was held on 4 December 2016 across all centres of the Exarchate. Around 450 students from Classes I to XI attended the Examination. Classes I to III had Oral Examination at the respective Centres with the Question Papers being sent from the Centre. Classes IV to XI were completely under a centralized schema with Question Papers prepared at the Centre and valuation done at the centre under the direct supervision of the Exarchial Director.

The Department of Catechesis of the Exarchate follows a grade system for the Examination in order to avoid unnecessary competition and tension among the students.

This year 5 new Sunday Schools were added under the centralized system viz. Carmelaram (Bangalore), Ayapakkam (Chennai), Tambaram (Chennai), Nanganallur (Chennai) and Dombivili (Mumbai). The examination was conducted smoothly and fairly. All efforts of the Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Headmasters and the Teachers are worth appreciating.

The evaluation of the papers was done by Sunday School Teachers itself, with full transparency and the results were announced as usual with lightning speed in the same week itself i.e. on 09 Dec 2016.

Congratulations to all the students who have done well.

Department of Catechism

First Semester Results

No	Class	Grade	Name	Parish
1	IV	A+	SuzanneThomas	Kirkee
			Evan Biju	Thane
		A	Marcus Bimal George	Sakinaka
			Allen Daniel	Kalewadi
		B+	Joshua Roy	Dombivili
2	V	A+	Joshua Ajit John	Thane

THE EPHREMITE

3	VI	A+ A B+	Angela Mary Promod Felixeena Thomas Melano Binoy Joel P Mathew Nidhi Maria Varghese Nikitha Yohannan Merin Elza Suju Maria K Sam	BARC Vishrantwadi Kirkee Borivali Hennur Mathikere Thane Padi
4	VII	A+ A	Riya Mathew Agnes Susan Thomas Aleena Thangam Shreya Sunil	Thane Mathikere Singasandra Vishrantwadi
5	VIII	A+ A B+	Bibin Rajesh Annie Mary Joseph Reuben John Angel Maria Jose	Borivali Hennur Sakinaka Kharghar
6	IX	A+ A B+	Reeya B.Varghese Lijimol Philip Riya Martin Roshani S.Raju Jebin Reji Sharon Mary Mathew Joel Joseph Jeevan M Pazhampally	Padi Padi Padi Kalewadi Thane Kharghar Padi Vasai
7	X	A+ A B+	Chrissie Rose Promod Angela Mathew Irene Daniel Aashna Roy Abraham Selina Saji	BARC Dombivili BARC Kalewadi Kalewadi
8	XI	A+ A B+	Sharon Baby Jerlin Johnson Joseph George Brijith Babu Tincy Chacko	Sakinaka Borivali Warje Malwadi Dehu Road Dehu Road

2. Workshop for Catechism Students and Parents in Hennur

St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church conducted a workshop for the Catechism students and parents on 4 December 2016. Keeping in mind the challenges and dilemma young adolescents and teenagers go through in this phase of life about their own values, standpoints and internal struggles, this workshop was a precursor to have such further dialogues in the near future.

The workshop was conducted by Bro. Mani Karrott, from Little Brothers of Jesus, who has 35 years of working experience with adolescents as counselor among street children and as art therapist with teenagers.

The half day workshop was attended by 15 children and about 10 parents. Designed in an interactive method the sessions had audio visuals to discuss the following components:

- Growing up - obedience versus independence
- Lessons in growth
- Christian understanding of growth

The workshop brought into the open areas of discomfort viz. questioning tradition, communication between parents and children, understanding of freedom and choices. There was a short session of Q&A which raised questions of limit of freedom, the need to pass on faith and tradition. This session was well facilitated with parents and children posing their views openly. The session ended with a short film of a young boy who chooses to become a dancer against the wishes of his father who wants him to be a boxer. It was an interesting start to a series of such workshops planned for the coming months for Sunday school.

3. Sunday School Teachers' Seminar, Pune District

A formation cum seminar for the Sundays school Teachers of the Pune Ecclesiastical District of the Exarchate of St Ephrem-Khadki was conducted on 18 December, Sunday. Teachers from all the parishes of the Pune District participated the Seminar; various

sessions were conducted by the District Director of Sunday school Rev Fr Joseph Venmanath, Mr VA George and Mr Saji Daniel. All the speakers emphasized the serious nature of the vocation and mission of Sunday and Teachers in the church. The salvation of the soul is the supreme law of the church. Gaining soul for the kingdom of God is the primary and most important duty of Sunday School Teachers. Sunday School Teachers must take this mission seriously. The District Director restricted the need of systematically conducting the Sunday school in all the parishes. Mr VA George spoke on the need of systematic preparation before conducting Sunday school classes. His speech was leased on Revelation 3:20-21, Mr Saji Daniel engaged the class with practical activities. He leased his presentation on bible and teachings of the church. The whole atmosphere was pervaded by divine presence. It was also decided to have regular Teachers meet once in two months. District vicar and Sunday school Director Rev. Fr Joseph Venmanath proposed the vote of Thanks.

Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (MCYM)

1. Resource Team Formation, Bengaluru

The Sixth Resource Team Meeting of Bangalore MCYM was held at St.Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Hennur on 21November 2016. The meeting started with prayer by Rev.Fr.Sunil Maria Benedict who led the session. The topic of the session was 'POSSESSING GOD'.

It was a three hour session from 2pm to 5pm. About 15 members attended this session from Mathikere, Hennur, Singasandra and CarmelaramParishes. The promoters of the Resource Team, Mr. Jacob, Mr.Renjith and Mr.Jubil along with Sr. Jeros were present for this session.

Overall, the session was very inspiring. Fr.Sunil briefed about the Church Fathers and their roles towards the establishment of the church communities. This was then followed by a detailed presentation which covered topics on biblical spirituality and how



to preach the gospel. He then spoke about the Church History beginning with the Greek theologian community also known as the Johnian Community and showed the first rosary, a unique piece made by the monks to pray. Fr.Sunil also taught few powerful prayers and scriptures related to the same. He also gave a list of books to read to increase faith in the power of prayer.

Father asked each one to come up with practical solutions that can be implemented to increase the Malankara liturgical spirituality. The session was very informative and interesting. The session concluded with prayer.

2. Resource Team Formation, Pune

The Resource Team Formation Session on 'Possessing God' was conducted by Mr. Saji Daniel, the Exarchial Animator of MCYM, on 4 December 2016 at St Mary's Cathedral, Khadki. It was a 2 hours session which started at 4 pm and ended at 6 pm. The session had a good count of 20 youth members.

The session started with a comparison between what happens when a person is possessing GOD and possessing DEMON, which was related to the biblical verses of Rev 3:15-16 which says that you are lukewarm which is neither cold nor hot, which was well explained with a help of a video presentation.

Main points discussed are as follows:

Experience of God-

- * Biblical experience
- * Liturgical experience
- * Being a Witness/testimony.

Methods used-

Power Point Presentation-

The slides mainly covered the 3 main points to focus on how we can possess God.

- * BIBLICAL EXPERIENCE-In this experience, we mainly

focus on the following 'CMC' points.

C-Concentration

M-Meditation

C-Contemplation (Reflection)

- * LITURGICAL EXPERIENCE-How liturgy plays an important role in each Christian life and how God communicates with each one. A time should be set for daily prayers, everyone should have a personal bible and should learn psalms.

How should we pray was explained by a short form as “ATICS”.

A-Adoration (Lord Almighty, Heavenly Father).

T-Thanksgiving.

I-Intercession (Pray for others).

C-Confession.

S- Supplication (Wants).

- * BEING A WITNESS was explained by giving example of Mother Teresa, how she possessed God with good deeds and caring attitude.

What all things do be done to possess God:

- * Everyone should have a personal bible
- * Understand the meaning what the scripture wants to tell us.
- * Each individual should learn at least one Psalm by heart.

The 2 hours of session was fruitful. The session came to an end with a concluding prayer from Mr.Saji Daniel followed by a prayer song.

3. Resource Team Formation, Mumbai

The Resource Team Formation Session of Mumbai District was held on 10 December 2016 at St. Mary's Church, Sakinaka under the leadership of MrSaji Daniel and Mrs Julie Jim Philip, the Exarchial Animators of MCYM. The topic of the Session was 'The

Season of Advent'.

The session began with Mr Saji Danie explaining about advent as the coming of Christ which includes both - the birth of Christ and the second coming.

Various Bible verses enlightening about the second coming were discussed, including Revelations 3:15-22 wherein the group was reminded of not being lukewarm.

Rev 3:16- "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth".

Further, the verses remind us that Jesus knocks our door every time and we need to open the door for him.

'And the day Jesus burns out the devil, we will jump like the calves out on a stall'.

The session was continued by Mrs Julie who took the group through 10 reflections where one could think about and write down personal experiences. They also got insights to these reflections through experiences shared by both the Animators.

Reflections

1. Trust, God is always listening.
2. Search God in others and in your day to day life.
3. Be generous, share your time and your joy.
4. Reconcile with God and others.
5. Be coherent, match your actions to your belief.
6. Love others through simple and kind gestures.
7. Be grateful with God for all your blessings.
8. Speak about God and don't be ashamed.
9. Illuminate others with joy. Be a light in the world.
10. Pray, dedicate some time special to God.

The session continued with adoration led by Sam and Rhea. Confessions were taken for all the youth present, during the adoration, by Fr Philip Pulipra, the Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Sakinaka.

The session concluded with Fr Philip giving a few thoughts to ponder and reflect on.

Key take aways

1. Have a personal Bible of yours and give some time each day to let God communicate to you through the verses.
2. The 10 reflections.

The Mumbai Youth thanked Philip Fr for taking out his time specially for this Session. The Youth remembers with gratitude Varghese Valikkodath Fr for always keeping them in prayers and for believing in the potential of the youth and taking the pain for grooming them. Special mention goes to Mr Saji Daniel and Mrs Julie Jim for always encouraging and guiding them throughout this journey.

4. Resource Team Formation, Chennai

Resource Team Formation Programme of MCYM-Chennai was held on Sunday, 20 November 2016. The session was led by Rev Fr. Sunil Maria Benedict. It was the sixth session of the formation for the Resource Team in Chennai. The session began with a welcome note by the Parish Vicar, Rev. Fr. Sabu Maruthoor, followed by a brief self-introduction of all the MCYM members who were present.

Details of the Gathering:

The topic of the session was 'Possessing God' in our lives.

- The gathering was explained through why possessing God is important, and God's unconditional love for Mankind.
- The importance of the Church in the spirituality of Christian existence was emphasized.
- The gathering was divided into groups for discussions on the various ways to experience God.
- Analysis on the Biblical, Liturgical and Living ways to experience God.
- The importance of the word of God was explained through

various Biblical references and discussions.

- The uniqueness of Malankara Liturgy was made clear for experiencing God through Liturgical celebration.
- Discussions were made on the incident of Disciples walking to Emmaus to understand how they experienced Jesus throughout their journey.

The session concluded with a feedback session, followed by a vote of thanks by Mr Thomson and prayer by Sr Mahima SIC, the animator of MCYM-Padi, Chennai.

5. Resource Team Formation, Hyderabad

The Resource Team Formation Session was conducted by Mr Saji Daniel on 20 November 2016 at St Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church, Jeedimetla. The Topic was 'Possessing GOD'.

We need to move out of our boundaries to possess GOD. The video of the leopard and the bear gave more understanding on how it is when one moves away from God. It is equally important to get back to God to be safe. One ought to experience God while reading the Bible, while participating in the Liturgy and live to witness him. The above factors make each one strong to possess God.

St Cyprian says, “When we pray we communicate to God and when we read the Bible, the Lord is speaking to us”. The formula of CMC is a major ingredient to be with God i.e. need to Concentrate, Meditate and Contemplate the word of God. As we participate in the liturgy we become a part of the salvific events commemorated.

Pope Francis welcomed the church to be a hospital and not a museum. The Holy Father has repeatedly exhorted to be compassionate to the ones in need of love.

An awareness was given to a short form of how to pray as ATICS

A-Adoration

T-Thanksgiving

I-Intercession

C-Confession

S-Supplication

This gave the youth a clear understanding on how to pray. Most of the youth lost the fear to pray in public by using this during our prayers.

Malankara Catholic Suvisesha Sangham

1. Suvisesha Sangham Formation, Mumbai

Suvisesha Sangham Formation Programme was conducted for Mumbai District Suvisesha Sangham on 20 November 2016 at St Mary's Church, Sakinaka. The programme started with morning prayer at 7 am followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Rev.Fr. Antony Kakkanatt, Executive Secretary of the Suvisesha Sangham.



Class by Fr. Antony started at 10 am with songs and prayer. Fr. Kakkanatt had a recap of the topics of the preceding class taken by him on 12 June. The day's topic was 'Christianity is a race and fight' based on Hebrews Chapter 2. The gist of the topic was we have a race because we have a target i.e. heaven, and we have a fight because we have an enemy, satan. Fr. exhorted that those who are desirous of going to heaven should practice it in this worldly life itself by 'being with Jesus'.

Class ended at 1 pm with noon prayer. Mr Isaac Kuttiiyl, the Sabhathala Suvisesha Sangham member delivered the vote of thanks. The class was very productive, informative and useful. The programme ended with an agape.

2. Suvisesha Sangham Formation, Pune

Rev Dr Antony Kakkanatt, the Executive Secretary of Sabhathala Suvisesha Sangham conducted Pune District level formation classes on 22 November 2016 at St Mary's Cathedral, Khadki, with over 30 members from various parishes in Pune attending the same.

As usual, the programme started with installation of Holy Bible, with reading of Psalms 34 and prayer. The Vicar General of Pune Exarchate Rt Rev Msgr Varghese Mattamana, while welcoming Dr. Antony Kakkanatt, stressed upon the importance of the Suvisesha Sangham and told the participants that other people should be attracted to Christianity by observing our life-style.

Dr. Antony Kakkanatt, after summing-up various classes so far conducted, went on to fine-tune the definition of Suvisesha Sangham. He taught: the Suvisesha Sangham is the group of people who like to live a saintly life; the saintly life like that of the disciples. The real meaning of Christian is 'Christ-in' (side). Christianity is a personal relation with Christ. Wrongfully, most people consider Jesus to be a 'means' to fulfill personal needs; fear of Christ, like a punishing policeman; and consider Christ to be a 'magician' performing miracles.

Relationship with Christ can be defined in five ways:

- a. 'Personal Redeemer' whether personally felt that Christ redeemed me;
- b. Jesus is the 'Lord' (Karthavu) - Lord is the one with authority; when He is the Lord, I am the slave, which means that my ownership is with Christ total surrender;
- c. Jesus is the 'Father' Relationship of being the Father and the son (Heb. 12:5)
- d. Bridegroom Jesus is the Bridegroom and Church is the Bride. Bride does not ask the Groom as to what she would get on being the Bride. Similarly one should not ask Jesus as to what he would get from being with Christ.
- e. Jesus, the Friend - Friendship with Christ goes beyond death.

The basic Aim of a true disciple should be to reach Heaven; and Heaven is the presence of God. Jesus is not only the means to reach Heaven, but Jesus Himself is Heaven. If the Aim is Jesus, we should be holy like Jesus.

Before winding up, Fr. Kakkanatt emphasised the importance of

reflecting the Bible verses after reading the Bible, which is very essential for the spiritual enhancement and understanding of the Bible.

The classes concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr CM Mathai.

3. Suvisesha Sangham Formation, Bangalore

On 19 Nov 2016, the Bangalore District level Formation Programme was conducted at St Mary's Church, Hennur and the same was attended by 28 members. Rev Fr Antony Kakkanatt, the Executive Secretary of Suvisesha Sangham made a quick wrap up of previous sessions followed by the importance of preparing for kaiveppu and also explained the key responsibilities of Suvisesha Sangham members

Once again all members got an opportunity to share their personal experiences and major changes in attitude after they started attending Suvisesha Sangham classes. The next session is planned for 21 and 22 January 2017 and the resource person will be Sr Dr Mary Prasad DM.

4. Suvisesha Sangham Formation, Chennai

Malankara Catholic Suvisesha Sangham Formation Session was held on 5 and 6 November at St Thomas Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Padi, Chennai.

On Saturday, the Programme began with prayer by Fr Sabu Maruthoor, the Vicar of Padi Parish. The topic of the morning session was "The Virtues" to be followed by the Suvisesha Sangham members. The class was taken by Sr Francina DM, the member of Sabhathala Suvisesha Sangham Formation Team. She explained very clearly about Divine and Moral Virtues.

After lunch Sr Mary Prasad handled the session. The topic was Bible Reading. It was a detailed class on the Pentateuch and how it is related to the New Testament. It was very interesting and informative.

On the second day, the session started at 9 am with prayer by Sr.

Francina and continued the class on Virtues. After that Sr. Mary Prasad led the class about Psalms.

Both the classes were very useful and everybody enjoyed. 25 members participated in sessions.

Department of Bible Apostolate

Daily Bible Reading in the Order of Chronological Events

Department of Bible Apostolate had initiated 'Read Bible in One year' last year. Most of the Suvishesha Sangham members and many other faithful belonging to the parishes of the Exarchate are successfully completing the task on 31 December 2016. Next year, as a continuation to this year, the Department is planning to compile a schema in order to read the Bible in the order of the chronological events.

This reading will be very exciting because one can familiarize with the events from the creation of the universe to the second coming of Christ. This will help one to understand Christ better and the salvation history in its integrity. One has to read 2 or 3 chapters a day in order to fulfill this task in a year.

The Department has compiled the Bible Reading in the order of Chronological events and will be published in the Ephremite bi-monthly and print-outs of the Schema will be made available in the Parishes. Provisions will be made to give each day's reading through WhatsApp and Facebook for an easier access for the youth.

January

Date	Readings	Date	Readings
1.	Genesis 1-3	7.	Job 14-16
2.	Genesis 4-7	8.	Job 17-20
3.	Genesis 8-11	9.	Job 21-23
4.	Job 1-5	10.	Job 24-28
5.	Job 6-9	11.	Job 29-31
6.	Job 10-13	12.	Job 32-34

Date	Readings	Date	Readings
13.	Job 35-37	23.	Genesis 32-34
14.	Job 38-39	24.	Genesis 35-37
15.	Job 40-42	25.	Genesis 38-40
16.	Genesis 12-15	26.	Genesis 41-42
17.	Genesis 16-18	27.	Genesis 43-45
18.	Genesis 19-21	28.	Genesis 46-47
19.	Genesis 22-24	29.	Genesis 48-50
20.	Genesis 25-26	30.	Exodus 1-3
21.	Genesis 27-29	31.	Exodus 4-6

February

Date	Readings	Date	Readings
1.	Exodus 7-9	15.	Leviticus 8-10
2.	Exodus 10-12	16.	Leviticus 11-13
3.	Exodus 13-15	17.	Leviticus 14-15
4.	Exodus 16-18	18.	Leviticus 16-18
5.	Exodus 19-21	19.	Leviticus 19-21
6.	Exodus 22-24	20.	Leviticus 22-23
7.	Exodus 25-27	21.	Leviticus 24-25
8.	Exodus 28-29	22.	Leviticus 26-27
9.	Exodus 30-32	23.	Numbers 1-2
10.	Exodus 33-35	24.	Numbers 3-4
11.	Exodus 36-38	25.	Numbers 5-6
12.	Exodus 39-40	26.	Numbers 7
13.	Leviticus 1-4	27.	Numbers 8-10
14.	Leviticus 5-7	28.	Numbers 11-13

Upcoming Events

- 01 : Sunday School Kaloltsav, Mumbai District
- 15 : MCYM Seminar on *Amoris Laetitia*, Pune District
- 17 : Festal Celebration of Aboon Thomas Mar Anthonios, Pune
- 26 : MCYM Kaloltsav, Mumbai District

EXARCHATE PARISH NEWS

Pune District

1. St Mary's Cathedral SMCC, Khadki

Visit to Prerna Bhavan

As part of Holy Year of Mercy activity, the parishioners of St. Mary's Cathedral, Pune visited the Prerna Bhavan, a charity organisation run by Mother Teresa Sisters. The Prerna Bhavan is a home to many women and children. Parishioners spent time with them and also donated in cash and kind. It was a blessed experience for the parishioners to fulfil the Lord's words: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (St. Lk 6:36)"

Suvisesha Sangam Parish level formation and Training

The first meeting and formation session of the Parish level Suvisesha Sangham of St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral was held on 11 December, Sunday from 2pm-6:30pm. The formation session consisted of class, Prayer session and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The First session of class were handled by Mr VA George (member of Suvisesha Sangham, Malankara Catholic Church). The whole session was conducted and presided own by the vicar of the Cathedral.

2. Holy Redeemer's MSCC, Kalewadi

Concluding 'The Year of Mercy' and Orphanage Visit

As a part of concluding 'The Year of Mercy' the parish part took a one day Retreat which was conducted by Fr. Jinto E dattukunnel Director Kalyan Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services and team on 17 December. A Special talk was also arranged on 20th November and the session was taken by Fr Toby. The MCA members also organized a visit to Sarva Seva Sangam Orphanage, Vadgaonsheri on 04 December under the leadership of Fr. Joseph Noble OIC. Thirty parishioners including the ladies wing and gents wing members participated. As a token of love, the members contributed grocery items for the daily needs of the orphanage. We had a heart touching experience with the little cute children. After the orphanage visit, the members also visited Bethany Ashram, Ramwadi. We were greeted and welcomed by the brothers and fathers with great joy. The members were provided with tea and snacks. Finally, the MCA president Mr. Jacob Benjamin proposed vote of thanks and shared his

experience.

Ecumenical Carol Singing Competition

In the Ecumenical Carol Singing competition hosted by St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Church, Kalewadi Holy Redeemers Malankara church bagged the 3rd Prize.

3. St Mary's MSCC, Warje Malwadi

Orphanage and Seminary visit

On 04 December under the leadership of Mathru Sangam the parish members visited 'Sarva Seva Sangh', Vadagoansheri - the home for street and abandoned children. Fr Babu SVD, the director of the institute shared the details of the children staying there and enlightened the need to show mercy to such children. The members gifted the children food and toiletry items. The members entertained the children by singing songs and hearing them out. It was good spiritual experience for all. Later the member took time to visit brothers and fathers at Bethany Ashram, Ramwadi, Papal seminary and Nirmal Hriday Minor Seminary.

Christmas Preparatory Retreat

On 11 December a half day retreat was conducted to prepare oneself for the arrival of the infant Jesus. The retreat was led by Rev. Fr. Samuel Toppil. Sacrament of Confession was arranged and Rev. Fr. Cyprian OIC was the main celebrant for the Holy Qurbono.

4. St. Thomas SMCC, Chinchwad, Pune

Conclusion of the year of Mercy

In commemoration with the closure of the Year of Mercy, Qurbono and class was conducted by Rev. Fr Cyril Anand OIC on 13 November, 2016. During the class Father took us through a PPT presentation, explaining the various components that together form MERCY. He also explained how we can include mercy in our everyday lives. Many members also shared their life experiences. After the class, breakfast was served to all. Overall it was a very enriching experience.

MCYM Football Tournament

MCYM DC organized a one day Football tournament in Ravet Football Arena on 10 December. Mr Saji Daniel, Saju John and Libin Oomen

were the chief guests for the event. In all there were 5 boys teams and 3 girls teams. The MCYM team from Vishrantwadi were the winners in both the boys and girls categories. Rev Fr Varghese Mattamana gave away the prizes. Congratulations to all the winners and also the organizers for conducting a disciplined and successful event.

Mumbai District

1. St Thomas SMCC, Thane

First Holy Communion

20 November was a blessed day as six children namely Mast. Emaan Biju, Simon K Shibu, Jerin Reji, Reuben S, Justin Roy and Kum. Alena Shibu Mathew from the parish received first Holy Communion from His Excellency Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios. Parish community took this opportunity to wish and pray for the children as they began a new life in Christ. All five boys were also initiated for Alter service by His Excellency by prayers and blessings.

2. St. Mary's MSCC, Sakinaka

Silver Jubilee Celebration

In view of the upcoming Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the parish candles blessed by Fr Philip Pulipra and distributed to each and every family.

Catechism Examination Results

Members of the parish congratulate all the catechism students for the efforts taken by them in successfully passing the exam and getting 100% result. Special appreciation to Sharon Baby, Marcus George, Ruben John who have secured A+, A, B+ grade in the 1st semester catechism exam.

3. St Thomas MSCC, Borivili

St. Thomas Parish Borivili celebrated its feast on 27 November. The weeklong celebrations began on 20 November. Most Rev Thomas Mar Anthonios celebrated the Holy Qurbana on 20 November and did the flag hoisting (kodiyettam). There was Rosary, Intercessory prayer of St. Thomas, evening prayer followed by Holy Qurbana on all days from 21 to 25. There was one hour Adoration on 23 November. On 26 November the Holy Qurbana was celebrated in St Francis De Assisi Monastery chapel and the Rassa began from there to our Parish at Kanderpada. Rev Fr George Mathew OIC, the Chancellor of St Ephrem Exarchate was the

main celebrant of the Holy Qurbana. On 27th Perunnal Qurbana was offered by Rev Fr Philip Pulipra, the Vicar of Sakinaka and Vikhroli Parishes.

Bengaluru District

1. St Alphonsa MSCC, Carmelaram

Bishop's Visit

Our beloved Aboon Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios visited the parish for the first time on 17 December. His Grace celebrated Holy Qurbano along with Vicar Fr. Varghese Kadakketh and Parish Priest Fr. Geevarghese Kaithavana and presided the joint committee meeting. In the meeting decision was taken to construct the parish church in a phased manner.

Christmas Carols

St. Alphonsa Malankara Catholic Church, Carmelaram conducted the first Christmas carol celebration on 10 and 11 December. Despite being a newly formed unit with only a handful of family members, almost all the members including our coordinator Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Kaithavana and Sr. Preethi (DM) actively participated in the Christmas carols. The parish covered almost all our houses and convents, sharing and spreading the joy of Christmas. The neighbours of our families also joined in our celebrations.

2. St Joseph's MSCC, Mathikere

The 5th Resourse Meeting of Mathikere Unit was conducted on the 13 Nov on the topic 'Youthhood Rooted In Christ'. The session conducted by Ms. Jinu Sara and Ms. Anisha Anna Mathew was participated by 25 youths including the Animator Mrs. Dency Mathew. The session began with the introduction on the topic and discussed on the meaning of the title, followed by the Possibilities and Challenges faced by the youth. There was discussion about embracing Jesus as the Role Model in our lives. The session progressed to discuss on the Personality of Jesus and youths and as to how we could intake the personality of Jesus into oneself. The activity of the Nail and the wooden Plank was discussed and the youths experienced the thought behind it. All were inspired of the thought on accepting Jesus as the Real Role Model. The session concluded with a video which told us to see Jesus as a Role Model rather

than taking him just as a person of Worship.

Goa District

1. St Ephrem MSCC, Cortalim

Welcome to Fr Augustine Sunil Konnathuvila

On 04 December 2016, Rev. Fr. Augustine Sunil from the Eparchy of Marthandom was temporarily appointed as the Vicar Incharge in Goa. Rt. Rev. Msgr Varghese Mattamana and Fr. Stephen the Vicar welcomed him to the parish and concelebrated Holy Qurbano. The parish community in Goa is actively growing in all the apostolic activities including Catechism, MCYM, Parish Council, Mathru Sangham etc. The initiative and toil of Fr Stephen has lead to the reunion of one family comprising five members. Weekly prayer meetings are regularly held in the houses. There is regular Holy Qurbano on every Sunday beginning at 9:30 with the Prayer followed by Catechism. On alternate Sunday there's meeting of all associations after the Qurbano.

Christmas Carols

The first Christmas Carols of the Malankara Community in Goa was held on 12, 13, 14 & 15 December under the leadership of Fr Stephen, the vicar. Most of the people from the parish participated in the carols. This made them to understand and held the community together into a more familial relation.

Bishop's Diary - January 2017

- 1 : Vikhroli, Mumbai
- 2 : Feast of Bava Thirumeni, Trivandrum
- 3 : Adoor
- 4 : Catholicate Centre, Trivandrum
- 5 : Classes in Canon Law, BVP - Pune
- 8 : Vasai Church (Feast)
: Ecumenical Meet, Mumbai
- 15 : Pune
: KCA Meeting, Mumbai
- 22 : Hennur, Bengaluru
- 26 : Bethany Central School, Nashik
- 28 : Chinchwad Parish, Pune
- 29 : St. Mary's Cathedral, Pune



Most Rev Thomas Mar Antonios at the FABC Meeting, Srilanka



Members from the Exarchate along with the other participants of WRCC, Nadiad-Gujarat



Festal Celebration, Borivali



First Holy Communion, Thane



Feast of Commemoration of Moran Mor Cyril Basielios Catholicos and Bp. Joseph Mar Severios, 18 January

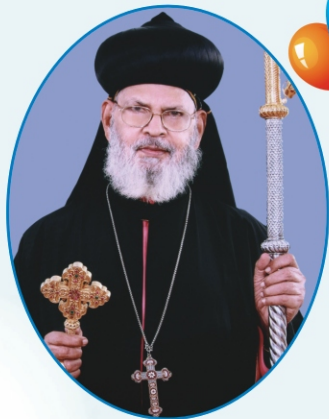
Festal Greetings



**Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal
Cleemis Catholicos**
1 January



Aboon Thomas Mar Anthonios
17 January



Geevarghese Mar Timotheos
22 January



Joshua Mar Ignathios
29 January



Philipos Mar Stephanos
8 January

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