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"Because He is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14)

May the Nativity of our Lord bring new dawns of peace to our restless times.
Christmas and New Year greetings to the esteemed readers of Syro Malabar Vision.



Rev. Dr. George Kudilil
(Chief Editor, Deepika Daily)

The Jubilee Year—celebrated every 25 years since A.D. 1300—began anew on December 24, 2024, when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. The papal proclamation announcing the Jubilee Year had been released earlier, on May 9, 2024. This document, titled "Spes non confundit" (Hope does not disappoint), reflects deeply on the principal theme of the Jubilee: hope. "We are invited to become tangible signs of hope of some kind for all our brothers and sisters," the Pope tells the faithful. He emphasizes the need to pursue diplomatic avenues to avoid wars, to encourage leaders to listen to the needs of the poor, to reduce the debts of impoverished nations, and to grant freedom to prisoners.

The declaration offers a beautiful meditation on hope. "Everyone knows what it means to hope," the Pope writes. "It is the desire or expectation of good things to come-something that dwells in every human heart." He says this without ignoring the harsh realities facing the world. "Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint us, for hope is founded on the certainty that nothing can separate us from the love of God." The Holy Father views the Jubilee as an opportunity for renewal through hope. He says hope accompanies us on our pilgrimage toward meeting the Lord face-to-face. He reminds us that hope can be discovered not only in God's grace but also in the signs of the times.

Signs of Hope

Though the world stands on the brink of war and destruction, the longing for peace remains very much alive. According to the Pope, this universal desire for peace is the first sign of hope. Because even regional conflicts can have global repercussions, world leaders must work earnestly toward resolving them. They must not ignore repeated appeals for peace. The urgency of peace pres-



THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

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ents us with a profound challenge; decisive action is necessary. No opportunity for dialogue aimed at sustainable peace should be wasted.

The willingness to preserve and nurture life is the second sign of hope. The falling birthrates in many countries reveal a diminishing commitment to life. Christians have a special responsibility to foster a social environment filled with hope. A future echoing with the joyful voices of children is our goal.

The Holy Father reminds us—especially in this Jubilee Year—that we are called to become tangible signs of hope to all who experience any kind of hardship. He offers numerous ways to do this.

Believers should be ready to show compassion to prisoners. Governments should grant release or clemency to prisoners to rekindle their hope. Abolishing the death penalty is desirable. The Pope also expressed a wish to open a "Holy Door" in a prison.

Believers should show greater closeness and care for the sick and elderly in homes or hospitals. Many of them suffer from loneliness and a sense of abandonment.

Offering signs of hope to the youth is especially important today. It is painful to see young people—without jobs, security, or a realistic sense of the future-seeking

refuge in drugs or other escapes, having lost hope. The Church must draw nearer to them and inspire them during this Jubilee Year.

The faithful must also extend signs of hope to refugees. Many leave their homelands in search of better living conditions. Refugees, the displaced, and migrants pursue work, education, and security. The Church must be prepared to help them adapt to new surroundings.

Pope Francis next raises his voice for the poor, who often lack even the basic necessities of life. It is shameful that global resources are directed toward weapons while the majority of people remain poor. The earth's resources must be shared by all—not merely by a wealthy minority. The rich must become more generous. Resources should be used to end poverty and uplift poor nations rather than expand military capabilities.

Wealthier nations must be willing to lighten the debts of poorer countries. This is not merely an act of generosity—it is a matter of justice. There is a vast disparity in how these two groups of nations use natural resources, as well as in their responsibility for environmental degradation.

The Hope of Church Unity

This Jubilee Year also marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of

Nicaea. The council's formulation of the Creed played a decisive role in strengthening the unity of the Churches. The Jubilee should help rekindle the great hope of ecumenical unity. Celebrating Easter on the same day across all Churches would be a deeply meaningful sign.

Pope Francis has consistently highlighted the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. His desire to emphasize this sacrament led him to proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (2015–2016). He urges bishops to ensure that the faithful receive the Jubilee's greatest spiritual grace-indulgences. The Jubilee Year is a timely opportunity to speak about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which brings hope and peace to sinful humanity.

The Pope concludes his Jubilee proclamation by affirming that the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus are the heart and foundation of our faith. "Because we possess this hope of salvation, we know that human history—and the history of each one of us—moves forward not toward a fixed point of darkness or oblivion, but toward an encounter with the Lord of Glory." May this Jubilee Year help every member of the Church to grasp this great hope. May they truly become pilgrims of hope. ■

EDITORIAL



MARCHING FORWARD IN UNITY WITH HOPE

We are journeying through the commemoration of two momentous events: the 2025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord and the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, where the Churches, in 325 AD, together professed their faith in the One Lord. Significantly, the recent gathering that opened new horizons for global ecclesial communion took place on the very soil of Nicaea in Turkey, in the presence of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV.

The proclamation of the early Church: "For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12), captures the very essence of the mystery of the Incarnation. God entered human history in order to redeem it from its limitations and lead it into the freedom of divine life. The angelic hymn, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests," beautifully expresses the universality of the Incarnation. Even after millennia, the name of Jesus, the Church of Jesus, and His representative here on earth remain irreplaceable and enduring realities.

The Council of Nicaea was convened not to settle administrative concerns, but to safeguard the truth of the Church's faith and thereby strengthen ecclesial unity. At its heart was the fundamental question: Who is Jesus Christ? The Council affirmed the divinity of Christ, declaring that the Son is "of one substance with the Father." The Nicene Creed thus became the first formal and universal declaration of faith in Christianity. In this sense, it is truly fitting to say that the Council of Nicaea gave voice to the faith of the Church.

The Council also stands as a shining example of synodal communion in action. The collective discernment of the Synod Fathers was not a mere exchange of human opinions, but a genuine participation in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, a living expression of the conviction that "it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28). In today's context of deep and divisive crises, the model of dialogue, discernment, and unity adopted at Nicaea becomes all the more relevant. When we gather in a fraternal spirit, pray together, and communicate openly in the spirit of synodality, then even amid complex religious, social, and political challenges, external pressures and internal tensions cannot weaken us. Instead, they will strengthen our resolve to ensure the holistic well-being of the people of God.

Faith in the one Lord who became man continues to be the foundation and inspiration for Christians across the world as they strive to bear the radiant fruits of the Incarnation. When Jesus and His Gospel take precedence, beyond systems, structures, and juridical definitions, it becomes a sure and unfailing path to unity. As we move forward, let us walk this path of unity with renewed hope, proclaiming our faith in the one Lord, and drawing wisdom from the commitment, vision, and foresight of the Fathers of Nicaea, lessons that every Christian of this age is called to embrace. ■

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A DAY TO REMEMBER

December 1: Beginning of the 25-Days of Fast
December 3: St. Francis Xavier
December 6: St. Ambrose
December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 9: Anniversary of the death of Mar Louis Pazheparambil (1919)
December 13: St. John of the Cross
December 18: The Miraculous Sliva of Mylapore

December 19: Anniversary of the death of Mar John Menachery (1919)
December 21: Establishment of the Syro-Malabar Hierarchy (1923)
December 25: Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
December 26: St. Stephen
December 27: St. John the Apostle
December 28: Holy Innocents
December 31: Year-End

► FESTAL GREETINGS ◀

December 26



Mar Stephen Chirappanath

December 27



Mar John Vadakel CMI



Mar John Nellikunnel



Mar John Panamthottathil CMI

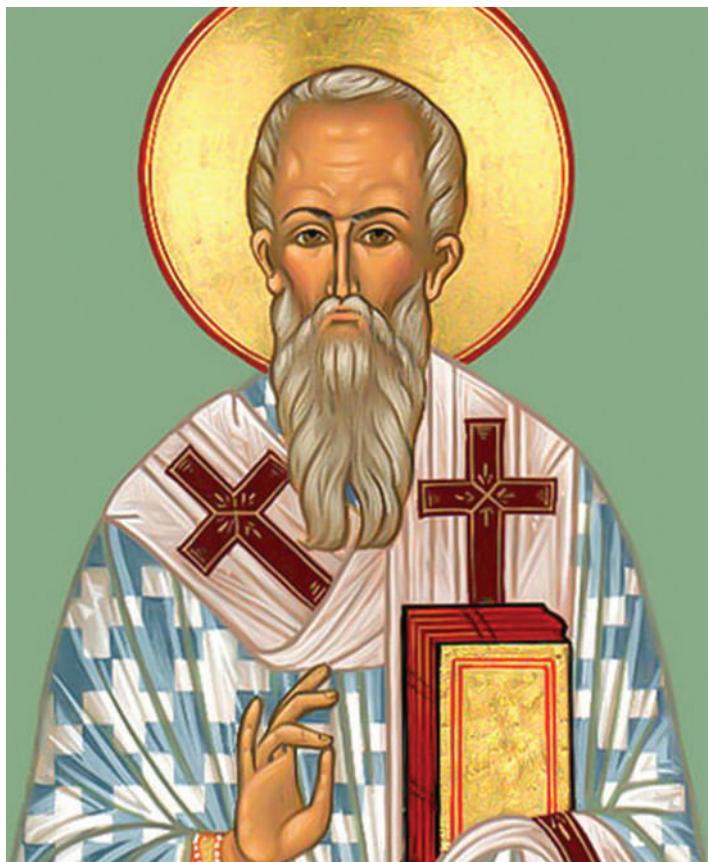


Rev. Dr. Alex Sebastian Kollamkalam

St. Ambrose of Milan, a member of a traditional Christian family in Rome, was born in 340 A.D. at Trier, the capital of Gaul, where his father Ambrosius served as the Prefect of Gaul. After the untimely death of his father in A.D. 354, he returned to Rome with his mother and two siblings. He attained mastery in law and became a well-known advocate. Recognizing his expertise in law, Emperor Valentinian appointed Ambrose as the Governor of Liguria-Emilia in 370, after which he shifted his residence to the official quarters in Milan.

After twenty years of anti-Church governance, when Auxentius, the Bishop of Milan and an Arian sympathizer, died in 374, other bishops sought the Emperor's assistance to elect a new bishop. That responsibility was entrusted to Ambrose, the Governor. As he attempted to bring together the Arians and the Nicenes, who stood on opposite sides, both groups unanimously demanded that Ambrose himself should become the next bishop. At that time, he was only a catechumen; but after receiving baptism and the other sacraments, he was ordained bishop on December 7, 374. He then sold all his possessions and distributed them

ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN



to the poor. To compensate for his lack of theological training, he dedicated the subsequent period to the study of Sacred Scripture and the Fathers of the Church (especially Origen and St. Basil). It was St. Ambrose who brought about the conversion of St. Augustine and administered his baptism.

His proficiency in the Greek language and literature helped him engage in open dialogue with Greek theology. Taking a firm stand against Arian heresy, he courageously disregarded the Emperor's order in 385-86 to hand over a Catholic church to the Arians. He remained the Bishop of Milan until his passing from this world in 397. St. Jerome testifies (DVI 124) that he refrains from evaluating Ambrose because he was his contemporary and still alive at the time. Regarded as one of the greatest among the Latin Church Fathers along with St. Augustine, St. Jerome, and Pope St. Gregory, he was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church, and the Church also granted official recognition to his holy life. He is venerated as a heavenly intercessor for the city of Milan. ■



From the Heart of
the Father and Head

Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil



Dear brothers
and sisters
in Jesus Christ,

With the approval of Pope Leo XIV, the Dicasteries for the

Doctrine of the

Faith has published a Doctrinal Note entitled *Mother of the Faithful People* (*Mater Populi fidelis*), declaring that it is not theologically appropriate to address Blessed Virgin Mary as 'co-redemptrix', and titles such as "Mother of Graces" and "Mediatrix" must be used prudently. You would have noticed some misleading discussions and interpretations happening on social media, suggesting that this represents a step back from the honour previously given by the Catholic Church to Mary or as an acceptance of Protestant ideas.

We should keep in mind that the Church's fundamental teachings about the Blessed Virgin Mary remain unchanged. The Church officially proclaimed four dogmas about Mary: she is the Mother of God, ever-virgin, immaculate, and her assumption into heaven. The Church continues to proclaim these four doctrinal truths without alteration. At the same time, the Doctrinal Note aims to correct theological misunderstandings that have arisen from certain terms used to describe Mother Mary. By giving birth to the incarnated Son of God, she becomes our mother too. The heart of this document is a call to remain with her spiritual motherhood.

Together with this, the Note directs us to avoid certain titles that can cause confusion. The most important instruction is to refrain from using the term 'co-redemptrix'. It is not right to interpret this as a new direction. The Church has never declared and taught officially that Mary is co-redemptrix. It is true that some Marian devotees have used the title out of their love for the Holy Mother. The Note points out that the term can lead to certain theological errors. Saying "Mary is a co-redemptrix" might suggest that Christ's salvific work is incomplete without her assistance. Or, it may lead to the misunderstanding that salvation is possible only through a joint effort of Jesus and Mary. Such ideas would diminish the unique and supreme role of Christ in humanity's salvation; therefore, the document recommends avoiding this expression. The new document does not deny Mary's essential role in God's plan

GUIDELINES FOR MARIAN DEVOTION



In a context where misleading discussions and interpretations are widely circulating on social media-claiming that the Catholic Church is moving backward in the honour it gives to the Mother, and that it is accepting ideas earlier held by Protestants-the circular of the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, Mar Raphael Thattil, clarifies that no change whatsoever has been made in the fundamental teachings of the Holy Church regarding the Blessed Virgin Mary.

of salvation. She freely gave herself to the divine will and willingly prepared to become the mother of Jesus. The document makes a clear distinction between Mary's cooperation in the work of salvation and what is implied in the title 'co-redemptrix'. The dignity of the Blessed Virgin

Mary is that she collaborated freely in the plan of salvation through her faith and obedience.

Likewise, the Note points out that when Mary is called 'Mother of Graces', this can give the impression that all graces originate from her. The source of

all graces is God alone. It is through the sacraments in the Church that the Son of God bestows every grace. To preserve the integrity of this mystery, the document advises avoiding the phrase 'Mother of Graces'.

The usage of the title *mediatrix* also requires careful consideration. There is no doubt that Mary intercedes for us before God. It is quite different to say that 'Mary can intercede for us' and that she is *mediatrix*, and this theological difference is clarified by this Note. Christ is the sole mediator between God and humanity. The Church teaches that Mary's intercession should not be presented as equal to Christ's unique mediatorship. The document underlined the fact that Christ alone is the 'One and the only mediator' between God and humanity, because he is both fully divine and fully human. The phrase 'Jesus, the unique mediator' means that no one else can stand in the middle between God and humanity, but Jesus alone. Without this clarification, referring to Mary simply as *mediatrix*, leads to misunderstandings. In short, the document's purpose is to emphasize the unparalleled uniqueness of Christ's mediatorship, while preserving the Church's traditional devotion to Mary and giving it the correct direction.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is worthy of the highest honour in the Church (*hyperdulia*). She had the faith and courage to follow Christ even to the foot of the Cross. Before his death, Jesus gave her to all believers as their mother (John 19:27). As the Mother and symbol of the Church, Mary's life is a model and inspiration for all the faithful. If she were received into heaven with her body, then the whole Church that imitates her is likewise entitled to enter heaven. Devotion to the Blessed Mother expressed through the rosary, novenas, scapular devotion, and other prayers remains in the Catholic Church without any change. I invite everybody to be vigilant against the vested interests and the false teachings of those who misinterpret this document, which defines with clarity the role of Jesus and the Blessed Mother Mary in the plan of salvation.

May God bless you abundantly through the intercession of Mother Mary!

(Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on the 8th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2025.) ■

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE: NECESSITY OF OUR TIMES

 The Jubilee Year of 2025 declared by Pope Francis is a significant moment that connects biblical wisdom with contemporary moral challenges. The Jubilee of 2025 becomes an urgent need of our times as it addresses pressing moral issues that demand immediate attention, such as justice in financial dealings, environmental degradation, migration, poverty, and social inequality. This article examines the moral dimensions of the Jubilee Year 2025 by analysing how this ancient ecclesial tradition responds to contemporary moral necessities.



Rev. Dr. Augustine Chennattu
(Professor, Mangalapuzha Seminary)

Biblical and Theological Foundations

The concept of Jubilee first appears in the Old Testament, especially in Leviticus chapter 25. “*You shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you shall return to your property, and each of you shall return to your family.*” (Lev 25:10). This divine command establishes Jubilee as a sacred arrangement meant for social re-ordering, preventing economic inequalities from becoming permanent, and ensuring that renewal and restoration are experienced by all members of society. Likewise, Deuteronomy 15:12 says: “*Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts.*” This divine command was not meant for an individual or a single family alone but aimed at social transformation guaranteeing justice, equality, and liberation for all. Biblically, Jubilee fundamentally envisions the restoration of right relationship with God, neighbour, and creation. In the New Testament, in Luke 4:18–19, Jesus explicitly connects His mission with the Jubilee tradition.

Justice in Financial Dealings

The most important theme of the Jubilee of 2025 is the call for the cancellation of debts and for economic justice. Pope Francis underlines in his Bull that wealthy nations should forgive the debts of poorer nations not merely out of generosity but out of justice. The moral arguments for debt relief have two dimensions. First, it is a reality that some debts are impossible to repay. Many countries caught in debt traps spend more money servicing loans than on health, education, or climate resilience. When repaying debt obstructs the primary duty of



governments to protect human dignity and provide basic services, such repayment becomes morally illegitimate. Second, there is the idea of “*ecological debt.*” Pope Francis argues that wealthy nations owe this ecological debt, because some countries have excessively exploited natural resources for a long time, giving rise to a moral indebtedness towards poorer nations.

Environmental Ethics and Care for Creation

The Jubilee Year 2025 highlights ecological and social justice by linking human dignity with environmental stewardship. Declaring that “*God's creation-damaged and distorted by humanity's selfishness-needs hope,*” Pope Francis reminds us to extend solidarity to the poor, the imprisoned, and Mother Earth. The consequences of environmental degradation are severe. Climate change disproportionately affects the extremely poor and vulnerable who have done almost nothing to cause it. The Jubilee's call to give the earth rest—for example, by letting fields lie fallow to restore soil health—reflects contemporary concerns

for sustainable development, renewable energy transition, and the end of exploitative practices.

Solidarity with Marginalized People

The moral vision of the Jubilee of 2025 proclaims solidarity with the most vulnerable people in society. Pope Francis encourages Christians to embody “signs of hope” by drawing close to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants, and those living in difficult circumstances.

Prisoners and Restorative Justice

On December 26, Pope Francis opened a Holy Door in Rome's Rebibbia Prison, a place he had visited twice earlier to celebrate Holy Thursday Mass and wash the feet of prisoners. This unprecedented act of opening a Holy Door in a prison is a powerful moral statement about human dignity and redemption. It proclaims that no one is beyond the borders of hope, no one is excluded from God's mercy, and that society must not abandon those who err.

Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation

The moral vision of the Jubilee Year

is fundamentally about building peace through justice. Pope Francis urges Christians to use this moment to imagine “a new world where peace and justice reign,” asserting that “the Jubilee invites us to spiritual renewal and to the transformation of our world so that this year may truly become a year of joy.” Here, the link between justice and peace becomes clear: where injustice grows, peace cannot exist. Emphasizing the deeper meaning of the Jubilee, the Pope reminds us that we are all “indebted” to God, who forgives our sins in infinite mercy and love and commands us to forgive those who have wronged us.

Structural Reform and Systemic Change

What distinguishes the moral dimension of Jubilee 2025 is its call for systemic transformation. The Jubilee seeks not only to cancel unjust debts but also to address the root causes of debt crises and to reform the global economic system so that it prioritizes people and the planet. The emphasis on structural reform reflects Catholic social teaching on subsidiarity and the common good.

Personal and Communal Transformation

Jubilee is not only about changing external structures but also about transforming hearts and relationships. Pope Francis stresses that “hope and mercy touch the very heart of the Gospel.” Mercy is “not a political strategy,” but a form of love that opens hearts to mutual acceptance and leads us to deeper humility. Simple acts of mercy and solidarity—nurturing fraternal bonds and shared humanity—can pave the way for a new world. Transformation occurs at many levels—through personal choices, social customs, national policies, and international systems.

In conclusion, the proclamation of the Jubilee of 2025 is at once a prophetic fulfilment and an invitation to hope. The Jubilee achieves its purpose when it uplifts the dignity of humanity—especially of the poor and the most vulnerable—shapes economic life, protects the environment, welcomes strangers, and transforms societies for the better.

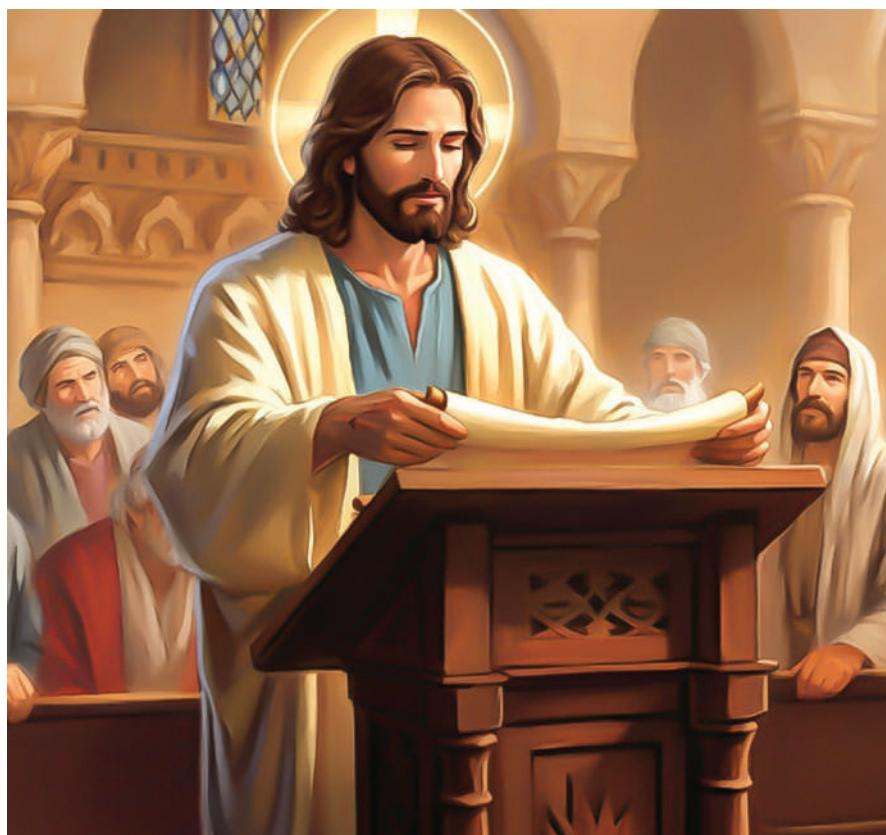
THE YEAR ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD AND THE FULFILMENT OF THE JUBILEE



EXPLORING BIBLE QUESTIONS

Rev. Dr. Tom Olikkarratt

As the universal Church journeys through the Jubilee celebration with the blessed proclamation "Pilgrims of Hope," it is appropriate to analyse, within this context, the relationship between the Old Testament observance of the Jubilee and the proclamation of the "year acceptable to the Lord" made by Jesus of Nazareth in the synagogue at Capernaum. Jesus' powerful declaration in Luke 4:19, "to proclaim the year acceptable to the Lord," is a clear statement that His ministry inaugurates the eschatological reality of the Jubilee Year foreshadowed in the Old Testament. The term Jubilee originates from the Hebrew word *yōvēl*, meaning trumpet or ram's horn (cf. Lev 25). In ancient Israel, the Jubilee was a socio-economic observance celebrated every fifty years. It aimed to prevent perpetual poverty, preserve tribal land ownership, cancel debts, restore ancestral property, and release Hebrew slaves. By quoting Isaiah 61:2, Jesus asserts that the ultimate fulfilment of these laws is realised in His own mission. He



By quoting Isaiah 61:2, Jesus asserts that the ultimate fulfilment of these laws is realised in His own mission. He transforms the Jubilee from a temporary earthly observance into an eternal, spiritual, and universal reality of salvation.

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This connection reveals the radical nature of Jesus' ministry. The spiritual

liberation He brings corresponds to the three dimensions of material freedom in the ancient Jubilee. The practice of cancelling debts is fulfilled in the forgiveness of sins—the spiritual debt humanity owes

to God—which forms the core of "bringing good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18). The liberation of captives is accomplished through granting freedom to those who are bound and release to the oppressed, representing deliverance from the bondage of sin and from the powers of evil. The return to ancestral inheritance becomes spiritually real through reconciliation with God and the promised inheritance of the Kingdom of God. Hence, the "year of favour" is not simply a calendar year but an era of salvation and grace, a time in which the eternal and restorative fruits of the Jubilee are made available to all.

Most significantly, Jesus' decision to stop reading before the phrase "and the day of vengeance of our God" (Is 61:2) highlights the nature of the fulfilled Jubilee. In His first coming, His focus is entirely on proclaiming favour-mercy and salvation. He inaugurates the age of this spiritual Jubilee. The judgement implicit in the prophecy is intentionally deferred. Thus, Luke 4:19 functions as a messianic proclamation announcing that the King is present, and that the ultimate and eternal Jubilee of restoration, remission, and liberation has arrived through His anointing and power. In Luke's perspective, "the year acceptable to the Lord" becomes the theological centre of Jesus' salvific mission.

MOTHER OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (*Mater Populi Fidelis*)



JOURNEY OF FAITH & LEARNING

Rev. Dr. Sebastian Chalackal

On 4 November 2025, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, with the approval of Pope Leo XIV, published the Instruction *Mater Populi Fidelis*. This document explains Mary's role as the Mother of the People of God in relation to the work of Christ and instructs that certain titles which could give rise to misunderstanding should be avoided. It encourages the faithful to use designations such as Mother of God, Mother of the Faithful and Mother of the Church, which express Mary's unique cooperation in the plan of salvation. The Instruction reminds that titles such as Mediatrix or Mediatrix of all graces must be used with discernment. When the term mediatrix is applied to Mary, it may suggest

The Instruction also states that the title Mediatrix of all graces should not be used. Such titles do not offer a precise understanding of Mary's unique position.

that she possesses a mediating power independent of Christ. In reality, Mary's intercession proceeds entirely from her relationship with her Son. Her role as intercessor must never be understood in a way parallel to the unique mediation of Christ. The Blessed Mother intercedes and prays for us, but her intercessory role is entirely distinct from the truth that Christ alone is the one mediator.

The Instruction also states that the title Mediatrix of all graces should not be used. Such titles do not offer a precise understanding of Mary's unique position. As one who herself has been redeemed, Mary cannot be the mediator of the grace she has received (no. 67). Christ alone is the source of all grace. It is for the communication of this grace that He established the Church and the sacraments.

The document further clarifies that describing Mary as Co-Redemptrix is inappropriate. The Church has never officially proclaimed Mary as Co-Redemptrix. Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI) had noted that this title could cause confusion among the faithful. While some persons and groups had requested that the Church declare Mary Co-Redemptrix, there is no theological basis for such a definition. The Instruction makes this clear to prevent further misunderstanding.

The title Co-Redemptrix may obscure the fundamental truth that Christ alone is Redeemer. Mary is not a co-redeemer; rather, she cooperated in a unique way in the work of redemption. Her role in salvation is always subordinate to Christ and understood in the

context of her motherhood. As the Second Vatican Council teaches, Mary's mediation does not add to or diminish in any way the dignity or efficacy of Christ's sole mediation (Lumen Gentium 62).

Mary is the first disciple who learned and followed the ways of Jesus. She is the one who heard the Word of God and kept it. She is the model of faith and love for the Church—the first and most perfect among the disciples of Jesus (no. 73). Mary is the Mother of all the faithful. As He hung upon the Cross, Jesus gave her to all humanity as Mother so that we may never journey alone. As our Mother, Mary stays close to us with her prayers and love and walks with us. She is the Mother of the Church (no. 76).

In short, the Instruction *Mater Populi Fidelis* does not diminish the greatness or majesty of the Holy Mother of God; rather, it invites us to understand her true place in the light of the truth that Christ is the sole Redeemer. The document does not change the teachings of the Church but corrects certain misunderstandings through precise clarifications.

SAINT AMBROSE ON THE CHURCH IN INDIA

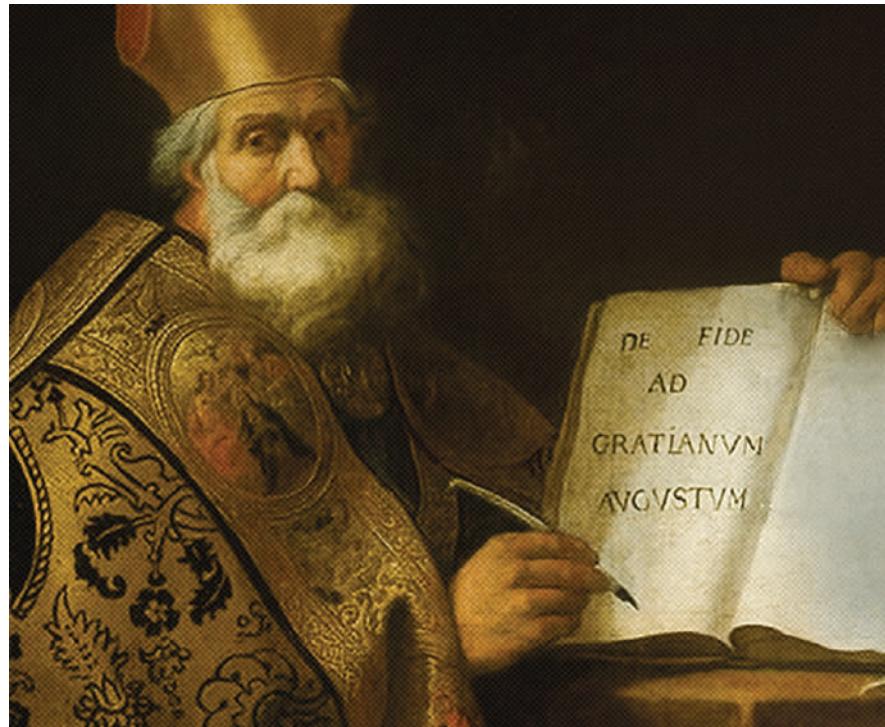


LITURGICAL
RESEARCH
CENTRE STUDY
SERIES

Rev. Dr. James Puliurumpil

Ambrose, born in A.D. 340 as the son of the Roman Praetorian Prefect who governed Gaul (France), received baptism in November 374 while serving as the governor of the regions of Emilia and Liguria in Italy, and in December of the same year he was elected as bishop. He became bishop after giving away all his property to the poor. The conversion of Saint Augustine in 387 was one of the great events of his time. Another event was his publicly imposing penance on the Roman Emperor Theodosius for ordering the killing of certain people who had caused disturbances in Thessalonica. Ambrose died in 397.

Ambrose, a scholar well-versed in Latin and Greek writings, also possessed knowledge about India. His dis-



tinguished work "The Customs of the Indians" (*De moribus Brahmanorum*) bears witness to this. This book contains descriptions of the people of India, their customs, and many of its towns. Most significantly, this work also refers to Ko-

dungallur-then known as Muziris-the place in Kerala where the Apostle Thomas landed. Ambrose himself explains at the beginning of the book why he wrote it. A man named Palladius approached him expressing the desire to know more

about India. In order to give him a proper answer and to enlighten his own people further, Ambrose sent Musaeus, who was the bishop of Doléni, to India to understand more about that land as it was known then.

In this book Ambrose writes that Musaeus crossed many countries and many mountains and reached the distant land of India. It also states that this was the region of India visited long ago by Alexander. The lifestyle of the people here, the goods produced, and the ascetic practices of the monks all appear in the book. It testifies that this land lies very far from Europe. The book also makes special mention of the Apostle Thomas. Ambrose states clearly that it was the disciple of Christ, the Apostle Thomas, who proclaimed the Gospel in India, a land outside the Roman Empire. The book likewise mentions Persia, where the Apostle Matthew preached the Gospel. The text asserts that Thomas landed in Muziris (Kodungallur), then one of the major port towns located at the southern end of India, for the proclamation of the Gospel (PL 17, 1169). Therefore, this work stands as strong evidence for the apostolic ministry of Saint Thomas in India.

BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER



MENTAL
HEALTH
CORNER

Rev. Dr. Sijon Kuzhikkattumyalil

Borderline personality, or unstable personality, is seen more frequently among women between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five. Those with this disorder are often in a state of constant distress. Individuals who display clear emotional irregularities in the way they interact with others from early adolescence or even from childhood, and who show abnormal reactions to stressful situations, are assessed as having borderline personality disorder.

Symptoms

They display unstable interpersonal relationships and inconsistent decisions and viewpoints. Uncontrollable emotions (impulsivity) are the primary symptoms of this disorder. Once they begin to like someone, they speak only in praise of that person, showing intense admiration. Yet for a very trivial reason they may fall out with the same person, thereafter speaking only of that person's faults. They display extreme impulsiveness. They lack the habit of calmly



Individuals who display clear emotional irregularities in the way they interact with others from early adolescence or even from childhood, and who show abnormal reactions to stressful situations, are assessed as having borderline personality disorder.

thinking before acting. Their behaviour may include repeated suicide attempts or threats, and they often show a tendency to inflict injuries on themselves. They may cut the veins on their wrists or consume excessive sleeping pills. They struggle to control anger and may experience rapid changes in emotional states within a short period of time (mi-

cro-psychotic episodes). A fear of abandonment or loneliness haunts many of them. They show a lack of clear purpose in life. Whether emotions are love, sorrow, or anger, they tend to express them intensely. They may also frequently display risky sexual behaviour.

Causes

Children born into families with he-

reditary tendencies toward such personality disorders have a much higher risk. Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse experienced in childhood can lead to this disorder. Mistakes in child-rearing-such as giving children what they want immediately (instant gratification) or subjecting them to harsh punishments-can also be causes. Research shows that dysfunction in parts of the brain such as the amygdala, limbic system, and frontal lobe, as well as low levels of the chemical serotonin, may contribute to the disorder.

Treatment Approaches

It is important to help family members understand that the individual behaves in ways that appear mentally disturbed because of a personality disorder. Among psychological treatments, dialectical behaviour therapy is especially beneficial. These individuals tend to see people, experiences, and life itself only in two categories-good or bad. Psychotherapy is effective in changing this pattern of thinking. Since borderline personality disorder often coexists with depression and anxiety (comorbidity), medication may also be required. Those living with such individuals should be made aware of the essential role of family members in treatment and the importance of family therapy.

CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST. MARTHAS



The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha is a Major Archiepiscopal Congregation of women religious in the Syro-Malabar Church.



The Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation was founded on 11 March 1958 in the Mulamattom parish of the Eparchy of Palai. The then Bishop of Palai, Mar Sebastian Vayalil, together

with Fr. Mathew Joseph Kalappurackal, established this congregation. Today the congregation has 245 sisters. There are 45 branch houses across the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh,

Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab, and also in Germany and Italy, along with four main apostolic ministries. The charism of the congregation is rooted in the Gospel verse, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve" (Mt 20:28). The mission of the community is to become all things for God and for everyone, especially for poor women and children, through humble and simple services in Jesus and with Jesus. "Greatness in Service" is the motto of the congregation. The spiritual source of the

Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation is St. Martha of Bethany.

The members of the congregation are committed to harmoniously combining prayer and work, to sustaining a spirit of prayer even in the midst of activities by maintaining constant communion with God, to leading a hardworking and simple life, to upholding a spirit of service always and everywhere, to finding joy in rendering humble services, and to being available for the apostolate of the local Church. The various apostolic fields in which the sisters are engaged include nursery schools, day-care centres, tailoring centres, children's homes, hostels for girls, dispensaries, healthcare ministry, pastoral ministry, educational apostolate, evangelization, counselling, women's empowerment, family apostolate and social welfare activities. The Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation was elevated as an Eparchial Congregation on 2 February 1998 and raised to the status of a Major Archiepiscopal Congregation on 2 February 2020.

AD LIMINA VISIT AND THE EASTERN CHURCHES



CANON LAW

Rev. Dr. Joseph Mattathil

From the very beginning of the early Christian community, there has been a tradition of making pilgrimages to the tombs of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul and venerating their sacred resting places. The Latin expression *ad limina apostolorum* is translated into English as "to the thresholds of the apostles." Thus, an *ad limina* Visit means a visit to the tombs of the Apostles. The principal purpose of this visit is to venerate the tombs of the apostolic pillars Peter and Paul.

All bishops of the Latin Church fulfil this long-standing practice by making a pilgrimage to Rome once every five years in order to venerate the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul, to visit the Pope, the successor of Peter, and to submit the five-yearly report on their respective dioceses. According to the Latin Code of Canon Law, every diocesan bishop is strictly obliged to visit

The Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches therefore states: "An eparchial bishop exercising authority within the territorial boundaries of the patriarchal church, within five years of his enthronement, is to make a visit to Rome along with the patriarch, insofar as this can be done, so that he may venerate the tombs of blessed apostles Peter and Paul and appear before the successor of Saint Peter in primacy over the entire Church."

Rome once every five years, to visit the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul, to have an audience with the Pope, and to submit a quinquennial report on the activity of the diocese (CIC cc. 399–400).

The Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches therefore states: "An eparchial bishop exercising authority within the territorial boundaries of the patriarchal church, within five years of his enthronement, is to make a visit to Rome along with the patriarch, insofar as this can be done, so that he may venerate the tombs of blessed apostles Peter and Paul and appear before the successor of Saint Peter in primacy over the entire Church." (CCEO c. 208 §1). According to this, bishops who exercise authority within the territory of Patriarchal and Major Archiepiscopal Churches must make this visit within five years of their enthronement, preferably together with the Patriarch or Major Archbishop. However, the law does not require them to repeat this visit every five years. At the same time, bishops of eparchies sit-

uated outside the territorial boundaries of Patriarchal or Major Archiepiscopal Churches are obliged to make the *ad limina* Visit once every five years (CCEO c. 208 §2).

All arrangements regarding the *Ad Limina* Visit of the Eastern Churches are coordinated by the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches in the Vatican. Pope Francis' Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*, promulgated on 19 March 2022, sets forth the current norms in this regard (PE articles 38–42, 84 §1). Coadjutor bishops and auxiliary bishops are not bound by this obligation; the duty rests on the eparchial bishops themselves. Through the *Ad Limina* Visit, communion among the bishops and communion with the Pope—the father and head of the entire Church—is strengthened through personal encounter and dialogue. The three elements of the *ad limina* visit are explained in *Praedicate Evangelium* article 38: the visit and veneration of the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul;

the audience with the Pope, successor of Peter; and the visit to the various dicasteries of the Roman Curia.

In short, for the Eastern Churches, the *ad limina* Visit is not merely an administrative requirement of ecclesiastical governance. Rather, it is an occasion to profess and manifest communion and obedience with the universal Church and with the Pope, the father and head of the Church. When the successor of Peter receives the heads and bishops of the Churches founded by the other Apostles, the event becomes a beautiful expression of the communion and fellowship that marked the gathering of the Apostles in the early Church. Moreover, for the bishops of the Eastern Churches who visit the tombs of Peter and Paul in Rome, it becomes a profound moment of spiritual renewal, drawing inspiration and strength from the great Apostles who shed their blood for Christ, so that they may continue courageously to carry the light of faith to the ends of the earth.

MAR KURIKOSE BHARANIKULANGARA INSTALLED METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF FARIDABAD



New Delhi: Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara assumed office as the first Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Faridabad in a prayerful atmosphere. The ceremonies were held at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium.

His Beatitude Major Archbishop

Mar Raphael Thattil, the head of the Syro-Malabar Church, was the chief celebrant for the ceremonies. Around 30 bishops from various dioceses of the Syro-Malabar, Latin, and Syro-Malankara Churches concelebrated the function. Around a hundred priests serving in the

Archdiocese, three hundred representatives of the Religious, and about 2,000 laypeople participated in the ceremony. The ceremonies commenced with a procession involving the priests and bishops.

Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara was the main celebrant of the Holy Qurbona. Mar Raphael Thattil delivered the homily.

The felicitation meeting was attended by Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju, Harddeep Singh Puri, and George Kurian, as well as Minister K. V. Thomas, representing the State Government of Kerala.

The Union Minister (Kiren Rijiju)

stated that the service rendered by Christians in various sectors across the country since the beginning of Christianity in India in AD 52 is invaluable. He emphasized that the contribution of Christians, especially in areas like health and education, is very significant to the nation's progress. He added that the discipline and centralized nature of the Catholic Church have often amazed him.

BCI President Mar Andrews Thazhath and Metropolitan Archbishop of Thalassery, Mar Joseph Pamplany (who is also the Vicar of the Major Archbishop in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Annamalai), also addressed the gathering.

Mar Jose Puthenveettil, the Patron of the installation ceremony and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Faridabad, stated that the elevation of the Faridabad Diocese, which started in 2012, to an Archdiocese after 13 years is the Church's recognition of the sublime Christian witness given by the Syro-Malabar faithful in the nation's capital and its surrounding areas.

MAR JAMES PATTERIL CMF CONSECRATED BISHOP OF BENTHANGADY



Mar James Patteril has been consecrated as the second Bishop of the Eparchy of Belthangady. Mar James Pathiyil's family migrated to Kalayil in Belthangady Taluk in the 1960s. He is the sixth among the seven children of the late Abraham and Rosamma couple. After completing his primary education in Belthangady, he completed his studies in Kuravilangad, Bengaluru, and Germany. He was in Germany from 1997 to 2025. He was appointed as Bishop while serving as the Procurator of the Province of Würzburg.

The Episcopal Ordination ceremony,

held at St. Lawrence Cathedral Church, Belthangady, was presided over by His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, the Father and Head of the Syro-Malabar Church. A total of 41 bishops from various parts of the country co-consecrated the ceremony, including Archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany, Bishop Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy, Mar George Valiamattam, Mar George Njaralakkatt, Bishop Dr. Peter Machado, Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Mar Thomas Tharayil, Mar Jose Pulickal, Mar Jose Porumbedom, Mar Sebastian Vadakel, Mar Joseph Chittooparambil, and Mar Jose Puthenveetil.



Following the Episcopal Ordination, a public meeting was held to bid farewell to the retiring Bishop Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy and felicitate Mar James Patteril. The public meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Peter Machado, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Bengaluru. CBCI President Mar Andrews Thazhath presided over the function. His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil delivered the keynote message.

Mar Raphael Thattil stated that the Eparchy of Belthangady, which the immigrant community realized by overcoming adverse circumstances through

their sweat and blood, has now grown to be the pride of the Syro-Malabar Church. He attributed this growth to the excellent leadership of Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy. "He gathered the Christian families scattered in various parts and led them under one umbrella. He is an outstanding visionary and missionary," the Major Archbishop said. A message was also delivered by Monsignor André Franchi, the representative of the Apostolic Nuncio.

The Eparchy of Belthangady was established in 1999. Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy was its first Bishop. Until then, Belthangady was a mission of the Archeparchy of Tellicherry region.

PRIESTHOOD IS A CALL TO MANIFEST THE FULL BEAUTY OF SELF-SURRENDER: MAJOR ARCHBISHOP MAR RAPHAEL THATTIL



"Priesthood is a vocation that fully reveals the beauty of self-surrender that a person can offer to God and to humanity. In every age, the selfless dedication of priests is indispensable for the growth of the Church and society," said Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, Father and Head of the Syro-Malabar Church.

He was speaking at the felicitation ceremony organized on 24 November 2025 at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad-the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the

Syro-Malabar Church-under the auspices of the Clergy Commission of the Syro-Malabar Church, honouring those who celebrate the Golden and Silver Jubilee of their priestly ordination.

Nearly forty priests from various Eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church participated in the event. Bishop Mar Tony Neelankavil, Chairman of the Commission for Clergy, and Rev. Dr. Tom Olikkarott, Secretary, offered felicitations.

VINCENTGIRI SISTERS REFLECT THE FACE OF CHRIST'S MERCY: MAJOR ARCHBISHOP



"The Vincentgiri Sisters is truly the face of Christ's mercy," said Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil. He was inaugurating the valedictory celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent

de Paul in India. Mar Jose Porunnedom, Eparchial Bishop of Mananthavady, presided over the function. Mar George Njaralakatt, Archbishop *Emeritus* of the Archeparchy of Thalassery, released the Golden Jubilee Souvenir.

Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Mananthavady, Mar Alex Tharamangalam; Superior of the Society of Kristu Dasis, Sr. Tina SKD; Vice-Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers, Fr. Mathew Pothil; Superior of the Bonn Vincentian

Community in Germany, Sr. Catherine Mock; Fr. Dominic Valakudiyil; and Fr. Vincent delivered felicitations.

Established in 1974 in the Eparchy of Mananthavady, the Vincentgiri Sisters religious community now extends its service beyond India to Germany, the United States, Africa, and other countries. The community is actively involved in healthcare ministry, mental health care, de-addiction centres, education, and various social outreach programmes.

The Superior General Sr. Philo Mulkakara, Assistant Superior General Sr. Ansitta, and Councillors Sr. Lucy Antony, Sr. Elsa Tom, and Sr. Anjali led the celebrations and coordinated the events.

GATHERING OF PRIESTS FROM KERALA 'KOINONIA 2025' HELD IN THE UNITED STATES



The gathering of Kerala Catholic priests in the United States, titled 'Koinonia 2025', was held as part of the year-long Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Chicago. The assembly took place on 18 and 19 November, bringing together around five hundred Malayali Catholic priests serving across different states and various

pastoral settings in the United States. The event was hosted at Our Lady of Health Parish, Miami. Priests from the Syro-Malabar, Syro-Malankara, and Latin Churches, as well as from the Knanaya community and various religious congregations, participated in the gathering.

Prominent participants included Bishop William Wack, member of the United States Conference of Catholic

Bishops and Bishop of Pensacola; Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami; Bishop Mar Joy Alappatt, Eparchial Bishop of the Eparchy of Chicago; and Mar Jacob Angadiath, Bishop *Emeritus* of the same Eparchy. Distinguished persons from ecclesial, social, and cultural spheres were also present. Guests were welcomed in traditional Kerala fashion, with instrumental ensembles and ornamental

umbrellas. At the solemn Holy *Qurbana* celebrated by the prelates, nearly two hundred priests concelebrated. A fellowship meal and cultural programs followed. The Eparchy of Chicago consists of 54 parishes, 35 mission centres, about seventy religious and consecrated priests, and a faithful community numbering over one hundred thousand.

PASTORAL AND PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS SHARE CO-RESPONSIBILITY IN BUILDING UP THE CHURCH: MAR RAPHAEL THATTIL



"Pastoral and presbyteral councils are the two wings of the Eparchial Bishop, and the members of these councils share a co-responsibility in building up the Church," said Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil. He was speaking at the inauguration of the fourteenth Pastoral Council and Presbyteral Council of the Eparchy of Palai, held at St. Thomas Cathedral Parish Hall. The occasion also

marked the 39th death anniversary of Mar Sebastian Vayalil, the first Eparchial Bishop of Palai. The inaugural session was held following the solemn Holy *Qurbana* and Office of the Hours celebrated by the Major Archbishop. Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, Eparchial Bishop of Palai, presided over the session.

Dr. V. P. Devasia Vallikavungal, Principal of Choondacherry Engineering

College, was elected Chairman of the Pastoral Council, and Adv. C. G. Antony Thekkedath was elected as Secretary. Fr. Mathew Alappattumdayil was elected Secretary of the Presbyteral Council. Members of the Presbyteral Council include priests elected from among the clergy of the Eparchy. Members of the Pastoral Council consist of elected representatives from various levels of the

Eparchy, representatives of different organizations, nominees, and superiors of religious congregations including generals and provincials.

Mar Joseph Pallikaparampil, Bishop *Emeritus* of Palai, was present. Eparchial Vicar General Rev. Dr. Joseph Thadathil and Chancellor Dr. Joseph Kuttiyankal delivered felicitations. Vicar Generals Rev. Dr. Joseph Maleparambil, Rev. Dr. Sebastian Vethanath, and Dr. Joseph Kaniyodickal, as well as Eparchial Procurator Rev. Dr. Jose Muthanattu, Rev. Dr. Kurian Mukkamkuzhiyil, and Cathedral Vicar Dr. Jose Kakkallil, offered leadership at the function. A book titled *Twenty Theologians of the Second Vatican Council*, authored by Rev. Dr. Andrews Mekkattukunnel, was released on the occasion.

The event included interactive sessions, group discussions, and a Q&A segment. In the final session, participants visited the old-age home run by the S.D. Sisters at Aluva Chunnagamveli. Students of the Seminary and Naipunya Institute jointly served a love-meal for the residents. Rev. Dr. Luke Thadathil, Director of the Youth Apostolate, coordinated the programme.

JOINT YOUTH GATHERING



The Youth Apostolate of St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha, in collaboration with the NSS students of Pongam Naipunya Institute of Management and Technology under the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archeparchy, conducted a joint youth meet with seventy participants. The programme was inaugurated by Seminary Rector Very Rev. Dr. Stanley Pulplurayil. Assistant Director Fr. Jimmy Kunnathoor conveyed greetings.

S.I.R.: A CALL TO ALL SYRO-MALABAR MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE



The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll for the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha elections is currently underway. Please ensure that all our faithful take part in this process. Among us are many elderly persons and families where individuals live alone. At

the parish level, necessary arrangements must be made-if required-to ensure that they receive the enumeration forms, fill them out, and return them on time.

In this regard, organizations such as the A.K.C.C. and S.M.Y.M. are urged to intervene actively.

The SIR procedures are based on the 2002 electoral roll. Those who were included in the 2002 electoral roll and still reside in the same place can more easily fill in the required details on the enumeration form. However, those who were added to the electoral roll after 2002 should locate the voter details of their parents from the 2002 roll and enter them in the SIR form. Likewise, those whose names appeared in the 2002 voter list but who later married or relocated-and are now voters in a different place-must provide their earlier voter details from the previous location in the form.

The 2002 voter roll is available on the website www.ceo.kerala.gov.in.

Particular attention should be given

to those family members who are currently living outside Kerala or abroad, siblings residing away from home, family members temporarily not in the native place, and priests or religious who left home for mission work at a young age. If they wish to retain their Indian citizenship, their names must definitely be included through the SIR. Family members and blood relatives must ensure this.

There is also an online facility for filling and submitting the SIR form.

Realizing the seriousness of this matter, everyone must ensure that the SIR procedures are completed correctly. The draft electoral roll is expected to be published on 9 December 2025. All persons who have completed eighteen years of age and whose names do not appear in the draft list must make sure to include their names and exercise their right to vote.

Public Affairs Commission



WE NEED EI, NOT AI

are significant, companies today consider emotional intelligence even more important. This is because emotional intelligence creates a peaceful atmosphere in the workplace.

Those with high EI reduce conflicts within teams, resolve issues calmly, and build strong relationships. A leader with high EI is capable of inspiring others, understanding their needs, and creating a healthy work environment. Problems between employees, and between employees and their superiors, often arise due to deficiencies in EI.

If a team leader is unable to under-

stand others or motivate them, productive outcomes will not emerge. Some supervisors explode in anger when a colleague makes a mistake; this happens because they cannot maintain composure or handle crises calmly. Such leaders lack EI. Inability to accept even mild criticism, difficulty controlling anger, and failure to understand others' abilities are all signs of low EI. When interactions consistently produce negative energy, such individuals are considered to have low emotional intelligence.

This only hinders a person's professional growth. No matter how famous,

accomplished, or learned someone may be, without emotional intelligence they cannot rise beyond a certain point in their career. How, then, can emotional intelligence be cultivated? The first step is developing self-awareness. Likewise, one must listen to others and try to understand the emotions beyond their words. Do not respond impulsively; respond only after reflecting. Try to see matters from the perspective of others. Make communication effective. Those who wish to grow and advance in their career should pay attention to these aspects and strive to develop emotional intelligence.

JUSTICE FOR THE ORDINARY PEOPLE THROUGH SAHRUDAYA: MAJOR ARCHBISHOP



Kochi: "For six decades, Sahrudaya has ensured rightful justice for ordinary people through exemplary self-surrender lived out for the welfare of society," said Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil of the Syro-Malabar Church. He was presiding over and addressing the valedictory meeting of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Sahrudaya, the social service wing of the Archeparchy

of Ernakulam-Angamaly, held at the Renewal Centre. He highlighted that the formation of a society to coordinate social activities across the Eparchies was the first such initiative in Kerala, envisioned through the farsighted leadership of Cardinal Parecattil.

The Governor of Kerala, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, inaugurated the meeting. "Beyond the mindset that the

government will do everything and that people are merely beneficiaries, each one must ask what he or she can do for the good of the nation and society. The dream of a developed India will be fulfilled only when we think and act in this manner. Organizations like Sahrudaya can reach out to ordinary people beyond the limitations of governmental systems, understand their needs, and work ac-

cordingly. The joy derived from doing good for others is greater than any other form of happiness," he said. When he began his address with "Sahodaree Sahodaranmare" and concluded with "Nandi, Namaskaram" in Malayalam, the audience applauded.

As part of the Diamond Jubilee commemoration, the Governor also inaugurated the housing project implemented by Sahrudaya and released the Jubilee Souvenir.

Bishop Emeritus Mar Thomas Chakkath, Archeparchial Vicar General Fr. Anto Cheranthuruthy, Sahodaya Director Fr. Joseph Koluthuvellil, Associate Director Fr. Antony Puthiaparampil, Assistant Director Fr. Sibin Manayampilly, Sr. Alice Lukose, and Joby Mathew addressed the gathering. Sahodaya's collaborators and village-level social workers were honoured at the meeting.

KNANAYA HERITAGE GALLERY DEDICATED TO THE NATION



The Archbishop Kunnassery Memorial Knanaya Heritage Gallery (Museum), constructed in the courtyard of the historic Kaduthuruthy Valiapalli-the mother church of the Knan-

aya community-was blessed and dedicated to the nation by Archbishop Mar Mathew Moolakkatt. MP Francis George opened the gallery to the public.

The meeting was presided

over by Auxiliary Bishop Mar Joseph Pandarasseril. In his inaugural address, Archbishop Moolakkatt stated that the Gallery unveils the history of the Knanaya community beginning

with the call of Abraham and continuing to the present. He added that the Gallery, which connects generations while keeping the past alive, will inspire the community to hold

fast to the true faith and move forward.

Bishop Mar Geevarghese Mar Aprem presented an overview of the museum. Several dignitaries, including Fr. Thomas Animoottil, Fr. Abraham Parambath, Francis George MP, Mons Joseph MLA, and Babu Parambadathumalayil, addressed the gathering. Visual artist P.K. Ramachandran Nambiar, who contributed significantly to the museum's creation, was felicitated.

The museum exhibits the migration history and growth of the Knanaya community through a visual gallery.

MIGRANTS STEERED MALABAR'S DEVELOPMENT: UNION MINISTER GEORGE KURIAN



Kozhikode: "It was the migrant community that demonstrated how land can be effectively used for agriculture," said Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian. He was speaking while inaugurating the symposium organized by the Eparchy of Tham-

raserry at Kozhikode Town Hall as part of the Malabar Migration Centenary Celebrations and the Ruby Jubilee observance.

He stated that the migrant community showed the nation how the unused natural resources of the region could be utilized beneficially. They

introduced diverse agricultural practices to Malabar. The fact that tapioca and fish became staple foods of Kerala is a direct result of migration. Migrants also transformed intercropping into a natural method of cultivation. The basic infrastructure development of Malabar and

progress in the fields of health and education owe much to the efforts of migrants.

The migrant community continues to be widely recognized as a gentle and peaceful group. Equally noteworthy, he added, is the graciousness shown by the native Malabar population in welcoming the migrants.

The meeting was presided over by Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop of Thamarasserry. Kozhikode Archbishop Mar Varghese Chakkalakkal, Kozhikode MP M. K. Raghavan, MLA Thottathil Raveendran, Mayor Beena Philip, Vicar General Msgr. Abraham Vayalil, Ruby Jubilee Convener Fr. John

Oravunkara, Thamarasserry Eparchial Procurator Fr. Benny Mundanattu, and Fr. Mathew Kulathingal addressed the gathering.

Dr. P. J. Vincent, Head of the Department of History, Government Arts and Science College, Kozhikode, and Dr. Joy Varghese, Director, Institute for Research in Science and Humanities, Kannur University, presented scholarly papers. Dr. Joshi Mathew (Associate Professor, Department of History, Pulpally Pazhassi Raja College), Dr. C. J. George (Principal, St. Xavier's College, Kozhikode), and Dr. Chacko Kalamparambil (President, eparchial unit of the Catholic Congress) led the discussion.

DOMINICAN SISTERS' SERVICE IS IMMENSE: MAJOR ARCHBISHOP



The contribution of the Dominican Sisters to Kerala society over the past 50 years is as enduring as the Taj Mahal built by Emperor Shah Jahan on the

banks of the Yamuna, said Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil. He noted that their noble charitable works-carried out without accepting any sup-

port from governments-will remain everlasting monuments in the hearts of people. He was speaking while inaugurating the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Sisters of the Generalate at St. Dominic's School, Mannarkkad.

Bishop Mar Peter Kochupurackal of Palakkad presided

over the meeting. He stated that no attempt to destabilize Catholic educational institutions under the guise of politics should be tolerated. The Holy Qurbana was celebrated by the Major Archbishop with Mar Peter Kochupurackal and Mar Jacob Manathodath as concelebrants. MLA N. Shamsudheen was the

chief guest. Bishop Emeritus Mar Jacob Manathodath, Municipal Chairman Muhammed Basheer, Fr. Raju Pulickathazhe (Vicar, Holy Spirit Forane, Mannarkkad), Dominican Provincial Fr. Peter Mentons, and Dominican Sisters Superior General Sr. Tessa Kachappilly also addressed the gathering.

who was appointed a member of the Forward Communities Commission.

Even six years after the introduction of EWS reservation, eligible people still struggle to obtain certificates on time, prompting the demand for decisive intervention, he said. Commission member Sebastian Chundal assured in his reply that the Commission would

take all necessary steps to wipe the tears of ordinary people.

Fr. James Kokkavayalil (Secretary, Public Affairs Commission), Fr. Sabin Thumullil (Director, Catholic Congress, Thamarasserry Eparchy), Fr. Simpson Chirammel (PRO, Thrissur Archeparchy), Dr. Chacko Kalamparambil, Joshi Vadakan, Anthony Aralchira Chambakulam, and Rony Augustine spoke.

ENSURE EWS BENEFITS REACH THE ELIGIBLE - ARCHBISHOP MAR ANDREWS THAZHATH



Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath, Chairman of the Syro-Malabar Public Affairs Commission, stated that the

State Commission for Forward Communities must intervene strongly wherever officials fail to issue EWS certificates to economically weaker sections among non-reserved communities. He was speaking at a felicitation meeting organized at the Thrissur Archeparchial headquarters for Sebastian Chundal,

ANNUAL MEETING OF MINOR SEMINARY RECTORS



The annual meeting of Minor Seminary Rectors from various Eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church was held at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, the central headquarters of the

Syro-Malabar Church, on November 21st.

His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, the Father and Head of the Syro-Malabar Church, delivered

the keynote address. Studies on the timely changes to be implemented in the Minor Seminary formation of the Syro-Malabar Church were presented and discussed at the meeting.

Addressing the gathering, Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil stated that seminaries hold a great place in the life of the Church as they are the places that form future priests. Mar

Raphael Thattil reminded the participants that what is needed in priestly formation today is a formation plan that holistically develops the spiritual, intellectual, and human dimensions.

The conference was led by Bishop Mar Tony Neelankavil, Chairman of the Syro-Malabar Church's Clergy Commission, and Rev. Dr. Tom Olickarott, Secretary of the Clergy Commission. Rev. Dr. Augustine Kallely, Professor at Mangalapuzha Seminary, and Rev. Dr. Sejo Thaickattil, Director of the Parok Research Centre in Thrissur, presented research papers related to seminary formation.

GREAT BRITAIN SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY: 8TH BIBLE FESTIVAL



At the 8th Bible Festival of the Great Britain Syro-Malabar Eparchy-Europe's largest biblical arts festival-the Cambridge Region won the overall championship. Bristol-Cardiff Region was declared First Runner-up, and Leicester Region Second Runner-up.

The trophy instituted in

memory of the late Anthony Mathew, who had served in recent years as coordinator of the Bible Apostolate and the Bible Festival, was awarded to the Birmingham St. Benedict Mission for securing the highest points among the missions.

The festival, inaugurated by the Eparchial Bishop Mar Jo-

seph Srampickal, began with the enthronement of the Holy Bible. "The Bible Festival is a time during which the Word of God is celebrated at every level of the Eparchy. What is revealed through the Word is Mar Sleeva-the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus. The very essence of the

Holy Qurbana is also Mar Sleeva," Bishop Srampickal said.

More than 1,500 participants from twelve regions competed in events held across twelve venues at Scunthorpe Frederick Gough School. With families joining to support the contestants, the festival city

turned into a gathering space for over 5,000 faithful.

Bible Apostolate Chairman Fr. George Ettuparayil, Bible Apostolate Coordinator John Kurian, Joint Coordinators Jimmichen George and Murphy Thomas, along with priests and lay representatives from various regions, led the event.

MISSION LEAGUE KARNATAKA STATE ANNUAL GATHERING



The annual Karnataka state gathering of the Cherupushpa Mission League (CML) was held in Bhadravathi Eparchy. About 900 missionaries from the parishes of Bhadravathi,

Belthangady, and Mandya Eparchies participated.

The programme was flagged off by Bhadravathi Eparchy Vicar General Fr. Thomas Chittilappilly. State President Philip

Mathew hoisted the flag. At the public meeting, Fr. Tino Vellarampalayil (Chancellor) welcomed the gathering. Bishop Mar Joseph Arumachadath inaugurated the meeting, re-

minding the participants that all members of the Church, by nature, are called to be missionaries, enriched with the virtues of love, sacrifice, service, and forbearance. Philip Mathew

presided. CML International Secretary Binoy Palliparambil, National Director Rev. Fr. Joseph Mattam, State Director Fr. Joseph Pampakkal, KRCSC Proclamation Director Fr. Maxim Dais, and others spoke.

Student leaders of Bhadravathi Eparchy presented a message on behalf of the junior missionaries. Sr. Maria SABS, Vice Director, delivered the vote of thanks. The event concluded with the Mission Anthem.

MIGRANT WORKERS GATHERING GATHERING HOSTED BY ARCHEPARCHY OF CHANGANACHERRY

The Changanacherry Archeparchy's Migrant Apostolate, in collaboration with Sarva Sevasamgham, organized a gathering for migrant workers at the Cathedral Auditorium. Archbishop Mar Thomas Tharayil inaugurated the meeting, stating: "We consider you not as workers, but as guests, for the tradition of our land is 'Atithi Devo Bhava'-the guest is

divine." He urged them never to lose hope despite hardships, saying that darkness will eventually give way to the rising sun and that joy will bloom from the seeds of sorrow.

Speakers included Sibi Vaniyappurackal (Central Coordinator), Fr. Teji Puthuveetikalam (Director), Fr. Jijo Maratukulam, Vicar General Fr.

Mathew Changankary, Sarva Sevasamgham Director Fr. Babu SVD, Fr. Lijo Champakulathil, Fr. Shiju SVD, N.P. Joseph, and Solimma Thomas. During the Eucharistic celebration, the mi-



grant workers made the offertory. The gathering was part of the Jubilee Year of the Birth of Jesus.



DIARY OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 27

October

- **Thursday, 30:** Inaugurated the closing ceremony of the first international seminar conducted under the auspices of the Jesus Fraternity at the Nest Pastoral Centre of the Eparchy of Kothamangalam.
- **Friday, 31:** Inaugurated the twenty-eighth anniversary and relaunch of the Deepka News Portal at the Recca Club in Kakkadan.

November

- **Sunday, 2:** Officiated the ceremony where the Faridabad was declared an Archeparchy and His Excellency Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara was elevated as Metropolitan. Subsequently, inaugurated the public meeting.
- **Tuesday, 4:** Visited the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at his residence in Delhi.
- **Wednesday, 5:** Consecrated Rev. James Patteril CMF as the second Bishop of the Eparchy of Belthangady at St. Lawrence Cathedral. Later, delivered a benedictory address at the felicitation ceremony.
- **Saturday, 8:** Celebrated Holy Qurbana and gave a message as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Cheroor Mount Calvary Sisters in the Thrissur Archdiocese.

Participated in the sacred ceremonies declaring Mother Eliswa, founder of the CTC Congregation, as Blessed at the Vallarpadam Pilgrimage Church in the Verapoly Archdiocese, and concelebrated the community Mass.

- **Sunday, 9:** Received Cardinal Sebastian Francis, the Bishop of Penang Diocese, Malaysia, and the representative of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for the proc-

lamation of Mother Eliswa as Blessed, at Mount St. Thomas. Hosted a dinner.

- **Monday, 10:** Performed the concluding part of the funeral rites for Rev. Thomas Puthusseril in the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese at St. Antony's Church, Kochal.
- **Friday, 14:** Visited Divine Centre at Vadakarappathy and the Priest's Home (Palana) in the Palakkad Diocese.
- **Saturday, 15:** Offered Holy Qurbana and gave a message, and inaugurated the public meeting as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Dominican Sisters' Congregation in Mannarkkad, in the Eaprchy of Palakkad.
- **Sunday, 16:** Attended and gave a message at the meeting of the parents of the seminarians at the Minor Seminary of the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archeparchy.
- **Monday, 17:** Celebrated Holy Qurbana and gave a message at Mount St. Thomas, the Church Headquarters in connection with the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Abraham Kaveelpurayidathil, Curia Chancellor and Rev. Seby Kulangara, Executive Director of the Internet Mission.
- **Tuesday, 18:** Participated in the Ecumenical Conference organized under the auspices of the Inter-Church Council at Palarivattom POC in connection with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, and delivered the keynote address.
- **Wednesday, 19:** Celebrated Holy Qurbana and gave a message at the 38th Daivashabdham Convention organized at Sakthan Nagar, in the Archeparchy of Thrissur.
- **Friday, 21:** Celebrated Holy Qurbana and prayed the office for the dead (Oppesu) at the Pala Cathedral Church in connection with the 39th death anniversary of, His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vayalil, the first Bishop of the Eparchy Palai.
- **Saturday, 22:** Inaugurated the joint meeting of the 14th Presbyteral and Pastoral Councils of the Pala Diocese at the St. Thomas Cathedral Hall.
- **Saturday, 22:** Participated in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Sisters of St. Vincentian Congregation in the Eparchy of Mananthavady, Celebrated Holy Qurbana and gave a message, and inaugurated the public meeting.
- **Sunday, 23:** Celebrated Holy Qurbana and gave a message at the International Assembly of Jesus Youth at the St. John's Medical College Campus in Bengaluru.
- **Monday, 24:** Offered Holy Qurbana and gave a message with the priests celebrating their Sacerdotal Silver and Golden Jubilees in the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkadan.
- **Tuesday, 25:** Presided over the public meeting held at Kaloor Renewal Centre as part of the Diamond Jubilee of Sahridaya Social Welfare Society, the social service wing of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. The Hon. Governor of Kerala State also participated in the function.
- **Wednesday, 26:** Performed the first part of the funeral service for Very Rev. Mother Philomy, Superior General of the MSJ Congregation, at the Generalate House in Kothamangalam.
- **Thursday, 27 to Sunday, 30:** Participated in the Mission Conference of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Asia in Penang, Malaysia, and presented a paper.

REV. FR. JOLLY VADAKKAN APPOINTED APOSTOLIC VISITOR FOR SYRO-MALABAR FAITHFUL IN GULF COUNTRIES



Kakkadan: His Holiness Pope Leo XIV appointed Rev. Fr. Jolly Vadakkan, a member of the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda, as the Apostolic Visitor for the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf countries. The announcement regarding this was received by Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil from the Vatican via

Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to India. The Apostolic Visitor has been appointed to study the issues related to establishing pastoral structures for the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf countries and to prepare an action plan. The Apostolic Visitor will work in communion and cooperation with the heads of the two Apostolic Vicariates in the Arabian Peninsula.

This appointment by the Vatican has been long-awaited by the entire Syro-Malabar Church, especially the Syro-Malabar faithful community in the Gulf countries. The Syro-Malabar Church received

the pastoral mandate in the Gulf countries through the declaration made by the Holy Father, which considered the petition submitted by His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, who had recently assumed office, and the members of the Permanent Synod during their official visit to Pope Francis on May 13, 2024.

Following this, the decision to appoint an Apostolic Visitor as the first step towards establishing pastoral structures in the Gulf countries was taken at a high-level meeting held at the Secretariat of State on October 29, 2024, presided over by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, in the

presence of Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath, and Bishop Mar Joseph Pamplany. Accordingly, the 33rd Session of the Synod of Bishops, which convened in January 2025 following the Vatican's directive, decided upon a few names eligible for the position of Apostolic Visitor and communicated them to the Vatican. The Apostolic Visitor has now been appointed following the completion of these procedures.

Fr. Jolly Vadakkan, who received his priestly ordination from the Bishop of the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda, Mar James Pazhayattil, served in a

few parishes of the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda before obtaining a Licentiate degree in Media and Catechetics from the Salesian University in Rome. In addition to responsibilities such as the Director of Media, Director of Catechetics, Director of Bible Apostolate, and Director of the Pastoral Center in the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda, he has also served as the Vicar of various parishes. From 2013 to 2019, he served as the Secretary of the Media Commission of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council (KCBC). He received this new appointment while serving as the Syncellus of the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda since July 2024.

MEGA GATHERING OF LARGE FAMILIES HELD



As part of the Family Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Thalassery and in connection with the Year of Community Empowerment, a mega gathering titled "Jeevotsavam" was organized to encourage large families. Archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany inaugurated the event, stating that large families are not defined merely by numbers but by greatness in faith, love, and sharing. Such families

are the greatest wealth of the Church, he said.

MLA Sajeev (Irikkoor), Basilica Rector Dr. George Kanjirakkatt, Provincial Sr. Dr. Treesa Palakkal, and Sajeev Mattathinanickal spoke. Forty-five families with their fourth or subsequent child born after December 31, 2023, participated. In addition, families who had given birth to the highest number of children between

2015 and 2025 were also honoured.

The programme included speeches, felicitations, prizes, cultural events, fellowship meals, and photo sessions. Fr. Joby Kowat (Pro-Life Director), President Lawrence Kadikatt, Secretary Rasheeba Thekkethath, and General Convener Sunny Ashariparambil led the event.



Eparchy of Thamarassery



Mar Sebastian Mankuzhikary
(First Bishop)
1986-1994



Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy
(Second Bishop)
1995-1997



Mar Paul Chittilappilly
(Third Bishop)
1997-2010



Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil
2010-



Msgr Abraham Vayalil
(Vicar General)

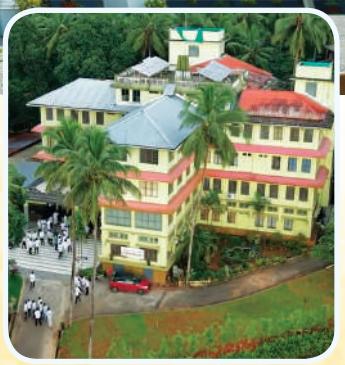
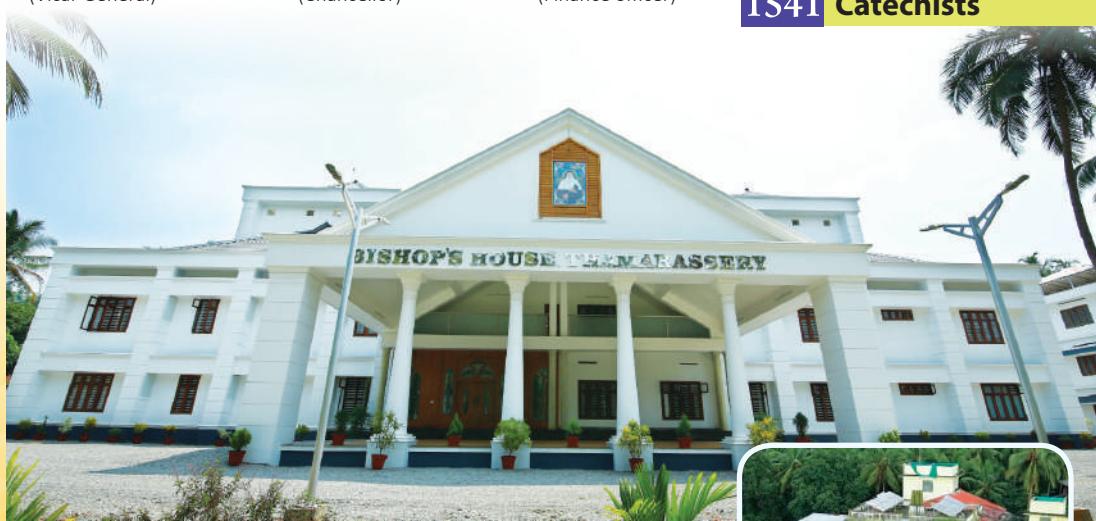


Fr Sebastian Kavalakkattu
(Chancellor)



Fr George Mundanattu
(Finance officer)

- 12 Foranes**
- 119 Parishes**
- 215 Diocesan Priests**
- 1400 Religious Sisters**
- 28,000 Families**
- 64 Seminarians**
- 1541 Catechists**



Organizations

- Madhya Virudha Samithi ● Liturgical Commission
- KCYM – SMYM ● Thirubalasakhyam ● Catholic Congress
- Syro-Malabar Mathruvedi ● Cherupushpa Mission League
- Deepika First Communion Club ● Marian Pro-Life Movement
- Marian Singles ● Judith Forum ● Jesus Fraternity
- Aider Educare ● Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St Alphonsa Minor Seminary

Historic Moments



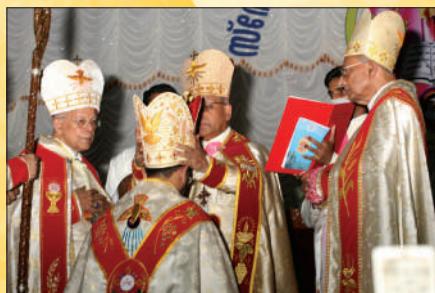
Mar Sebastian Mankuzhikary being installed as the first Bishop of the Eparchy of Thamarassery.



Episcopal installation of Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy.



Installation of Mar Paul Chittilappilly as the Bishop of the Eparchy of Thamarassery.



Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil being ordained as the Bishop of the Eparchy of Thamarassery.



Scan the QR code to visit the official website of the Eparchy of Thamarassery.



Scan the QR code to visit the official YouTube channel of the Eparchy of Thamarassery.



Eparchy of Thamarassery Enters its 40th Year: A Journey of God's Grace

As the Eparchy of Thamarassery enters its 40th year, the faithful look back with deep gratitude for God's guidance and the remarkable development of the eparchy. Established on 28 April 1986 by Pope John Paul II, the eparchy was formed by including the Syro-Malabar parishes of Kozhikode and Malappuram, previously under the Diocese of Thalassery. The official inauguration took place on 3 July 1986, when Mar Sebastian Mankuzhikary assumed office as the first Bishop. With special permission from Rome, he chose Blessed Alphonsa as the heavenly patroness of the new eparchy.

Leadership continued with Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy taking charge as the second Bishop in 1995, followed by Mar Paul Chittilappilly, who became Bishop in 1997. In April 2010, Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil took office as the fourth Bishop, guiding the eparchy into a new phase of mission and renewal.

As it steps into its 40th year, the Eparchy of Thamarassery stands as a vibrant community strengthened by faith, pastoral leadership, and God's unfailing grace.

Eparchy of Thamarassery -Pastoral Ministries

Institutions

Alphonsa Dialysis Centre

Started at Venappara as the Ruby Jubilee project of the Eparchy of Thamarassery, the centre offers free dialysis for poor kidney patients. It is managed by the Centre for Overall Development (COD).

Alpha Maria Academy

Started in November 2010 as a Jubilee initiative of the Eparchy of Thamarassery, Alpha Maria Academy aims to guide youth towards various career paths. The academy offers programmes such as competitive exam coaching and language training. It continues to empower young people with the skills needed for a successful future.



Alphonsa College

Alphonsa College was established at Thiruvambady in 2014 to provide value-based and high-quality education. It functions with affiliation to the University of Calicut & offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Arts and Commerce. The college continues to grow as a centre committed to academic excellence and holistic development.



Alphonsa Senior Secondary School

Established in 1992 under the direct supervision of the Eparchy of Thamarassery, the school serves as a key educational centre for the high-range migrant community. It operates under the Alphonsa Education Trust and remains committed to quality, value-based education.



Alphonsa School, Oorakam

Alphonsa School, Oorakam, was established in 2014 under the Alphonsa Education & Charitable Trust. The school currently operates in collaboration with Olive International School, Qatar.

Bethania Renewal Centre

Bethania Renewal Centre is the spiritual renewal centre of the Eparchy of Thamarassery, established in 1994. Thousands participate in the 101-day continuous Rosary and Eucharistic adoration held every July. Regular retreats, conventions, and spiritual programmes are also conducted here.



Karuna Bhavan

Karuna Bhavan is a home of compassion run by the Eparchy of Thamarassery. Established in 1994, it offers care, support, and protection to the sick, the elderly, and the destitute.

Oasis Senior Care Home

Oasis Senior Care Home is a dedicated care centre for elderly individuals living alone. The facility includes 11 single villas and five 2BHK villas, providing a safe and comfortable living environment.

PMOC

PMOC is the pastoral centre of the Eparchy of Thamarassery, located at Marykkunnu in Kozhikode. It was established in 1988.



START

START works with the aim of guiding talented children to reach the highest levels of society through specialised training. It conducts various training programmes and new-generation courses to support their growth and development.



Vianney Priest Home, Erude

Vianney Priest Home in Eeroot is a retirement residence for diocesan priests who have stepped back from pastoral ministry. The home provides them with dedicated care, comfort, and a peaceful environment for their retirement years.

Aider Foundation



Aider Foundation is the help-desk initiative of the Eparchy of Thamarassery. Its primary goal is to keep eparchical members informed about government welfare schemes, scholarships, loans from minority development agencies, PSC notifications, self-help group programmes, and the services offered through eparchical institutions and the Social Service Society. It also provides counselling support, personal assistance, and immediate aid to those affected by natural disasters or emergencies. The foundation works continuously to ensure that deserving families receive timely guidance and benefits. It serves as a bridge between the people and the many support systems available to them. Through its compassionate outreach, Aider Foundation strengthens the social mission of the Eparchy and promotes community welfare.

IFAE



The Institute of Food and Agricultural Ethics (IFAE), established in Thamarassery, promotes study and research in the fields of food and agricultural ethics. It is the first institution of its kind in India. IFAE consistently advocates for an ethics-based approach in government food and agriculture policies and programmes. The institute also conducts seminars and awareness programmes to encourage responsible and sustainable practices.

C.A.M.P



Operating at Venappara, the Calicut Centre for Advanced Mental Health Care and Psychotherapy (C.A.M.P) provides comprehensive mental health services. Its primary mission is to improve patients' mental well-being and reintegrate them into society through treatment, rehabilitation, and awareness programmes. The centre also conducts training and counselling sessions to promote mental health awareness in the community.

Apostolate



Bible Apostolate

The Bible Apostolate plans and implements various programmes to deepen the faith community's understanding of the Scriptures. It also encourages maximum participation of the faithful in the Logos Quiz, conducted at the Syro-Malabar Church level.

Catechism Centre



The Catechism Centre works to organize and coordinate faith formation programmes within the Eparchy of Thamarassery. Adapting to changing times, it strives to spread the light of faith through innovative methods using various media. It also trains catechists and equips them with the skills needed to effectively guide the faithful.

C.O.D



COD leads social welfare initiatives in the Eparchy of Thamarassery. It began with family assistance programmes at the time of the eparchy's establishment and has been operating officially since its registration in 1989.

Communication Media



Operating since 2007, the Communication Media of the Eparchy of Thamarassery works with the guiding motto "We are one family." It publishes the eparchical magazine Malabar Vision and promotes media awareness and education through the official YouTube channel.

Corporate Educational Agency



The Corporate Educational Agency of the Eparchy of Thamarassery was established in 1987 to oversee and coordinate the eparchy's educational activities. Currently, it manages 12 higher secondary schools, 20 high schools, 22 upper primary schools, and 20 lower primary schools. The agency strives to provide quality, value-based education across all its institutions.

Family Apostolate



The Family Apostolate works to empower families. It conducts monthly pre-marriage courses, where expert-led classes guide young couples toward a clear understanding of married life. It also provides ongoing support and counselling to help couples strengthen their relationships.

INFAM

INFAM stands for the empowerment of the agricultural sector and the protection of farmers' rights. It maintains an active presence in advocating for farmers and addressing the issues that affect them.

John Paul II Institute



The John Paul II Institute is the mental health centre of the Eparchy of Thamarassery, located at Vellimadukunnu, Kozhikode. It conducts counselling courses and various training programmes, and provides free tele-counselling to those experiencing mental distress.

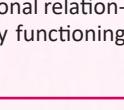
Kerala Labour Movement

The Kerala Labour Movement works for the upliftment of both organized and unorganized workers in the Eparchy of Thamarassery. KLM follows a work approach guided by Christian values and the teachings of the Catholic Church. It also advocates for workers' rights and provides training and support to help them improve their livelihoods.



Kudumbakottaima

Kudumbakottaima were introduced in the Eparchy of Thamarassery in 2008 with the aim of deepening faith life, energizing parish activities, and strengthening interpersonal relationships. Today, Kudumbakottaima are actively functioning in all parishes of the eparchy.



Leadership Developing Society



Leadership Developing Society is a recognized charitable trust focused on youth empowerment. Its main objectives include skill development training, guidance for college admissions, and assistance in accessing scholarships.

Charismatic Renewal Movement

The Charismatic Renewal Movement has inspired spiritual awakening in the lives of ordinary faithful. Zones at the diocesan level, sub-zones at the forane level, and prayer groups in parishes actively carry out its mission. It also organizes retreats and renewal programmes to deepen faith and foster community engagement.

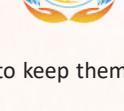
Alphonsa Palliative & Geriatric Care

Alphonsa Palliative & Geriatric Care was established to provide comfort to those suffering due to illness or old age. It organizes patient care at the parish level and conducts training programmes at the diocesan level.



Pravasi Apostolate

The Pravasi Apostolate connects members of the Eparchy of Thamarassery living abroad or outside Kerala. It strengthens their ties with the eparchy, supports their spiritual needs, and organizes programmes to keep them engaged with eparchical life.



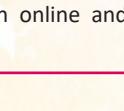
SMART

SMART is an organization for altar girls and boys, focusing on the holistic development of its members. It conducts English language training, personality development programmes, regional gatherings, and both online and offline competitions.



F.S.T

Fellowship of the Sisters of Thamarassery (F.S.T) is the association of nuns serving in the Eparchy of Thamarassery. It brings together religious sisters for fellowship and coordinated ministry within the eparchy.



THE SUCCESSOR OF ST. PETER IN THE LAND OF ST. PAUL!



Ankara/Iznik: As part of his inaugural apostolic journey, spanning from Thursday, November 27, 2025, to Tuesday, December 2, Pope Leo XIV has arrived in Turkey.

During the first two days, the Pope visited several significant locations, including the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Presidential Office, the Presidency of Religious Affairs, the Apostolic Nunciature, the Apostolic Vicari-

ate, and the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accorded Pope Leo XIV a grand welcome at the Presidential Palace.

Sharing his joy at being able to begin his apostolic journeys in Turkey, the Pope stated that Christians are an integral part of Turkey's identity and assured that they can contribute significantly to the nation's unity.

Building Bridges of Love The Pope

made special reference to the Dardanelles Bridge, a focal point of his visit.

"Beyond connecting Asia and Europe, or the East and the West, this bridge is a sign of the unity that connects Turkey within itself," the Pope added.

He reminded the gathering that building bridges of love is the most essential task. He further emphasized that in Turkey, a nation that places great importance on religion, it is vital to respect

the dignity and freedom of all children of God.

Historic Prayer at Nicaea Subsequently, in observance of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the Pope participated in an ecumenical prayer service in Iznik (formerly Nicaea) in the northern Bursa province. This historic prayer was organized on a stage set up near the ruins of the ancient Basilica of St. Neophytes on the shores of Lake Iznik.

Approximately twenty leaders from various Christian denominations, including the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, joined the Pope in reciting the Profession of Faith.

Addressing the gathering, the Pope stated that we are all called to overcome the scandal of division. He invited Christians to cultivate the desire for unity-a unity for which the Lord Jesus prayed and gave His life.

THE CHURCH IN ASIA MUST EMBRACE THE PATH OF RECONCILIATION: MAJOR ARCHBISHOP



Penang, Malaysia: Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, Mar Raphael Thattil, has called upon the Church in Asia to adopt a new path of reconciliation. He was speaking at the Missionary Congress of the Churches in the Asian continent, organized jointly by the Pontifical Mission Societies, the Dicastery for Evangelization, and the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) under the title 'Great Pilgrimage of Hope.'

The Major Archbishop stated that the Church must bear witness to the faith

amidst Asia's diverse religions and cultures, and this must be done with a heart that is reconciled and seeks to reconcile others.

"The core of the Church's mission in Asia is the ability to see Christ in every individual, especially in the poor and the vulnerable," he noted. He further exhorted that the 'restlessness' felt by the Church in Asia regarding this missionary mission is not a weakness, but rather a sign of life and zeal; therefore, the Church must be prepared to face today's

challenges with courage and creativity.

The Major Archbishop highlighted the crucial role of the laity in bringing the Gospel to workplaces, neighborhoods, and public life. Through their daily life witness and Baptism, they become missionaries. "Asia's deep spiritual heritage is fertile soil for a new encounter with Christ. When cultures rediscover this encounter, the Gospel can yield abundant fruits," he added.

Representing the Syro-Malabar Church, a 14-member delegation is par-

ticipating, including Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, CBCI President and Archbishop of Trichur Mar Andrews Thazhath, Mar John Nellikunnel, Mar Joseph Kollamparambil, Mar George Rajendran and Fr. Francis Elavuthinkal.

Approximately 1,000 delegates from all Catholic communities across the Asian continent attended the Missionary Congress, including 10 Cardinals, over 100 Bishops, more than 150 Priests, 75 Religious Sisters, and over 500 Lay people.

INTER CHURCH COUNCIL CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA



Kochi: The Inter Church Council organized a commemorative meeting at the POC (Palarivattom) to mark the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

The meeting was inaugurated by the KCBC President, Cardinal Mar Baselios Cleemis Catholica Bava.

He stated that the Council of Nicaea is an example of the intervention of the Holy Spirit in the problems arising within the Church and society.

The meeting was presided over by the President of the Inter Church Council, Cardinal Mar George Alencherry.

Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil of the Syro-Malabar Church delivered the key address. In his speech, the Major Archbishop said that the Council of Nicaea is the self-manifestation of the Church, which is a fellowship rooted in truth and love.

Others who addressed the gathering

included: CBCI President Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath, Inter Church Council Secretary Mar Ouggin Kurikose Metropolitan, Metropolitans Cyril Mar Baselios, Joseph Mar Barnabas, Yakoub Mar Irenaios, and Mathews Mar Aphrem, Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Dr. Sylvester Ponnumuthan, Bishop Kurian Peter, Fr. Philip Nelputarambil, Dr. Prakash P. Thomas, Fr. Cyril Thomas Thayyil, Fr. Thomas Tharai, and Fr. George Madathiparambil.

EXTRAORDINARY CONSISTORY

The Extraordinary Meeting of the College of Cardinals will be held on January 7 and 8, 2026. The Vatican has not disclosed the agenda of the gathering. The Dean of the College of Cardinals will soon send a detailed letter through the Coordination Office of the Secretariat of State.

Extraordinary consistories are special assemblies convened by the Pope to discuss significant issues concerning the Church or matters that require broad consultation among all cardinals. The most recent extraordinary consistory took place on August 29–30, 2022, in the Vatican, convened by Pope Francis, with the reform of the Roman Curia as its principal topic.