

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH, DUBLIN - IRELAND



# HESSED

VOLUME 3 - DECEMBER 2020





## MAR THOMA SLEEVA IS A SYRIAC TERM WHICH MEANS **SAINT THOMAS CROSS**

The original phrase used is "Cruz de Sam Thome", meaning Cross of St. Thomas. The Mar Thoma Slevva is the dynamic symbol of the death and resurrection of Iso Misiha. It proclaims the Theological, Christological, Pneumatological and Ecclesiological dimensions and specifications of Christian faith.

Mar Thoma Slevva is an empty cross, namely, the cross without the dying figure of *Iso Misiha*. In imitation of the empty tomb, this empty Slevva symbolizes the resurrection of *Iso Misiha*.

The Slevva without the figure of the Lord reveals fully the mystery of salvation. It reveals the three divine persons of the Holy Trinity, the work of creation by the Father, redemption by the Son, sanctification by the Holy Spirit, the Church which is the continuation of Christ, the Word of God which builds up the Church, the sacraments which are the acts of the Church and the final glorification of the Church.

Each of its elements carry symbolic meanings.

The **four edges** of the cross are floral in shape, symbolizing fruition and life from the tree of life.

The **lotus** flower beneath the cross is a symbol of Buddhism and India. The lotus symbolizing Buddhism and the Slevva over it shows that Christianity was established in the land of the Buddha. The lotus flower in which the Slevva is situated can be understood as a cultural integration from Buddhism. Thus, the Slevva erected on a lotus, is a living symbol of faith in the Risen Lord, established in India.

The **three** steps below the Cross represent Golgotha, symbolically referring to the death of Jesus, also the three decks of the Ark and the ascent to Mount Sinai.

Finally, the **dove** above the cross represents the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity. According to the Christian tradition, it is this spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and bestows gifts upon the Church's faithful.

On December 18, the Church of Mar Thoma Nazranes celebrates the feast of the "Miracle of Mar Thoma Slevva/Sliba". The Syriac word Mar Slevva means 'One who is Crucified or the Risen Lord', i.e.; the one who has accomplished human salvation through the death on the cross and the victorious resurrection.

**"If, O Christian, you will always take up the Cross of Christ on yourself as a help, then evil shall not come towards you, nor any scourge come near your habitation; for the opposition power seeing it trembles and leaves". (St. Ephrem of Syrian)**



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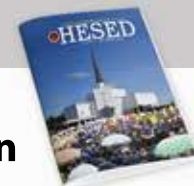
The years 2019 and 2020 of 21st century will be ever remembered by the humanity due to an unprecedented type of pandemic Covid-19 which will have far reaching and debilitating consequences for the humanity. The duration to alleviate the negative effects of this disease is still unpredictable. The natural calamities, illnesses and tragedies are affecting the humanity in a very deplorable way. Being pensive or being anxious is not the solution to this enigma and the dilemma that disturb all the layers of the society. It is a clarion call of God's HESed ( that must inspire us to be merciful and compassionate towards other persons. The cure of humanity can be accomplished only by the human care trusting in Divine Providence.

Hesed, the literary work depicts the different spiritual, ecclesial, social, human and charitable endeavours of the people of God of the Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin in the past two years, hoping that it will be a motivation for the posterity. We expect that some of the historical, ecclesiastical, liturgical and theological notes and insights in this work, would be a helping hand for our future growth.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is stepping aside after his long-distinguished ministry as a priest, diplomat and Archbishop of the capital city of Republic of Ireland. We are indebted to him; for welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating us. We wish to welcome the Archbishop Elect - Most Reverend Dermot Farrell who has a very enriching pastoral, theological and ecclesiastical background to guide and direct us in our spiritual and ecclesial needs. Glad to see the genuine cooperation and generous support of the kids, children, youth, students, parents, Parish Committee Members and the Zonal Coordination Council for the integral growth of this Community. We remember with gratitude parish priests, parish councils, sacristans, parish staffs of the catholic churches in Dublin and all the Irish people of God for providing us the houses of worship and halls for faith education and social ventures.

The pastoral principle stated by the Roman Catechism holds good on this propitious occasion. "The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends. Whether something is proposed for belief, for hope or for action, the love of our Lord must always be made accessible, so that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love and have no other objective than to arrive at love." Let us be guided by the love of God in all our thoughts, words and deeds.

**Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil**  
**Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu**  
**Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu**



## Hesed Third Edition

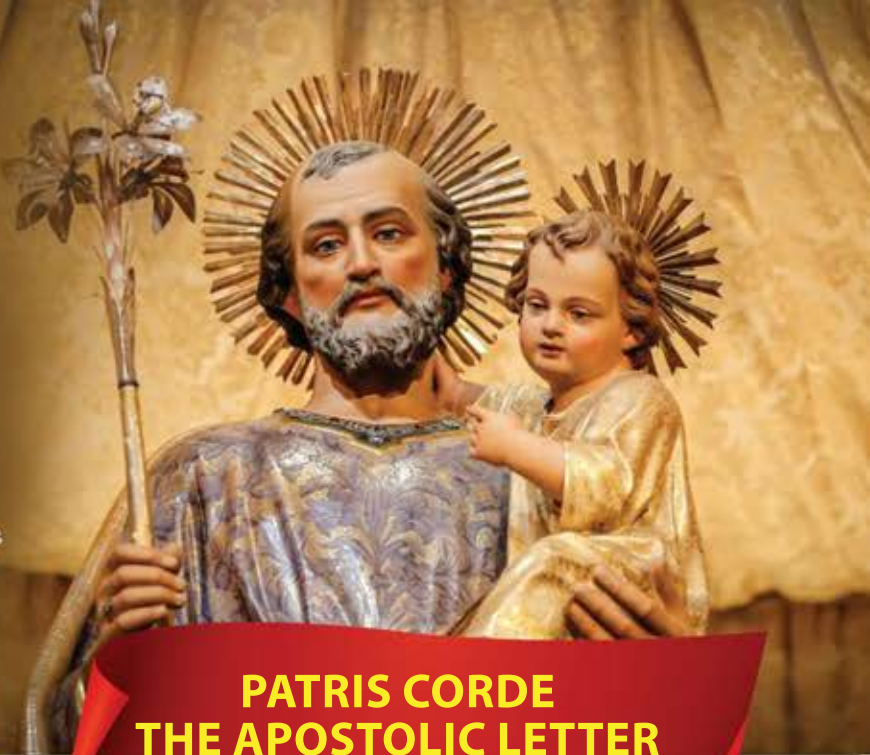


The Zonal Committee is delighted to release this Newsletter, which describes the activities of the Dublin Syro-Malabar Church in the past two years. Through this venture, we have made a humble attempt to make our Mother Church familiar to the new generation. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil who tried his best to translate this work from Malayalam to English for the benefit of the younger generation. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu and Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath for their encouragement and involvement. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Maju Peckal for his beautiful design work and to the Zonal Secretary, Trustees, Members, Secretaries of the Holy Qurbana Centres and above all to our omnipotent and omniscient God, to whom we dedicate this work.

**Biju Nadackal**

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## PATRIS CORDE THE APOSTOLIC LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS

Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil

PATRIS CORDE the Apostolic Letter OF THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS was promulgated ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH Given in Rome, at Saint John Lateran, on 8 December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the year 2020, the eighth of Pontificate.

He starts with the following words: WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph". Then he narrates how Joseph is depicted in the Gospels.

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27). He was a "just man" (Mt 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. Lk 2:22.27.39) and through four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13.19.22).

Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church", Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers" and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer". Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "patron of a happy death".

Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as Patron of the Catholic Church by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), Pope Francis would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. His desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

Then Pope Francis reflects on the character of St. Joseph as follows:

### 1. A beloved father

The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "at the service of the entire plan of salvation".

Saint Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood "by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose".

### 2. A tender and loving father

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. Rev 12:10).

Joseph, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course.

### 3. An obedient father

In every situation, Joseph declared his own "fiat", like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

#### 4. An accepting father

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He makes a decision to protect Mary's good name, her dignity and her life. Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.

In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.

God can make flowers spring up from stony ground. Even if our heart condemns us, "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything" (1 Jn 3:20).

Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (cf. 1 Cor 1:27).

#### 5. A creatively courageous father

If the first stage of all true interior healing is to accept our personal history and embrace even the things in life that we did not choose, we must now add another important element: creative courage.

God acted by trusting in Joseph's creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world (cf. Lk 2:6-7). Faced with imminent danger from Herod, who wanted to kill the child, Joseph was warned once again in a dream to protect the child, and rose in the middle of the night to prepare the flight into Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-14).

God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence.

The Gospel does not tell us how long Mary, Joseph and the child remained in Egypt. Yet they certainly needed to eat, to find a home and employment. It does not take much imagination to fill in those details. The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard, I consider Saint Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.

From Saint Joseph, we must learn that same care and responsibility. We must learn to love the child and his mother, to love the sacraments and charity, to love the Church and the poor. Each of these realities is always the child and his mother.



#### 6. A working father

Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour.

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.

#### 7. A father in the shadows

In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Joseph did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.

A Father becomes like Joseph, only when he always knows that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care.

The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.

The saints help all the faithful "to strive for the holiness and the perfection of their particular state of life". Their lives are concrete proof that it is possible to put the Gospel into practice.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen





## A LIFE COMMITTED TO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

# MAR ALENCHERRY® 75

Mar George Cardinal Alencherry is the first Major Archbishop being elected by the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church and confirmed by Pope Benedict XVI while his predecessors being appointed directly by the Apostolic See. He was created a cardinal of the Catholic Church on 18 February 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. He was the first bishop of Thuckalay from 1997 to 2011.

Upon the enthronement as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, he said that his services would be for all the people of India. He stressed on various aspects of Indian belief situations viz., inter-rite relations, inter-faith harmony and ecumenism. On 24 April 2012, Mar Alencherry was made a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and a member of the Congregation for the Oriental Catholic Churches.

As the President of Kerala Catholic Bishop's Conference (KCBC), he has taken a firm decision to make all Catholic hospitals open and available for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. This decision was well acclaimed by Chief Minister of Kerala and Prime Minister of India.

His intervention helped to resolve the issue of pastoral care for the Syro-Malabar Faithful and the Missionary role of the Syro-Malabar Church in the whole of India to some extent and with this intention Pope Francis created the Eparchy of Shamshabad to encompass all the areas of India not included within the jurisdiction of an existing eparchy in October 2017.

At the ecumenical level His Beatitude thinks that, from the documents and statements subsequent to the time of the Council of Chalcedon, there would be a possibility of dialogue and agreement on the Petrine ministry. This is because there remains the imprint of *primus inter pares*. We all need a Petrine ministry of unity, which is a reference for all the Churches. He hopes that a halfway point is found where the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches could come together in full communion with the Church of Christ.

At the age of 75, this eminent Cardinal of the Holy Church and the Father and Head of the Syro-Malabar Church gave vital contributions to the Syro-Malabar Church by being its Leader restoring its identity: to the Catholic Church of Kerala comprising of Latin, Syro-Malankara and Syro-Malabar Churches by being the President of Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council, to the Catholic Church of India in the Pastoral care of Migrants, Inter-Faith relations and Mission ad gentes; and to the Universal Church by being the member of the different commissions, councils and dicasteries.

Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin extends our sincere wishes to Mar George Cardinal Alencherry. Let God's blessings be upon all your holy and human endeavours.

# THANK YOU ARCHBISHOP DIARMUID MARTIN

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will be remembered in the history of the Syro-Malabar Church as one of the shepherds who knew how to give pastoral care for the migrants by welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating them. He knew the heart of the migrants especially the Syro-Malabar migrants, as he has seen the pains and panics, fret and frustrations, the trials and tribulations of this community during his long diplomatic career in different countries. Since his appointment as Archbishop his welcoming and cordial approach to the Syro-Malabar Church has given great hope and profound optimism for the bishops, priests, religious and faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has shown great interest and deep commitment to the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Faithful in Ireland as envisaged by the laws and norms of the Catholic Church by accommodating three priests for the pastoral care in 9 mass centres having more than 1000 families and by providing a pastoral centre (priests' residence) and churches for spiritual and liturgical needs.

His appreciation and vision regarding the Syro-Malabar Church is well mentioned in his reflections given at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome on 9 October 2019. "The Syro-Malabar Community in Ireland finds itself therefore as a community with strong religious roots and practice living in a different culture. The Irish Syro-Malabar community is recent in its origins. Of the 106 Syro-Malabar Qurbana Centres in Europe, 39 are in Ireland. The community in Ireland is a stable one where many families have bought their own houses and are settled in significant employment, especially in the health care and information technology domains. They are now moving into their second generation. The presence of the Syro-Malabar Church is marked by intense pastoral and catechetical activity. In addition to regular Sunday catechesis, there are various ecclesial movements and family units. The presence of the Syro-Malabar community in Dublin is clearly an enrichment of the life of the Church. The efforts of regular catechesis of children, the dedication of the priests who reach out to their faithful, the dignity of the liturgies are all things that challenge the Latin Rite Church in Dublin to become a more effective witness to the person and the teaching of Jesus Christ in our contemporary Society."

On this propitious occasion we extend our sincere appreciation for what you have been to us. May good Lord bless you in the coming years with health and happiness.

The Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin



# HEARTY WELCOME TO BISHOP DERMOT FARRELL

The Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin gladly welcomes the Archbishop-Elect Dermot Farrell. His experience in different realms of ecclesial ministry as a curate in Mullingar, Director of Formation for the Pontifical Irish College, President of the revision of the formation programme Pastores Dabo Vobis at St Patrick's, Supervisor of the renovation of its heritage buildings, Vice President of St. Patrick's College in Maynooth from 1993 to 1996, President from 1996 to 2007, Parish Priest of Dunboyne, in the Diocese of Meath, Vicar-General of the diocese, Bishop of Ossory since 2018, Member of the standing committee of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and Conference's finance secretary in March 2019 will be very positive towards the integral formation of the people of God in Dublin. Some information we received through his recent interview imprint in us an impressive erudition of the role of the parents in handing down of our faith to the posterity and of defining of the Christian faith in a meaningful and practical way. He said, "Women have almost preserved the faith in the church, certainly in this country and probably beyond. They were the ones who handed on the faith or took the responsibility for handing it on. Our mothers were very important in terms of teaching and prayer. They were the ones, more than the fathers. That's where a lot of us got our faith, we got it from our parents. Personally, it came from my mother and father. I didn't learn it." "You learned catechism in school, but catechism was not the faith. Faith is a relationship with the Lord." Hope his wisdom from research in the realm of moral theology on Christian Morality as a Sacramental Way of Life would help the people of God to respond to the call of God's initiative with responsibility and sacramentality.

The Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin invokes Lord's abundant blessings in his sacred ministry.



## BISHOP STEPHEN CHIRAPPANATH

On 28 July 2016 during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis nominated Stephen Chirappanath, Titular Bishop of Slebte and Apostolic Visitator for the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Europe. In the letter of appointment, Pope clearly stated that the Apostolic Visitator is appointed because of his concern for the needs of the flock of the Syro-Malabar Faithful a great number of whom, living in the European region, lack a leader for their spiritual needs. Pope Francis wished in the following words: "We wish that you should advise the Syro-Malabar clergy and people living in Europe of this our Decree, and we urge these same persons that they, fulfilling the will of Christ with a sincere heart should consider you as a father to be loved and a guardian to be honoured". [Pope Francis, Letter of Appointment, dated 28 July 2016]. The Apostolic Visitator Mar Stephen Chirappanath was ordained bishop on 1st November 2016 at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. His Beatitude George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop of Ernakulam - Angamaly (Syro-Malabar Church) was



the Principal Consecrator and His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and Mar Pauly Kannookadan, Bishop of Irinjalakuda (Syro-Malabar) were Principal Co-Consecrators. The ceremony of the commissioning of the office of the

Apostolic Visitator took place immediately after the episcopal ordination officiated by His Eminence Leonardo, Cardinal Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. As Apostolic Visitator, he carries out his function in accordance with the procedure laid down ad hoc by his decree of appointment. As a rule, he verifies the state and needs of the faithful, encouraging them, meeting with the local bishops, and making a report with proposals to the Congregation for the Eastern Churches. In territories of Europe where the Syro-Malabar faithful do not possess their own hierarchy, the Holy See showed its solicitude towards our faithful through appointing the Apostolic Visitator.

Presently there are 109 Parishes/Holy Qurbana Centres/Missions in Europe of which 41 are in Ireland and 9 are in Dublin. 33 priests are working in 14 countries (Austria, Belgium, France Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Spain, Scandinavian Countries viz., Norway, Finland and Sweden; and Switzerland) of Europe.

Sister Mariam Thresia, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family, was declared a saint by Pope Francis at a grand ceremony at the Vatican City on Sunday, 13th October 2019 at 10:30 am.

Pope Francis presided over the Rite of Canonization and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in St. Peter's Square. Mar Pauly Kannookadan the Bishop of Irinjalakuda joined Pope Francis at the altar. Along with four other Blesseds Bl. Giussepina Vannini (1859-1911), foundress of the Daughters of St. Camillus; Dulce Lopes Pontes (1914-1992), Cardinal John Henry Newman, and Margherita Bays (1815-1879), Pope Francis canonized Blessed Mariam Thresia in the Catholic Church. Before the official ceremony of canonization our choir sang a Malayalam song on Mariam Thresia. The ceremony began with the reading of brief biographies of the five persons by Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, who then requested the Pope to declare them saints. Then, the Sistine Choir led the singing the Litany of the Saints after which Pope Francis



read the solemn formula of Canonization naming the five Blesseds and said, "We declare and define them to be saints and we enroll them among the saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church." Pope Francis in his homily commented on the Gospel that focused on how Jesus cured ten lepers but only one came back to thank Him. He spoke of the three phases of the journey of faith, "to cry out, to walk and to give thanks" explaining parable of the leper who came back to Jesus and thanked Him for the healing (Lk 17:19). Pope said

## THE CANONIZATION CEREMONY OF ST. MARIAM THRESIA SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2019

"Today we give thanks to the Lord for our new saints. They walked by faith and now we invoke their intercession, three of them were religious women; they show us that the consecrated life is a journey of love at the existential peripheries of the world." According to Vatican authorities, there were about 50,000 people present in St. Peter's Square from different continents including 50 cardinals, 3000 priests and official delegations from the home countries of the five new saints.

On the eve of canonization there was a solemn vigil service in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, the Marian Basilica in Rome from 4pm- 5pm. The presence of various dignitaries namely Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath and Mar Stephen Chirappanath. Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, Honorable Justice Kurian Joseph, Rev. Sr. Udaya CHF, Superior General and Rev. Sr. Bhavya CHF, General Counsellor of the Congregation of Holy Family enriched this spiritual preparation.



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# THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH : COMMUNION OF DIFFERENT INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES

The Catholic Church holds in high esteem the Institutions, Liturgical Rites, Ecclesiastical Traditions and the established standards of the Christian life of the Eastern Churches. These Churches are distinguished as they are for their venerable antiquity, there remains conspicuous the Tradition that has been handed down from the Apostles through the Fathers and that forms part of the divinely revealed and undivided heritage of the universal Church.

There are 24 autonomous churches in the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church viz., one Latin Church and twenty-three Eastern Catholic Churches, a distinction by now more historical than geographical. The term *sui iuris* means, literally, "of its own law", or self-governing. Syro-Malabar Church is one among them.

The Holy Catholic Church, which is the Mystical Body of Christ, is made up of the faithful who are organically united in the Holy Spirit by the same faith, the same sacraments and the same government and who, combining together into various groups which are held together by a hierarchy, form separate Churches or Rites. It is the mind of the Catholic Church that each Individual Church or Rite should retain its Traditions whole and entire and likewise that it should adapt its way of life to the different needs of time and place.

These Individual Churches, differ somewhat among themselves in rite (to use the current phrase), that is, in liturgy, ecclesiastical discipline, and spiritual heritage. Therefore, means should be taken in every part of the world for the protection and advancement of all the individual Churches and, to this end, there should be established parishes and a special hierarchy where the spiritual good of the faithful demands it. There are personal Parishes, Missions, Apostolic Visitations, Exarchates, and Eparchies etc. outside the proper territories of all self-governed churches, due to this reason.

All members of the Eastern Rite should know and be convinced that they can and should always preserve their legitimate Liturgical Rite and their established way of life, and that these may not be altered except to obtain for themselves an organic improvement. They should attain to an ever-greater knowledge and a more exact use of them, and, if in their regard they have fallen short owing to contingencies of times and persons, they should take steps to return to their ancestral traditions.

Those who, by reason of their office or apostolic ministries, are in frequent communication with the Eastern Churches or their faithful should be instructed according as their office demands in the knowledge and veneration of the rites, discipline, doctrine, history and character of the members of the Eastern Rites.

The Major Archbishop with its synod is the highest authority for all affairs of the in the Major Archiepiscopal Church, including the right of establishing new eparchies and of nominating bishops of their rite within the territorial boundaries of the Church.

The Sacred Ecumenical Council ardently desires that new patriarchates should be erected where there is need, to be established either by an ecumenical council or by the Roman Pontiff. This holds good in the case of Syro-Malabar Church which is presently a Major Archiepiscopal Church which could be raised to the status of a patriarchate which has all the reasons taking into consideration its antiquity, continuity of venerable traditions and heritage.

The faithful are bound to take part on Sundays and feast days in the Divine Liturgy or, according to the regulations or custom of their own rite, in the celebration of the Divine Office. The faithful are earnestly exhorted to receive Holy Communion on these days, and indeed more frequently-yes, even daily.



# CATHOLIC CHURCH



The distinctive four Marks of the Church are One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic" expressed in the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed completed at the First Council of Constantinople in AD 381 "We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church."

## One

"There is one body and one Spirit just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:5-6). Elsewhere, St. Paul the Apostle says: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

## Holy

The word 'holy' means set apart for a special purpose by and for God. Christians understand that the holiness of the universal Church has derived from Christ's holiness. God has called us to be holy and blameless. Saints by their lives witness to this fact. Church is sanctified through the sacraments.

## Catholic

The word 'catholic' is derived from the Greek adjective καθολικός (katholikos), meaning "general", "universal". Applied to the church, the qualification "catholic" means that in the church the wholeness of the Christian faith, full and complete, all-embracing, and with nothing lacking, is proclaimed to all people without excluding any part of the faith or any class or group of people. The adjective can be applied not only to the church as spread throughout the world but also to each local manifestation of the church, in each of which nothing essential is lacking for it to be the genuine Church of Christ.

## Apostolic

This describes the Church's foundation and beliefs as rooted and continuing in the living Tradition of the Apostles of Jesus.

# UNION OF CATHOLIC CHURCHES

## Latin Rite :

**Latin Church** (Rome, Italy : 1st Century)

## Alexandrian Rite :

**Coptic Catholic Church** (Cairo, Egypt : 1741)

**Eritrean Catholic Church** (Asmara, Eritrea : 2015)

**Ethiopian Catholic Church** (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia : 1846)

## Armenian Rite :

**Armenian Catholic Church** (Beirut, Lebanon : 1742)

## Byzantine Rite :

**Albanian Greek Catholic Church** (Vlorë, Albania : 1628)

**Belarusian Greek Catholic Church** (1596)

**Bulgarian Greek Catholic Church** (Sofia, Bulgaria : 1861)

**Greek Catholic Church of Croatia & Serbia** (1611)

**Greek Byzantine Catholic Church** (1911)

**Hungarian Greek Catholic Church** (Debrecen, Hungary : 1912)

**Italo-Albanian Catholic Church** (1784)

**Macedonian Greek Catholic Church** (Strumica, North Macedonia : 2001)

**Melkite Greek Catholic Church** (Damascus, Syria : 1726),

**Romanian Greek Catholic Church** (Blaj, Romania : 1697)

**Russian Greek Catholic Church** (1905)

**Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church** (Pittsburgh, US : 1646)

**Slovak Greek Catholic Church** (Prešov, Slovakia : 1646)

**Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church** (Kyiv, Ukraine : 1595)

## East Syriac Rite :

**Chaldean Catholic Church** (Baghdad, Iraq : 1552)

**Syro-Malabar Catholic Church** (Kerala, India : 1st Century)

## West Syriac Rite :

**Maronite Church** (Bkerke, Lebanon : 4th Century)

**Syriac Catholic Church** (Damascus, Syria : 1781)

**Syro-Malankara Catholic Church** (Kerala, India : 1930)



# SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church is one of the 22 Eastern (Oriental) Catholic Churches in full communion with Rome. It is the second largest Eastern Catholic Church after the Ukrainian Church and the largest of the Saint Thomas Christian (Nazrani) denominations with 4.6 million believers. It is a sui juris Church governed by the Synod of Bishops headed by the Major Archbishop. The Syro-Malabar Church, with its deep-rooted spirituality and high rate of vocations to priesthood and religious life, can be considered as the most vibrant Catholic community in the world.

## The St. Thomas Christians (Nazranis)

The Syro-Malabar Church is an Apostolic Church which traces its origin to St. Thomas, the Apostle, who landed at Cranganore (Muziris) in 52 AD and founded seven Christian communities in Kerala, at Palayur, Cranganore, Kottamangalam, Kottakavu (Parur), Quilon, Niranam, and Chayal. St. Thomas was martyred in A.D. 72 at Mylapore, near Chennai/Madras. The early Christian community in India was known as St. Thomas Christians. They were also called Nazranis, meaning those who follow the path of Jesus of Nazareth.

## The East Syrian (Chaldean) Connection

From early centuries, the Church of St. Thomas Christians came into contact with the East Syrian Church, which also traces its origin to Apostle Thomas. From the 4th century until the end of the 16th century Thomas Christians were governed by Bishops who were appointed and sent by the Patriarch of the East Syrian Church. The Thomas Christians developed a unique system of ecclesiastical administration with the Bishops from Persia in charge of liturgical and spiritual matters and the local Archdeacon of All India (A priest) heading the Christian community and handling the administration of the Church through Palliyogam (early form of Synod). Thus the Thomas Christians shared the liturgical, theological, spiritual and other ecclesiastical traditions with the East Syrian Church; in socio-cultural organization and practices, however, they were distinctively Indian.

## The Arrival of Portuguese and the Influence of the Latin Church

The arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th Century marks a new era in the life of the Thomas Christians. East Syrian Bishops stopped coming. Archdeacon lost his position and Latin Prelates exercised full authority over ecclesiastical

administration for almost three centuries. This paved way for the Latinization of liturgy and ecclesiastical administration. Following the Coonan Cross oath in 1653 and the introduction of the Padroado (the Portuguese jurisdiction under the Propaganda Congregation) in 1661, the Thomas Christians got divided into two groups, of which the group who resisted Latin rule formed a separate community under the Archdeacon. Later they accepted the West Syrian theological and liturgical tradition of the West Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch and came to be known as the Jacobite Church. They were further divided into several independent Churches. The group that remained faithful to Rome came to be known as Syro-Malabar Church, a name which became a common epithet only in the nineteenth century. It literally means Syrian Christians of the Malabar Coast (Kerala).

## The Syro-Malabar Church

In 1886 the Padroado jurisdiction over the whole Malabar (Kerala) was suppressed and in 1887 Pope Leo XIII re-organized the Syro-Malabar Catholics into two independent Vicariates of Kottayam and Trissur. Finally, the Syro-Malabar Church obtained bishops of their own rites and nationality in 1896, when they were further reorganized into three vicariates of Trissur, Changanacherry and Ernakulam by Pope Leo XIII through his Brief Quae rei Sacrae. Later, the Syro-Malabar Hierarchy was established on December 21, 1923, by the Apostolic Constitution Romani Pontifices of Pope Pius XI (Acta Apostolicae Sedis, 16 [1924], pp. 257-262), with Ernakulam as the Metropolitan See and Trichur, Changanacherry and Kottayam (established in 1911 for the Southists) as suffragans. In 1956 Changanacherry was raised to the status of a Metropolitan See, with Pala as a suffragan diocese.

The restoration of the hierarchy initiated a process of liturgical reform that sought to restore the oriental identity of the Latinized Syro-Malabar rite, which was approved by Pius XII in 1957 and introduced in 1962. In subsequent years several new dioceses were established both within and outside Kerala. From 1962, the Church began to set up mission centers in North India, which later became dioceses. Last 40 years have been a period of steady growth for the Syro-Malabar Church.

## The Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church

On December 16, 1992, Pope John Paul II, by the Apostolic Constitution Quae maiori (Acta Apostolicae Sedis, 85[1993], pp. 398-399), raised the Syro-Malabar Church to the status of Major Archiepiscopal sui iuris Church with the title of Ernakulam-Angamaly. Mar Antony Paidyara, the then Metropolitan of Ernakulam was appointed its First Major Archbishop with Mar Abraham Kattumana as the Pontifical Delegate who discharged the duties of the Major Archbishop. Archbishop Kattumana died unexpectedly during his visit to Rome in April 1995 and Mar Padiyara was given the powers of the Major Archbishop. In November 1996 Cardinal Padiyara resigned from his office as Major Archbishop. In his place Archbishop Varkey Vithayathil, C.Ss.R. was appointed as the Apostolic Administrator. In December 1998 he was appointed Major Archbishop by the Pope. In February 2001 Archbishop Vithayathil was created a Cardinal by Pope John Paul II. In 2004, the Holy See granted full administrative powers to the Syro-Malabar Church, including the power to elect bishops.

Major Archbishop Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil passed away on April 1, 2011. On 24 May 2011 Mar George Alencherry was elected Major Archbishop. Pope Benedict XVI confirmed the election on 25 May 2011. He is the first head of the Syro-Malabar Church to be elected by its Synod. On February 18, 2012 Major Archbishop George Alencherry was made Cardinal and a member of the Consistory.



## 'SYRO-MALABAR HOLY QURBANA'

1. In the Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana (Mass) the Christ event that is Jesus' Birth, public ministry, passion, death and resurrection is enacted through the signs. But this Christ event is not enacted chronologically in the Syro-Malabar Qurbana.
2. Haikkala: The place where people of God stand. It denotes the earth. Kesthroma: the place where the Choir stand.
3. Madbaha: The place where priest and the altar servers stand. It denotes heaven. Sometimes it denotes the garden where Jesus buried.
4. Altar: it is the throne of God and His tomb.
5. Priest who celebrates the Mass represents Jesus.
6. In the Catholic Church there are two priesthood: Common Priesthood: Through the Sacrament of Baptism and Chrismation (confirmation) all share in the common priesthood of Jesus Christ. Ministerial Priesthood: From the Common priesthood certain people after a period of formation becomes priest through the imposition of hands by the Bishops who are successors of apostles.
7. Those who are serving the altar represents Angels.
8. The community that joins the Holy Eucharist represents the heavenly worshipping community.
9. The first garment the priest wear is the Kothena denotes the new man. This reminds us that the priest and the community who participates in the liturgy should be new people of God.
10. The URARA is worn over KOTHEENA denotes holiness. All the persons who are celebrating liturgy should be holy.
11. The Girdle/sash is known as Soonara. It denotes purity. All have to observe purity who are participating in the mass.
12. The big vestment that is worn over is called KAAPPA. It is the rob of justice.
13. The standing posture denotes the risen people.
14. Kneeling down denotes repentance and the request for help.
15. Incensing denotes that we are removed of the stains of sins and, our prayers are surged into the presence of the Lord. Our sins are burned in the fire of love of Jesus.

### I. Opening Ministry

16. Right side is the symbol of light and left side is the symbol of darkness (Mt 25: 33)
17. Until the year 1599 AD (Synod of Diamper) Syro-Malabar Faithful used to make the sign of cross, from right to left, which means that let the Light of Holiness remove our darkness of sins. Later people used to make the Sign of the Cross from left to right praying, kindly lead us from the darkness of sins to the light of holiness.
18. The Beginning prayer (Annapesaha = on the day of Passover (Luke 22:19)) - We remember the last Passover celebrated by Jesus at the cenacle and the commandment he gave us to celebrate in memory of his love towards us.
19. Gloria or Athyunathamam = Glory to God in the highest (Luke 2:14) - We remember the Gloria sung by the angels and recall the birth of Jesus Our Father in Heaven or Swargasthanaya Pithave:
20. (Galatian 4:6 and Romans 8:15) - We confess that we are the children of God and we are sisters and brothers.
21. The meaning of the word Amen which is used all around the world is 'let it be' or 'likewise'.
22. When we say 'peace be with us.' The peace is Jesus. "No Jesus, No peace. Know Jesus, Know peace." St. Paul in his Letter to Ephesians he says HE is our Peace (Eph. 2:14)

23. When we sing *KARTHAVE MAMA RAJAVE* (My Lord and My King) we sing like David the shepherd who believed in the providence of God.
24. Three times the frankincense is put denotes the trinitarian aspect of God.
25. *ARVADHIPANAM KARTHAVE* (Romans 8:11). This is a resurrection hymn. It signifies the resurrection of Jesus and our resurrection after death.

## II. Ministry of the Word

26. *SABDAMUYARTHI* (Psalms 19:1-4) we express our joy in singing with the angels the *TRISAGION* (three times holy) it is the joy of the faithful who are going to receive the Word of God.
27. There are four readings in our Liturgy. The first one is from the Book of Laws; the second one from the book of Prophets and the third one is from the letters or epistles. Fourth one is from the New Testament. These readings suggest that the Jesus is the fulfilment of laws and prophets.
28. During the solemn Holy Qurbana the servers hold lit candles on the either side of Bema (like Ambo in Latin Rite) denotes that Jesus, the light of the world has come down to this earth from heaven.
29. Gospel is placed on the right side of the altar. This denotes that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the father.
30. During the readings of the letters and gospel, we hear the Word of God as the people in Israel heard the teachings of Jesus Christ in the valleys and the mountains of Israel.
31. *KAROSUSA*: The meaning of the word is proclamation.
32. It is the response of the people of God to the Word of God.

## III. Ministry of Preparation

33. Washing of the hands denotes the need of inner holiness of the priests and the worshipping community.
34. When bread is prepared for offertory in the paten (*PILASA*), it denotes that Jesus is handed over to death into the hands of the Jews.
35. When wine is poured into the chalice (*KASA*) it denotes the bloodshed of Jesus.
36. Water denotes that we are Christians by baptism. Water is the sign of the Christian community.
37. Mixing of water and wine shows that Jesus and we are one, making this offering. Wine denotes Jesus and Water denotes the worshipping community. We also remember what happened at Calvary when one of the soldiers pierced His side with the spear. Water and blood came out from His side.
38. When chalice and paten is taken to the altar, we are reminded of Jesus journey to Calvary carrying the Cross.
39. In Qurbana two offerings are done. First, Jesus continues the sacrifice he has offered to God the Father. Second, I am offered as sacrifice with Jesus. (Hebrew 9:28: Ephesian 5: 2; Romans 12:1).



40. During the time of offertory, the chalice and paten are raised in the manner of the Cross: We remember the death of Jesus on the Cross. Jesus commended himself into the hands of God the Father. We offer ourselves in the chalice and paten completely to God our Father.
41. When Chalice and paten are placed on the Eucharistic table, we remember the burial of Jesus in the tomb.
42. When Chalice and Paten are covered with a Veil (*Sossappa*) we remember the mighty stone with which the tomb of Jesus was covered or sealed.
43. When we sing *Thathanumathupol*, we remember Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, saints and martyrs.
44. We receive the true teachings of Jesus Christ through the Sacred Scriptures and the Sacred Traditions. But Christians of first centuries interpreted the Word of God without taking into consideration the Sacred Traditions. So, in the Church many wrong teachings came into existence. Consequently, in the Ecumenical Councils of Nicaea (AD 325) and in the Council of Constantinople (AD 381) the Church Fathers defined the aspects of Creed. Thus, we have the present Creed in the Divine Liturgy.
45. Priest bowing down three times before entering the holy altar shows that Priest is unworthy of celebrating the Eucharist. It is the journey from Earth to Heaven. We are unworthy servants to celebrate the Divine Liturgy.
46. The priest kisses the altar three times in order to attain the worthiness to celebrate the Eucharist.
47. When the priest kisses the altar three times, we pay respect to the Holy Trinity.

## IV. ANAPHORA

48. THE PROCESS OF THE TRANSUBSTANTIATION OF BREAD AND WINE INTO THE BODY AND BLOOD of Jesus Christ is continued in the whole Anaphora.



49. In the Syro-Malabar Qurbana presently the Anaphora of Addai and Mari is used. They were the disciples of St. Thomas. They are considered as the proclaimers of the East. Other Anaphoras are also used viz., St. Theodore and Nestorius.
50. In the PranamaJapa (praying by the priest with slightly bowing head position) or Gehantha Cycle; four things are included: 1. Priest praying in silence. 2. Priest requesting the help of the assembly 3. Then the PranamaJapa Proper and the doxology or the concluding thanksgiving.
51. In the first PRANAMAJAPA we thank God the father for the ineffable gifts we have received in our lives. We also request also the grace to celebrate this Eucharist in a befitting manner. This prayer is oriented towards God the Father.
52. Exchange of Peace: The Priest kisses the altar during this ministry. Madbaha or sanctuary is considered as the garden (Golgotha) where Jesus was buried. Altar is the empty tomb. The empty tomb denotes that Jesus is risen. So, when priest kisses the altar, he is proclaiming the peace of the Risen Christ.
53. When we exchange the peace of the Risen Lord, we confess that we have no hatred or enmity among us.
54. The veil or Sossappa when placed surrounding the chalice and paten we are reminded of the cloth or the shroud that was seen in the tomb of Jesus.
55. The second PRANAMAJAPA is oriented towards the Holy Trinity. In this prayer we thank for the great gift of creation and we sing with the choirs of angels in an exultant voice.
56. When we sing HOSSANA we remember the triumphant entry of Christ to Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-10). More than the above said significance the liturgical community sing the hymn with the angels as in the Vision of Prophet Isaiah
57. The third PRANAMAJAPA is oriented towards Christ. In this prayer we thank for the gift of salvation. The Words of Institution: We recall the institution of Holy Eucharist by Jesus Christ on the Last Supper. We also remember the death of Jesus on the Cross.
58. The blood in the chalice and the body in the paten signify the separation of body and blood of Jesus signifies the death of Jesus.

59. Then the priest makes the intercessory prayer for the whole world with hands raised.
60. Fourth PRANAMAJAPA is concentrated on Holy Spirit. In this prayer we thank for the gifts we have received through the working of the Holy Spirit in the Salvation History.
61. When priest makes the Sign of the Cross on the altar and the offerings, we are reminded that the Holy Sacrifice at the Altar and Calvary are one and the same.
62. EPICLESIS - Invocation to the Holy Spirit (John 16:7): We in a special way invite the Holy Spirit to come down upon the Holy Mysteries in order to complete the process of transubstantiation.

#### **V. a. Ministry of Reconciliation**

63. "Oh God, have mercy on us". This prayer signifies the reconciliation between man and God. (Psalms 51:1)

#### **VI. Ministry of the Breaking of the Bread**

64. When the Sacred Host is broken it denotes the death of Jesus.
65. When the Sacred Host is dipped into Blood it speaks of the unity of the sacred body and sacred blood.
66. When hosts are separated and again joined, we are reminded of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
67. When the veil or SOSSAPPA is placed in an extended manner on the altar, it denotes that we are invited to participate in the heavenly banquet of Jesus.

#### **V. b. Ministry of Reconciliation**

68. When we pray Kalaham Mattaam (Mathew 5:23-24), we are motivated to reconcile among us. Reconciliation between man and man.

#### **VII. Ministry of Reconciliation with God**

69. Our Father Prayer: We lost the position of children of God through sin but through the ministry of reconciliation, we regain the privilege of sons and daughters of God. With this dignity we call upon our Heavenly Father.
70. Reception of Holy Communion is inevitable for the participants of Holy Eucharist. Since the Body and blood are united by the gesture precedent, it is natural that we receive communion in one of the species either body or blood.

#### **VIII. Concluding Ministry**

71. The final blessing is imparted to receive the grace to lead a life of Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).
72. Farewell to the Altar VISHUDIKARNATHINTE BALIPEEDAME SWASTHI: This prayer is believed to be formed in the first centuries of Christian era. During the time of persecution, the Faithful were burned in fire, sometimes they were thrown into boiled oil and even they were thrown into the dens of hungry lions. The blood of the martyrs was the nourishment for the growth of the Church tree.



## Adieu to Msgr. Antony Perumayan

Msgr. Antony Perumayan, National Coordinator was given a cordial farewell who served the Syro-Malabar Church, Ireland for the past 6 years. While serving as the parish priest of Belfast SMC, he was appointed as the National Coordinator by the Irish Episcopal Conference upon the proposal of His Eminence George Cardinal Alencherry, Head and Father of the Syro-Malabar Church. In the year 2015, he was honoured with the title of Monsignor by the Holy See. He paved the way for the coordination of Syro-Malabar Church, spread in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. For the smooth functioning, he established 41 Qurbana Centres in whole Ireland divided into 4 regions (Belfast, Cork, Dublin and Galway). St. Thomas Pastoral Centre a common residence for the priests of Syro-Malabar Church, Dublin was granted by the Archdiocese of Dublin through his sincere effort and genuine intervention. The National Coordination Council thanked Msgr. Antony Perumayan for his great contributions to SMC Ireland at Rialto Pastoral Centre. Bishop Stephen Chirappanath, the Apostolic Visitor, thanked Msgr. Antony for his selfless services. Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil extended sincere appreciation and gratitude for the meritorious ministry of Msgr. Perumayan for the Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin and offered a token of appreciation on behalf of the present and previous zonal committee members.



## Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil, the New National Coordinator of Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Dublin Ireland

Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil is appointed as the new National Coordinator of Syro Malabar Church in Ireland. He is also the Zonal Coordinator of the Syro Malabar Church, Dublin. Bishop Stephen Chirappanath, the Apostolic Visitor of Syro Malabar Faithful in Europe presented the requirement of a National Coordinator for the Syro Malabar Church in Ireland to the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. The proposal received approval and Archbishop Eamon Martin appointed Fr. Clement Padathiparambil as the National Coordinator. The main responsibility of the Syro Malabar National Coordinator of Ireland is to coordinate the spiritual and ecclesial endeavours of Syro Malabar Church of Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. Fr. Clement was appointed to this post upon the return of Msgr. Antony Perumayan to his own native Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil hails from the Diocese of Irinjalakuda. He is the son of Chirayath Padathiparambil Annie's Teacher and Jose Master from the Parish of Murkanad in the Diocese of Irinjalakuda. He was

ordained to priesthood by Mar James Pazhayattil on 29 December 1998. He had his priestly formation and studies at St. Paul's Seminary Irinjalakuda, St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor and Papal Seminary, Pune. He holds doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome. From 2009-2017, he has been working as Secretary to Bishop, Mar James Pazhayattil, the first bishop of Irinjalakuda. He served in different capacities as Vice Chancellor, Chancellor, Adjutant Judicial Vicar, Diocesan Liturgical Director, Director of Choir, Editor of Diocesan Bulletin, Secretary to the Mercy Trust, Convenor of Mar Thoma Theerthadanam (pilgrimage) Committee, Director of Catholic Labour Movement and Sacristans' Fellowship, Defender of Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal, Visiting Professor of Canon Law at St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Aluva during his tenure of ministry in the Bishop's House, Irinjalakuda. Previously he served as the Vice Rector and Prefect of the Diocesan Minor Seminary. He was also the Director of Altar Boys' Association and Director of Vocation Promotion. He is well known for his canonical precision and ecclesial knowledge. He speaks English, Italian, German, and has working knowledge in French, Spanish and ecclesiastical Latin.





## **SYRO-MALABAR PROCURA IN ROME**

The Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches promulgated in 1990 contemplates such an office of procurator in canon 61: "A Patriarch can have a procurator at the Apostolic See appointed personally by him with the prior assent of the Roman Pontiff."

The statutes approved by the Major Archbishop and accepted by the Oriental Congregation make the following observation about the Procura: The Procura of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church at the Apostolic See is an ecclesiastical juridical person according to the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO), Can. 920-923. The goal of the Procura is to facilitate the communication of the Major Archbishop with the Apostolic See and to provide, in the name of the Major Archbishop, more expeditiously and with greater effectiveness, for the care of the spiritual and material goods of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in Rome and, in general, in Italy. The Procurator also represents the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church before ecclesiastical and civil authorities in Italy. Bishop Stephen Chirappanath is the present procurator. The name of our Procura is "Domus Mar Thoma" (Casa Mar Thoma). Via degli Estensi 137, in Rome.



### **A Gift from the Holy See to the Syro-Malabar Church - Basilica of Santa Anastasia for the Pastoral Care of the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Rome.**

Through the decree of the Vicar General of His Holiness Pope Francis, His Eminence Angelo Cardinal De Donatis, the Syro-Malabar Church was granted the Basilica of Santa Anastasia for the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar Migrants in Rome. Santa Anastasia Minor Basilica in Rome, one of the oldest Christian churches, and one of the oldest Minor Basilicas in the world was assigned to Syro-Malabar Church. It was Emperor Constantine who started the construction of this Basilica during the years between 325-326 A.D. Until the end of the 7th Century Popes celebrated their Christmas Masses in this Basilica. St. Jerome is said to have preached in this Basilica which is situated near the Colosseum on the Palatine hills which is known to be the epicentre of Roman Empire. St. Jerome himself have brought relics from the Holy Land and deposited in this Basilica. The Church seen today is of 17th Century construction. Until 17th Century, Popes administered the liturgical services of Ash-Wednesday from this Basilica and thereafter it was transferred to the Church of Santa Sabina. The First Perpetual Adoration started here in this Church. This church built in the baroque style is famous for its architectural splendour and decorative works. It was in this church that the Syro-Malabar Catholics of the Santhom Parish Rome were holding their sacramental celebrations from the year 2011. It was in 2019, the Syro-Malabar bishops made a request to the Holy Father Pope Francis during their ad Limina visit for obtaining a house of worship for their spiritual and pastoral needs. With this decree, Santa Anastasia Minor Basilica has become the centre of pastoral care of around 7,000 Syro-Malabar Catholics living in and around Rome. The concerted efforts of Mar Stephen Chirappanath, the priests working in Rome and the people of God in Rome paved the way for the speedy implementation of this request.



## “Help the children to grow gathering around the Eucharistic Table”, Bishop Stephen Chirappanath.

“Those parents who help the children to grow in relating with the Eucharistic table will never be unhappy in their lives”, spoke Bishop Stephen while he was having a colloquium with parish committee members of the nine Holy Qurbana centres of Syro-Malabar Church, Dublin. Faith formation should start from the families. Liturgy is the best way of catechesis. The vocation arises from the families where parents kneel down and pray. Bishop Stephen was very confident that in the coming future there will be good number of vocations from Syro-Malabar Catholic families in Ireland who are strong in divine faith and ecclesial love. Bishop Chirappanath commented that if children want to grow in their own faith and traditions, there should be opportunities for children to interact among their own communities. Frequent Divine Liturgy, catechism classes and retreats will provide more opportunities for such interactions. The ministry of the church by the laity is a vocation. Those who are entrusted with the ecclesial duties are to protect common good and the will of God, and not their own likes and desires; Bishop exhorted. Later the Newsletter of the Syro-Malabar Church ‘Hesed’ was released by Bishop Stephen Chirappanath receiving it from Maju Peckal, the editor and granting it to the Zonal Secretary, Mr Johnson Chakkalakkal. Headmasters, Parish Committee members and the chaplains of the nine Holy Qurbana centres attended the meeting.





**Bishop Stephen Chirappanath**

- Apostolic Visitor

Board of Trustees :

**Rev.Dr. Clement Padathiparambil**

- National Coordinator

- Chairperson & Finance Officer

**Rev. Fr. Paul Morely** - General Secretary

**Shijo Manoj** - Secretary

**Tibi Mathew** - Treasurer

General Administrative Council

Board of Trustees

**Maju Peckal** - PRO

**Jimmy Antony** - Child Safeguarding

**Sony Joseph** - Garda vetting

**Jose Chacko** - National HM Coordinator

**Wilson Varghese** - Member

**Anil Jacob** - Member

**Kunjumon Indikuzhy** - Member

## SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH IRELAND

**Rev.Dr. Clement Padathiparambil**

- National Coordinator & Liturgy

- Finance Officer & Family Apostolate

**Fr. Paul Morely** - General Secretary & Family Units

**Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara** - Mathruvedi

**Fr. Joseph Karukayil** - Communication & Media

**Fr. Sibi Arackal** - Bible Apostolate & Evangelization

**Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel** - Pithruvedi

**Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath**

- Children (Holy Childhood, CML) & Youth Ministry

**Fr. Roy George Vattakkattu** - Catechism

### FOUR REGION OF SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

#### BELFAST

**Belfast** - Fr. Paul Morely

**Derry** - Fr. Joseph Karukayil

**Antrim** - Fr. Paul Morely

**Bangor** - Fr. Paul Morely

**Omagh** - Fr. Joseph Karukayil

**Lisburn** - Fr. Paul Morely

**Ballyhakamore** - Fr. Paul Morely

**Armagh** - Portadown - Fr. Joseph Karukayil

**Enniskillen** - Fr. Joseph Karukayil

Fr. Paul Morely +447759998317

Fr. Joseph Karukayil + 44 7850 402475

Selestine Thomas +44 7834 950 369

#### GALWAY

**Galway** - Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara

**Limerick** - Fr. Robin Thomas Koorumullil

**Tullamore** - Fr. Jaison Kuthanappilly

**Longford** - Fr. Reji Cheruvankalayil

**Cavan** - Fr. Reji Cheruvankalayil

**Donegal / Letterkenny** - Fr. Joseph Karukayil

**Sligo** - Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara

**Castlebar / Knock** - Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara

Fr. Jose - 089 974 1568

Fr. Robin - 089 4333124

Fr. Jaison - 087 2614656

Fr. Reji - 089 2011086

Fr. Joseph Karukayil + 44 7850 402475

Anil Jacob +353 87 964 4979

#### CORK

**Cork** - Fr. Sibi Arackal

**Wilton** - Fr. Sibi Arackal

**Waterford** - Fr. Sibi Arackal

**Wexford** - Fr. Aquino

**Clonmel** - Fr. Paul Thettayil

**Kilkenny** - Fr. Martin Porokkaran

Fr. Sibi Arackal - 089 231 9271

Fr. Aquino - 089 4488991

Fr. Paul Thettayil - 087 751 8030

Fr. Martin Porokkaran - 087 624 8170

Wilson Varghese +353 87 329 2412

#### DUBLIN

**Beaumont** - Fr. Roy Vattakkatt

**Blanchardstown** - Fr. Roy Vattakkatt

**Bray** - Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath

**Inchicore** - Fr. Clement Padathiparambil

**Lucan** - Fr. Clement Padathiparambil

**Phibsborough** - Fr. Clement Padathiparambil

**St. Joseph's (Blackrock)** - Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath

**Swords** - Fr. Roy Vattakkatt

**Tallht** - Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath

**Mid Leinster** - Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath

**Naas** - Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath

**Navan** - Fr. Roy Vattakkatt

**Drogheda** - Fr. Roy Vattakkatt

**Dundalk** - Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel

Fr. Clement - 089 492 7755

Fr. Rajesh - 089 444 2688

Fr. Roy - 089 459 0705

Fr. Mathew - 089 416 0788

Seejo Kachappilly +353 87 319 7575

George Kurian +353 87 685 9279





BLANCHARDSTOWN



PHIBSBOROUGH



SWORDS



BRAY



INCHICORE



BEAUMONT



ST. JOSEPH'S



LUCAN



TALLAGHT



## SAVIO FEST – UNFORGETTABLE SPLENDID SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

The first 'Savio Fest' was a gathering of more than 250 Altar Servers of Dublin Syro Malabar Church and was a marvellous fellowship. Savio Fest was conducted on May 6th as it is the Feast of Dominic Savio who is a model and inspiration to the Altar Servers. Bishop Mar Stephen Chirappanath, the Apostolic Visitor for the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Europe, inaugurated the ceremony at Sacred Heart Church Huntstown, Blanchardstown, Dublin. "The lives of St. Dominic Savio, St. John Berchmans and St. Maria Goretti should inspire your lives." Bishop said in his inaugural address; "Let the intense ministry of the young priests may illuminate the hearts of the young ones to follow the path of Jesus by choosing the right vocation". Altar Servers sang like angels, prayed and worshipped the Lord. Teachers, trainers and parents also were present at this great spiritual koinonia. Special prayers were offered and wide variety of programs were conducted for the altar servers. The trainers and the altar servers were honoured with special gifts and prizes. A special prayer was offered for the people who died in the terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath and Fr. Roy Vattakkatt led the Savio Fest. The Zonal Committee and Blanchardstown Committee facilitated Savio Fest. The spiritual koinonia concluded with a delicious lunch.



# THOUSANDS OF FAITHFUL PARTICIPATED IN THE KNOCK PILGRIMAGE – A TESTIMONY OF EARNEST FAITH

The Pilgrimage to Knock Marian Shrine was a memorable one. A Marian flavour and a genuine fervour were very suggestive during the celebration. Hundreds of people from 43 different Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana centres from different regions of Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland participated in the Knock Pilgrimage. Bishop Mar Stephen Chirappanath was the main celebrant for the Holy Qurbana during the Pilgrimage. Citing the encyclical of Pope John Paul II Eucharistia de Ecclesia he told that Jesus gave to the Holy Church two valuable prizes: Holy Eucharist and Holy Mother Mary. "Take this and eat of it" with these words he instituted the Holy Mass. "Behold your mother" and he gave us his mother as the Mother of the Universe. Presence of Our Lady was there at wedding feast of Cana and also at the foot of the Cross at Calvary. Each Christian should be aware of the presence of Our Lady in the weaknesses, fragilities and in the situations of their doubt. National Coordinator of Syro-Malabar Church, Msgr. Antony Perumayan and Vicar General of Agra Archdiocese, Rev. Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara, the Galway Regional Coordinator and Coordinator of the pilgrimage, Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath and Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakatt and priests from various parts of Ireland participated in the Holy Qurbana. Students who have secured highest marks for leaving certificate exam were honoured during this occasion. The families who have five or more children were also honoured. Families of Binu KP and Mr. Tom Vaniyapurackal were the families appreciated, revealing the value and glory of life. In the procession of faith, Saint Thomas Christians lined up carrying flags, big silver and golden crosses, Muthukkuda (Colourful Umbrellas). A good number of altar servers in angelic vestments carrying papal flags adorned the procession. Youth carried SMYM flags and waved balloons. Mothers' Union members wore Kerala Sarees and carried Marian Flags. The Fathers' Union members wore Kerala Style Shirts and Mundu carrying flags and umbrellas. The statues of All Saints' of Syro-Malabar Church and the Statue of Our Lady of Knock gave a great impression of our spiritual patrimony during the procession. The procession started from the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock and ended at the Apparition Chapel. The arrangements for Knock pilgrimage was done by the Sabhayogam members of the Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland and specifically the zonal committee members of Dublin and different Mass centres.



# Virtual Knock Pilgrimage : Irish Church thanked the Kerala Nurses



Primate of Ireland and Archbishop of Armagh, His Grace Eamon Martin appreciated Nurses from Kerala working in Ireland with gratitude. He gave this message during virtual Knock pilgrimage conducted by the Syro-Malabar Church. He said that more than 90% of Kerala migrants are working in the health sector. At this juncture, the presence and service of health care workers from Kerala is a great source of consolation and comfort for the people of Ireland. The service of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church to Irish Church is appreciative. He told that this is an opportunity to intercede before the Blessed Virgin Mary for all those who are affected by the Covid-19 and he prayed for them to be strengthened by the divine love. He was very optimistic of an imminent day when all can gather at Knock and where we can meet as a community, even though we could not conduct Knock pilgrimage this year due to Covid-19. He appreciated the May Month devotion of Keralites and he joined in the prayers of SMC Community. He also remarked that Irish Catholics also dwell in devotion to Mary in this month. It is very vital to be with Mary at these crucial times. Mentioning Pope Francis, he stated "Let us look towards the Divine Mercy and open our eyes of mercy towards others." Hundreds of SMC faithful joined in this virtual spiritual endeavour. Dioceses of Athenry, Clonfert, and Galway joined in this virtual session. Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil led the pilgrimage. Very Rev. Fr. Rector Richard Gibbons presided over the Holy Mass. He appreciated the zeal of faith of SMC and gratefully remembered their affinity to the Knock pilgrim centre.



## 'Catechism should lead to Liturgy' Mar George Njarlakkattu



### "CREDO" - ALL IRELAND GATECHISM TEACHERS' DAY

The 'first' All-Ireland Catechism Teachers day "CREDO -2019" was held on 19th October 2019 at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Rialto Dublin 8. His Grace Archbishop Mar George Njarlakkattu, the Archbishop of Thalassery inaugurated the session. The seminar started with Holy Qurbana celebrated by Archbishop Mar George Njaralakkattu. About 150 Catechism teachers, all the chaplains of Syro-Malabar Church working in Ireland and parish committee members participated in this one-day seminar. Bishop Stephen Chirappanath, the Apostolic Visitor inaugurated the final session of this seminar. Rev. Dr. Fr. Tom Olikkarottu, who has completed the doctoral studies in Bible, in Rome led the seminar. The programme was organised by Syro-Malabar Church, Ireland National Coordinator, Msgr. Antony Perumayan, Dublin Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, Catechism Director, Fr. Roy Vattakattu, Programme Coordinator, Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath and Catechism Headmasters' Coordinator Mr. Jose Chacko. Attendees of the seminar were given the official handbook of the church i.e., Catechism of Catholic Church and Guidance Text for Teaching Catechism.





## **FAMILIA (FAMILY FEST) – A LOVING FELLOWSHIP FOR RENEWING FRIENDSHIP**

On 22 June 2019, Familia, Family Fest was conducted. SMC faithful found time to spend with friends and relatives in an atmosphere of joy and friendship in the midst of accelerated and bustling life. It was a pleasure to witness quality leisure time for all the participants. This gathering once again helped to knit the family ties and engage in loving conversations. Sports, games and fun filled activities, helped to create an atmosphere of relaxation and enjoyment. There were interesting events executed for children, youth, kids and family. Bouncy Castle, face Painting for kids, special games organized by SMYM, musical band and food stalls etc. made this venture very colourful. The famous singers from our community participated in the music fusion. Tug of war, magic show and horse riding were events that deserve special mention. The Zonal Committee members, Secretaries of Holy Qurbana centres and parish committee of Lucan Holy Qurbana Centre led the event.



# THRILLING BIBLIA FINALE – TEAM SWORDS ‘THE WINNERS’

The Grant Finale of the Bible Quiz of Syro-Malabar Church was conducted at Our Lady of Holy Rosary of Fatima Church, Rialto. The Swords Holy Qurbana Centre secured the first prize in the last two years and they were awarded the Mar Thoma Ever Rolling Trophy and Spice Bazar Dublin Cash Award of Euros 500. In 2019 Blanchardstown Holy Qurbana Centre secured the second prize and was awarded the St. Paul Ever Rolling Trophy and the Royal Catering Cash award of Euros 350. Blackrock St. Joseph's received the third prize and was awarded St. Patrick Ever Rolling Trophy and the Cranley Cars Dublin 22 Cash Award of Euros 250.

In 2020 Phibsborough Holy Qurbana Centre secured the second prize and was awarded the St, Paul Ever Rolling Trophy and the Ginger Catering Cash Award of Euros 350. Bray Holy Qurbana Centre received the third prize and was awarded St. Patrick Ever Rolling Trophy and the Cranley Cars Dublin 22 Cash Award of Euros 250.

This Spiritual Venture started by invoking the Grace of God with the Holy Qurbana at 1pm, followed by the Inaugural Session headed by Rev. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, the Zonal Coordinator. Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath was the Quiz Master. There were eight rounds for the Competition which was also comprised of Audio-visuals. Catechism Director Rev. Fr. Roy Vatakkat, Dublin Catechism Coordinator, Mr. Jose Chacko, Dublin Zonal Secretary, Mr. Seejo Kachappilly, Zonal Trustees, Mr. Tibi Mathew, Joby John lead the event. The Zonal Committee members and Mrs. Jincy Jiji provided technical support. People from various Holy Qurbana Centres assembled to support and encourage the contestants of the finale.

The initial round of the Bible Quiz was attended by around 700 faithful in different Holy Qurbana Centres of Dublin. This endeavour started years back in view of instilling profound knowledge about the Sacred Scripture and Stories of Saints who lived according to the Word of God.



1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE - SWORDS <<<



2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE - BLANCHARDSTOWN <<<



3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE - BLACKROCK <<<







»» 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE - SWORDS



»» 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE - PHIBSBOROUGH



»» 3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE - BRAY





# BIBLE QUIZ - 2019 WINNERS

## SUB JUNIORS

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE



**JERIN VARGHESE**  
(BRAY)

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE



**JACOB JOSEPH**  
(TALLAGHT)

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE



**AARON R. KURIAN**  
(BRAY)

## JUNIORS

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE



**SLEEVAN JOGGY**  
(PHIBSBOROUGH)

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE



**ARLENE SANTHOSH**  
(BLACKROCK)

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE



**LIBY TOBAN**  
(TALLAGHT)

## SENIORS

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE



**ASHVIN VILSON**  
(TALLAGHT)

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE



**NOEL REJI**  
(SWORDS)

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE



**ALBIN NILEESH**  
(BLACKROCK)

## SUPER SENIORS

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE



**LESLIN VINOD**  
(BRAY)

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE



**ARPITHA BENNY**  
(BLANCHARDSTOWN)

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE



**ANILIA ANIL**  
(PHIBSBOROUGH)

## GENERAL

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE



**VIGI THOMAS**  
(PHIBSBOROUGH)

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE



**MARIAMMA NILEESH**  
(BLACKROCK)

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE



**MEREEDA VILSON**  
(TALLAGHT)

## MAR WALAH FAITH FEST FAMILY BIBLE QUIZ 2020 WINNERS



SMYM DUBLIN organised Mar Walah Online Family Bible Quiz during the summer holidays. The quiz was conducted every Sunday evening through zoom application for 12 weeks from 14 June 2020 to 30 August 2020. Over 50 families from various regions in Ireland regularly participated in the weekly quiz which consisted of multiple written and audio-visual rounds. It gave the families an opportunity to read all the four Gospels during the 12-week period. The first position was secured by Maju Peckal, Mrudula Maju, Mineva Anna Maju, Melissa Sarah Maju & Mivel George Maju.

# BIBLE QUIZ - 2020

## WINNERS

### SUB JUNIORS



### JUNIORS



### SENIORS



### SUPER SENIORS



### GENERAL



### LEAVING CERT 2019 WINNERS

THANKS...



**ROBERT ALLEN**  
Sacristan of Rialto Church  
and Chairman of the  
Parish Pastoral Council



**MEJOY JOHN MALIEKAL**  
Website designer



HONEY JOSE



AUSTIN SHAJI



MEGHA THERESA JAMES



## **FAMILY RENEWAL RETREAT IN THE FULLNESS OF THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The three days renewal retreat was a spirit filled occasion for SMC faithful. Rev. Fr. Xavier Khan Vattayil and the Sehion Ministry led the Retreat. He reminded that "Whatever you ask in faith, you will receive". He exhorted us to pray for the church and to cooperate with the local church. The Adoration and praise and worship ministry gave spiritual fervour to SMC community. There were testimonies from faithful regarding the divine experience, healings and graces. Hundreds of people attended the Retreat. Fr. Xavier Khan and the Church leaders lit the lamp and inaugurated the retreat session. Simultaneously there was a Christen Retreat to three groups starting from Class II (Holy Communicants) to Class XII conducted. There were 15 priests available to hear confessions and to help out with various spiritual activities. Sehion Ministry volunteers facilitated spiritual sharing during the retreat. On the final day, Bishop Stephen Chirappanath celebrated Holy Qurbana and in his homily he mentioned: "Dedication, surrender, attitude of forgiveness and the ability to accept sufferings are essential for family life. Forgetting and forgiving are the means for a happy married life." If there is only one God there is only one moral order; though we might have changed our residences from Kerala to Ireland, the moral laws of God are not changing. Normally, when a mango tree bears mangoes, people pluck those mangoes, however a mango tree never stops bearing fruits in the fear of being plucked or stoned. When Church grows, criticisms are normal. These statements were made by Bishop Chirappanath in response to the recent disproportionate criticisms formed against Syro-Malabar Church activities.





# ONLINE FAMILY RENEWAL RETREAT 2020

“Those who want to be good human beings, they should live for others and should lead a life joined with Christ” said Rev. Fr. Davis Chiramel. “From the very young age children should learn to lead a life for others and to be good human beings by being with Christ and imitating Christ”. These were the graceful words of the famous retreat preacher and social reformer, Fr. Davis Chiramel during the annual retreat for the families of Syro Malabar Church in Ireland. The season of sufferings, we should discern, as the seasons of opportunities given by God, he continued. Fr. Jison Paul Vengassery, Fr. Mathew Ashariparambil also led sessions during the retreat. “We have to hand down the faith we have received from our ancestors. In order to surpass the trials and tribulations of our life, we need fasting and prayers. There are hundred and one days of lent for Syro Malabar faithful in a year, we have to observe this tradition of penance and penitence in each liturgical year. Only through suffering, we can find salvation. The Fathers should lead the family prayers” exhorted the young priest Fr. Jison Paul Vengassery during the retreat. Fr. Mathew Ashariparambil reminded us that “we have to try our best to see good things in others. When we blame and ridicule others, our energy level will be reduced. We have to try to abandon, remove and reject all the bad thoughts and words in our lives”.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, this year’s annual renewal retreat was conducted via online on October 24th Saturday, 25th Sunday and 26th Monday. As a part of the online retreat adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Qurbana and Holy Rosary also were conducted at the Parish of Our Lady of Holy Rosary of Fatima, Rialto. Rev. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakkattu, Mr. Seejo Kachappilly, Mr. K.P. Binu, Mrs. Archana, Mr. Suresh and Zonal committee members coordinated the spiritual and liturgical activities for the retreat session. Thousands of faithful participated in the retreat through the online media including website, YouTube channel and face book page of Dublin Syro Malabar Church. Online annual retreat was an opportunity to renew one’s life as a person and as a family member.

## MAR WALAH – Faith Fest A Renewed Experience of Dukhrana: Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle



A two days formation program (2,3 July 2019) for children in connection with the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle was conducted at Fettercairn Church Tallaght which helped them to be aware of the Christian faith, Tradition, Church’s teachings, Sacramental life, Christian values and scriptural knowledge. Children of Class II to Class VII attended the programme. Holy Qurbana, prayer, reflection, music, games etc gave a good spiritual and social experience. Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement, Rev. Fr. Rajesh, and Rev. Fr. Roy lead the event. There was a Solemn Holy Qurbana on 3rd July 2019 at 3pm presided over by Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil. Arch Bishop of Kottayam Mar Mathew Moolakatt presided over the Holy Qurbana on 1st July 2019 and initiated the St. Thomas Feast.

## ‘ATHMEEYAM’ Preparatory Retreat for Children during the Lenten Season



For the children of Syro-Malabar Church, a retreat was conducted at the Church of Incarnation, Fettercairn Tallaght named “ATHMEEYAM”. From the First Holy Communicants, till Class XII of Sunday Catechism attended the sessions in three groups. Refreshments and lunch were provided during the renewal programme. Holy Qurbana, source and submit of Christian life was the main theme of this year. The main intentions of the retreat were the following:

1. Spiritual preparation for children before Lent
2. Mental preparation for children approaching exams
3. Spiritual Renewal
4. The first Holy Communicants’ preparation to receive Jesus.
5. Helping the children to grow in deep devotion to Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Qurbana.

## FLOOD RELIEF ACCOUNT DETAILS

**2018**

**HIGHRANGE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, IDUKKI**

To assist 25 flood affected families to rebuild their houses

**€32,535 Rs 2,500,000**

**WELFARE SERVICES ERNAKULAM**

To 6 most deserving families for improving their housing facilities.

**€6,552 Rs 500,000**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHANGANACHERRY**

Housing Aid to two families

**€6,552 Rs 500,000**

**DIOCESE OF IRINJALAKUDA**

One most deserving family

**€6,495 Rs 500,000**

**HOUSING AID TO EDAPUZHA/KANNUR**

**€1,245 Rs 97,520**

To Assist flood affected School For

**Differently Abled Children@ Adimali**

**€995 Rs 81,750**

**TOTAL €54,375 Rs 4,179,270**

**2019**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF TALLASSERY**

Housing Project @ Kacherikadavu

**€8,720 Rs 654,298**

**TOTAL €8,720 Rs 654,298**

### FLOOD RELIEF FUND COLLECTIONS

	2018	2019
Beaumont	€656	€375.45
Blanchardstown	€3,988	€1,557.93
Bray	€2,298	€631.00
Inchicore		€551.00
Lucan	€3,666	€1,231.20
Phibsborough	€4,126	€1,100.20
St. Joseph	€16,390	€1,158.70
Swords	€1,550	€800.00
Tallaght	€7,750	€1,000.00
Zonal	€8,328	€315
Rexband stage program	€5,623	
<b>Total</b>	<b>€54,375</b>	<b>€8,720</b>

## MARANA SAHAYA NIDHI ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR FROM  
2015 TO 2020**

### RECEIPTS

Opening Balance (2011-2014)

**€18,895**

Collections @ 1,169 Families

**€58,450**

### PAYMENTS

**TOTAL FUNERAL  
EXPENSES**

**€54,432**

Funeral@19 families

Jan -15	Ardee	6,393
Jan -15	Finglas	5,600
May -15	Bray	945
May -16	Lucan	1,500
Jun -16	Tullamore	3,000
Mar -17	Sligo	1,745
Mar -17	Tallaght	6,195
May -17	Phibsborough	1,610
Oct -17	Lucan	3,000
Oct -17	Lucan	2,000
Dec -17	Kilcock	2,000
Sep -18	Lucan	3,000
Jan -19	Lucan	3,000
Feb -19	Swords	2,150
Dec -19	Kilkenny	2,744
Jun - 20	Drogheda	2,020
Jul - 20	Galway	2,592
Jul - 20	Tallaght	2,050
Dec-20	Dundalk	2,888

Refund @124x€50 **€6,200**

Bank Charge **€491**

**CLOSING BANK BALANCE**

**€16,222**

## Summary of Charities for the year 2019-2020

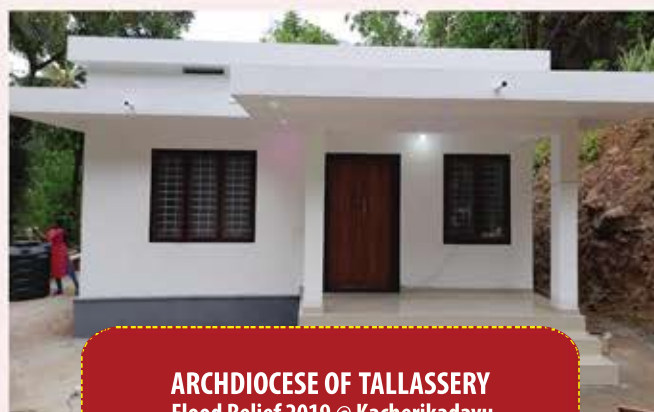
<b>Flood Relief -2019</b> Housing Project @ Kacherikadavu	€ 8,720.48
Housing Projects, <b>Irulam, Waynad</b>	€ 8,180.00
Housing Projects, <b>Cheerikkappara, Palakkad</b>	€ 7,147.00
<b>Silchar Mission</b> - A vehicle for palliative care services	€ 12,938.87
<b>Marriage Aid</b> to 6 families	€ 4,078.52
<b>Medical help</b> to 28 families	€ 11,133.23
<b>Prayer hall</b> at Theragudem, Vijayawada	€ 619.27
<b>Bible Project</b> @ Tanzania	€ 1,315.00
Other <b>Charities</b>	€ 897.89
<b>Total</b>	€ 55,030.26



**SILCHAR MISSION**  
A vehicle for palliative care services Nov. 2020  
Silchar Mission Payment to Irinjalakuda Diocese  
**Total €12,938.87 Rs.10,91,000**



**Bible Project @ Mathruvedi Tallaght**  
**€1,315.00**



**ARCHDIOCESE OF TALLASSERY**  
Flood Relief 2019 @ Kacherikadavu  
**€8,720 Rs.654,298**



**Sneha Veedu - Irulam ,Waynad**  
**Tallaght Mass Centre**  
**€ 8,180 Rs.617,276**



**Cheenikkappara, Palakkad**  
**St. Joseph Mass Centre, Blackrock**  
**€ 7,147 Rs. 600,000**

### NEW HOUSE PROJECT

**Blanchardstown** Mass Centre  
Estimated cost **€8,000 Rs. 650,000**

**Lucan** Mass Centre with support of  
**Inchicore** Mass Centre and **Phibsborough** Mass Centre  
Estimated cost **€14,000 Rs.1,150,000**



## 7<sup>th</sup> BIBLE FEAST

On Sunday 29 September 2019, 7th Bible Fest was conducted at Artane Hall, Beaumont. Holy Qurbana was celebrated in St. John Vianney Church at 1pm. The session started at 2 pm presided over by Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil. Msgr. John Dolan, the Vicar General inaugurated the meeting. The famous retreat preacher and orator, Fr. Joseph Puthenpurackal OFM Cap was the chief guest. Those who secured higher position in Catechism and Leaving Cert at the zonal level were awarded with prizes. Couples celebrating silver jubilee of their marriage were honoured at the bible fest. It afforded the faithful with an opportunity to display their talents and various Christian stage programmes were conducted in the bible fest.



## FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR “KUDUMBAM”



A family empowerment seminar named “Kudumbam” was inaugurated for Dublin Syro-Malabar Church on Saturday 28th September, 2019 at Fettercairn Church, Tallaght. Rev. Fr. Joseph Puthenpurakkal one of the famous retreat preachers and family counsellors from Kerala guided the family empowerment seminar. Many families from different parts of Ireland participated in this reflective, at the same time refreshing preaching session by Fr. Joseph. He is widely known as a very humorous and hilarious priest, who is also called dearly by people as “Kappipodiyachan” because of his coffee-coloured attire.





## ANNUAL RETREAT Holy Week ceremonies at the Parish Level

The Holy week Liturgies were arranged at parish level for more participation and convenience (the annual retreat was led by Rev. Fr. Ignatius Kunnumpuram OCD). Hundreds of people attended the Retreat and Religious ceremonies of the Holy Week. 13 & 14 April 2019 (Saturday - Sunday) the Retreat was conducted at Tallaght Fettercairn Church between 10 am to 5 pm. On Palm Sunday, blessing of the palm leaves and solemn entrance to the church with the palm leaves borne by the faithful before the Holy Qurbana conducted in all Qurbana Centres. The Annual Retreat of Swords, Beaumont and Blanchardstown was held on 16th and 17th of April 2019 at Sacred Heart Church, Huntstown, Clonsilla between 5pm and 9pm. The Annual Retreat of Inchicore, Phibsborough and Lucan was at Palmerstown Sports Complex on 19th and 20th April 2019. Pesaha Ceremony (Maundy Thursday) was observed in all the Holy Qurbana Centres. Good Friday (Dukha Velli) and Holy Saturday (Valiya Sani) observance were conducted in all the Sub Zone Qurbana Centres. In Tallaght at Fettercairn Church 10 am, in Blanchardstown at Huntstown church and in Lucan at 9 am. Easter ceremony was celebrated in all the Holy Qurbana Centres.

### PETHRUTHA – TURNING BACK



Pethrutha is the initiation to the great Lent season on the midnight of the Sunday through the sacrament of reconciliation, adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Qurbana. People prepared themselves for the great feast of Resurrection from the very beginning of the Lenten season. This observance instructs us the way of living during the Lenten season in the spirit of purification, transformation and conversion, as the Ninevites who wore sack cloths and seated in the ashes as the expression of their penance and repentance.



### VIBHOOTHI THIRUNNAL - ASH MONDAY

As per the tradition of Syro-Malabar Church, the first Monday of the Great Lent (Suama Ramba), Vibhoothi Thirunnal was celebrated at the Church of Divine Mercy, Lucan, Church of Incarnation, Fettercairn Tallaght and Church of Sacred Heart, Huntstown Blanchardstown. Hundreds of faithful participated in this spiritual ceremony.

### WAY OF THE CROSS TO BRAY HEAD

On 12th April 2019 (40th day of the Lenten Season), SMC faithful conducted the Via Sacra (Way of the Cross) to the Bray Head. Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil was the main celebrant of the Holy Qurbana at 3pm in St. Fergal's Church Bray. Hundreds of faithful from different Holy Qurbana centres of Dublin gathered at the car park of the Bray Head, pondering over the Passion of our Lord they joined in the prayers of the Way of the Cross to the Bray Head. Rev. Dr. Fr. Ignatius Kunnumpuram OCD gave the message. Zonal committee of Dublin and faithful of Bray Qurbana centre led the event.





(SYRO MALABAR INCLUSIVE LIFE EXPERIENCE)

Forum of Children with special needs and Families



**POPE FRANCIS ON DISABILITY**

“LOVE AND SOLIDARITY ARE WHAT MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, NOT A FOCUS ON PHYSICAL PERFECTION AND HIDING AWAY THOSE WHO DO NOT FIT A COMMERCIAL IDEAL”

**SMILE- (Syro Malabar Inclusive Life Experience) - A rationale**

The catholic tradition considers every human life as equal and respects the dignity and values of life. Bishop Terry Brady- who is the chairman of the commission for Pastoral Life in the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference once suggested that 'Parish communities need every person to be part of the worshipping body. A Parish is not complete or whole unless it includes, nurtures, and rejoices in each of its members. Parishes are called to be communities that gladly and authentically welcome people with disability and their families to life of the Church'.

Syro Malabar Church in Ireland is following models of inclusion through our humble initiative named as SMILE- (Syro Malabar Inclusive Life Experience). At present there are several beneficiaries of SMILE programme, mostly families spread through various mass centers of the Syro Malabar Church in Ireland.

SMILE is a humble attempt where we develop inclusive programmes for the support of children and families with special needs. The main aim of the programme is to bring our specially gifted children and their families to the main stream of the church, where they could enjoy all the sacramental and ecclesial rights of the church.



SMILE has undertaken several inclusive adaptive Holy Masses for our specially gifted children and their families. It is envisaged to have a Holy Mass every month, but at the moment due to the nature of the pandemic restrictions, is facing challenges. There was a special Holy Mass and prayer session led by Fr. Xavier Khan Vattayil- director of Sehion Ministries during the time of our Annual Retreat 2019, where in our specially gifted children and their families were offered a Holy Mass and anointed personally.

SMILE has conducted an Occupational Therapy Awareness class in association with the Mathruvedi unit for the parents at Blanchardstown Mass centre during the start of 2020, which was apprised and accepted by the entire group.

SMILE offers advocacy, information on entitlements, individual sharing and mutual supports whenever required to its beneficiaries.

SMILE acts as an instrument for real inclusion in the Syro Malabar Church in Ireland. SMILE follows Pope Francis's words- "The way we experience illness and disability is an index of the love we are ready to offer".

Each and every one of us is created in the image of God. God's love is unconditional and he loves his creation in the state they are; with all their strengths and weaknesses. Christ has taught us liberation through his unconditional love and hope. Christ considered every individual as equal and unique.

We as the faithful in Syro Malabar Church are called for spreading the God's love in our day today dealings and while doing so, we require offering equal value and dignity to everyone, which includes our specially gifted children.

As the members of the church, everyone has a role in offering supports to our specially gifted members and their families. This role includes a translation of examples of inclusion set forward by Christ into practical actions and through this, contributions of each and every member, even if it is in little dimensions are acknowledged and respected. (For example- it takes a lot of effort for a specially gifted child to attend a catechism class. It takes long for a family to prepare their specially gifted child to attend a mass.) This is a joint responsibility as the baptismal rights of the individuals require to be respected and SMILE aims for this inclusion.

**---- CONTACTS ----**

REV. DR. CLEMENT PADATHIPARAMBIL- 0894927755

REV. FR. RAJESH JOSEPH - 089 444 2688

REV. FR. ROY VATTAKKATTU - 089 459 0705

**PROJECT CO- ORDINATORS**

BINU ANTONY - 0876929846

JINCY JERRY - 0876743044

JOY THOMAS - 0879345514

## The Feast of Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin was celebrated with great Devotion and Profound Faith



The Dublin Syro-Malabar Church celebrated the 'All Saints day and the Angels Meet' at Mary Immaculate Church Inchicore on 1st September 2019, at 2:00 p.m. The faithful from 9 Holy Qurbana centres jointly celebrated this feast. Rev. Dr. Fr. Joseph Vellenal OCD was the main celebrant on the occasion. Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath and Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu were the concelebrants. About hundreds of First Holy Communicants from 9 different Mass Centres participated in this celebration. The First Holy Communicants were given special prizes on this auspicious occasion. After the holy Qurbana the faithful participated in the procession singing the Litany of the Saints and designated person carrying the statues of the saints.

### "VACHANA VISMAYAM" – Magic of Miraculous Word of God, Online Magic Show

Bible stories, Christian teachings, basic moral principles, social themes were expressed through magic show, which was organised for the Syro-Malabar children created wonder and deep impression among the viewers in Ireland through online on 18th July Saturday at 7.15 pm. Rev. Fr. Michael Ousepparambil from the eparchy of Palai, was the person who attracted the audience by his magical skills. The catechism students and family members participated with great enthusiasm and joy. Fr. Michael who conducted the public performances of magic shows, always connected his performances with religious and social themes. He is also a full-time preacher in the charismatic renewal movement. Fr. Michael has been doing Vachana-Vismayam, miracle of Word of God through magical session of the media section of Palai Diocese called Palai Communications. His magical skills for preaching the Word of God was a new experience for the faithful in Ireland.



### "ASHWASAM" - CONSOLATION

A spiritually inspiring talk by famous retreat preacher and spiritual writer, Rev. Fr. Bobby Jose Vetticad Capuchin was conducted online on 12th July, 2020 at 7 pm. During this session he spoke about the divine plan for us in this crucial Covid-19 pandemic.

### Two beautiful songs from Ireland to the Malayalam Christian Songs' Milieu.

Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath, Chaplain of the Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin and a priest of Archeparchy of Tellicherry composed and gave music to two songs during this pandemic. The first song was an intercession to our Lady of the most Holy Rosary to heal the humanity from the fear of this pandemic. "Let there be healing to all those who are ill." The famous Malayalam Christian Singer Kester sang this song. Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, the National Coordinator, officially released the song which supplicates 'Protect this world, Remove this illness' at Fettercairn Church of the Incarnation, Tallaght. Rev Fr. Roy Vattakattu, Catechism Director of SMC Ireland and Rev Fr. Sebastian OCD were present during the launching session. Another renowned singer Chithra Arun sang the second song beginning with, 'When each family prays together, it becomes a Rosary'.





Solemn Reception of  
**Holy Eucharist**  
2019



▲ **BLANCHARDSTOWN**



▲ **BLACKROCK**



▲ **BRAY**



▲ **PHIBSBOROUGH**



▲ **LUCAN**



▲ **SWORDS**



▲ **TALLAGHT**



▲ TALLAGHT

Solemn Reception of  
**Holy Eucharist**  
2020



▲ PHIBSBOROUGH



▲ LUCAN



▲ INCHICORE



▲ BRAY



▲ BLACKROCK



▲ BLANCHARDSTOWN

# SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH IRELAND

*Our aim: With the guidance of respective local ordinaries and suggestions of Apostolic Visitor, our aim is to form children and youth spiritually and socially with the genuine support of parents and the people of goodwill. We try our best to impart the faith we received upholding the rich spiritual, theological, liturgical and disciplinary patrimony of the Syro-Malabar Church.*

## History of Syro- Malabar Church in Ireland

The inception of the Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland began with the migration of its faithful to Ireland mainly from various districts of Kerala, India since the beginning of the year 2000. Initially there were very few families migrated to Ireland. Later due to the economic growth of Ireland during the period of 2002-2006 the demands for highly qualified health care professionals increased. Majority of the health care professionals recruited at that time were from Kerala which augmented the number of Syro-Malabar Catholic families by the year 2005. Between the years 2000-2005 Catholic priests who had come from Kerala for their higher studies catered the spiritual needs of the Syro-Malabar faithful in Ireland. Acknowledging the religious needs of the Syro-Malabar faithful (to hand over the glorious heritage of St. Thomas Christians to our children in this foreign country) Archbishop Most Rev. Diarmuid Martin of the Archdiocese of Dublin, welcomed the request of His Beatitude (late) Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil (Major Archbishop) to appoint two chaplains for the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful. That was the beginning of the Syro- Malabar Mission in Ireland. Considering the sizeable number of Syro-Malabar faithful communities residing in the Island of Ireland (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland), the Syro-Malabar Bishops' Synod proposed to have a National Coordinator for the Syro-Malabar faithful in Ireland. Accordingly, the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ireland, appointed Msgr. Antony Perumayan as the National Coordinator for the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Ireland on 17th December 2013. An Apostolic Visitorator was appointed by the Holy See on 1 November 2016.

The Syro-Malabar Community in the Archdiocese of Dublin since 2005 have been submitting the audited accounts to the Archdiocese of Dublin. It ever remained a separate account. In such a situation for clarity, precision and transparency before the civil and ecclesial realm, there were detailed discussions between Syro-Malabar Officials and Financial experts of the Archdiocese of Dublin. "They have considered all aspects of the activities of the Syro-Malabar Community, both in Dublin and nationwide and have concluded that the appropriate governance structure is that the Community applies for its own registration with the Charities Regulatory Authority to cover the entire country." Based on the aforementioned Financial and legal experts' advice and direction, for the sake of financial administrative convenience, the SMC Dublin Zonal Coordination initiated the process of registration as charitable Trusts for the Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin and for other regions of Ireland namely Belfast, Cork and Galway and in general, also for the whole of Ireland.

In March 2020, Msgr. Dr. Antony Perumayan left his role as National Coordinator of Syro-Malabar Church in the Island of Ireland to resume his ministry in the home diocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. At the instance, on 6th April 2020, Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, who is currently Finance officer of the National Coordination Council and the Coordinator of the Dublin Zonal Coordination Council, appointed as the National Coordinator of Syro-Malabar Church in the Island of Ireland.



**PALLIYOGAM-PROCEDURE RULES:** In order to coordinate and regulate the day today organization and administration of the Church activities under the National Coordinator, the PALLIYOGAM-PROCEDURE RULES promulgated in the Code of Particular Law of the Syro-Malabar Church (Mount St. Thomas, 2013) are adapted to the milieu of the Holy Qurbana Centres/Parishes in Ireland. Thereafter all the other existing Palliyogam Procedures followed are replaced with the new Procedure Rules viz., PALLIYOGAM OF THE SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE ISLAND OF IRELAND by the order-Prot. No. 454/2016.

**Coordination Councils:** The National Coordination Council (Sabhayogham), The Regional Coordination Councils, The Holy Qurbana Centres' Committees, all collaborate together for the effective outcome of the pastoral ministry.

**Qurbana Centres:** Presently we have 41 Holy Qurbana centres in whole Ireland. Appreciatively remember all the priests and religious who have contributed to the growth of this vibrant Church and still contributing.

**Pious Associations:** Syro-Malabar Youth Movement, Mathruvedi, Pithruvedi (Vincent De Paul Society and different ministries of the church work together for the integral growth of this apostolic community.

**The Catechism:** Formal and Systematic faith formation takes place at the parish level. The Catechism classes are conducted mostly on Sundays so that the faith is imparted in the context of the celebration of the Day of the Lord namely the Sunday Holy Eucharist. The priests, the catechism teachers and the parish councils bear the prime responsibility for the catechetical formation of Children and young adults.

**Safeguarding Children:** The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church Ireland is committed to the implementation of respective local diocesan' Child Safeguarding Statement, policies, the practices and procedures that support our commitment to keeping children safe and secure while engaged in Church activities.

**Garda Vetting:** Garda vetting applications are submitted through the respective local diocese in the island of Ireland. The GNVB Affiliate registration number of the Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland is: GNVB/2011/NL29

**GDPR:** Syro Malabar Catholic Church Ireland complies with its obligations under the “GDPR” by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

**Parish Management System PMS :** The Syromalabar Catholic Church Ireland is introducing an online ‘Athmastithi Kanakku’ for all members of the Syromalabar Church in Ireland. Every family has a unique login page for maintaining their information centrally. PMS provides unique Family Number for a family and Member Number for each member permanently based on a Parish. Syromalabar Church activities- Catechism, Retreat, Youth Movement, etc.,- are being controlled through this centralized software called PMS .It is a highly secure cloud system with inclusive backup recovery, upgrades and support and it’s URL link <https://smcpms.ie> is officially registered under the ownership of Syromalabar Catholic Church Ireland.

**PMS Online Accounting Software:** The Syro Malabar Catholic Church Ireland required an accounting solution that would meet their complex reporting needs whilst also providing a user-friendly system that parishes could easily adopt. This allowed a step-change away from paper, spreadsheet and book-keeping systems.

#### The Key Features:

- ✓ A highly secure cloud system with inclusive backup recovery, upgrades and support.
- ✓ Consolidation of all mass centres into a single reporting charity number was key which also facilitates a simplified internal and external auditing process.
- ✓ Financial Reports helps us to conduct a proper financial analysis of the Mass Centres.
- ✓ Facility to record VAT amount in order to submit claims under the VAT Compensation Scheme.
- ✓ A facility to integrate online payments into PMS Accounting software.

**Knock Pilgrimage** is a national spiritual feast of SMC in Ireland. The SMC faithful from different parts of Ireland come together beneath the feet of Our Lady of Knock to entrust their pains and panics and seek consolation through her intercession. Knock Pilgrimage Collections: 2019 € 3,844.45; 2018 €3,831.40 Source of Income: There are two collections taken up in the Knock Basilica during the Knock pilgrimage. The first collection is for the activities of National Coordination Council. The second collection is for Knock Shrine.

#### STRUCTURE:

The registration number of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church Ireland with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) is 20201956.

The Charity is registered with the Revenue Commissioners as being established for charitable purposes—CHY No.22285.

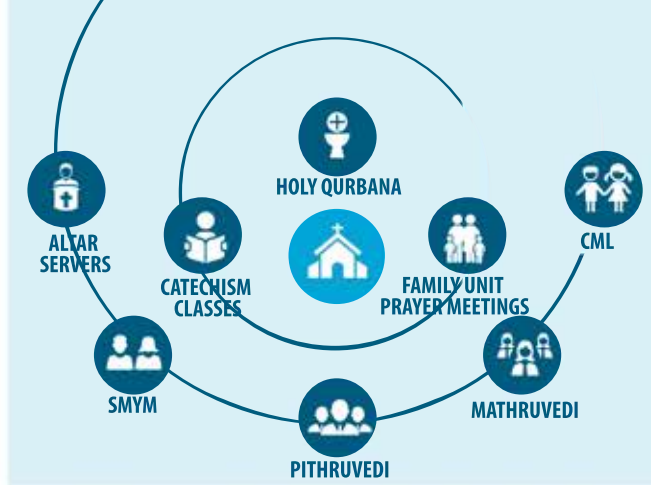
#### RELATED CHARITIES

The Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland for pastoral convenience have divided into four regions Belfast, Dublin, Cork and Galway.

Syro-Malabar Catholic Church of Dublin (RCN:20202675)  
 Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in N. Ireland (Charity No.106671)  
 Syro-Malabar Catholic Church of Cork (RCN:20204848)  
 Syro-Malabar Catholic Church of Galway- (In process)

**Auditors:** Hayden Brown  
 Grafton Buildings, 34 Grafton Street, Dublin 2

**Solicitors:** Mason Hayes & Curran  
 South Bank House, Barrow St, Dublin 4



**A need for integration of Indian and Irish Cultures:** We belong to a great tradition of East which is innately religious. We belong to a catholic tradition founded by St. Thomas the Apostle of Jesus. We came to this land of St. Patrick with a lot of dreams and desires. This land happily accommodated us. We should be thankful to the great Irish missionaries who exported faith to far and near. The present Ireland witness to Jesus by their great involvement in the charitable endeavours (DEUS CARITAS EST). We appreciate their system of education. We are astonished at their affection and unassuming nature. We appreciate their gentlemanliness. Our response can be in the following ways

1. Being a loving presence in the place you live
2. Respecting the laws and regulations of this land and the church
3. Sharing our traditional Christian cultural artistic expressions with the Irish community of our vicinities on the occasions of main feasts
4. Standing together in the fight for Christian Values
5. Actively involving in the common events of the Diocese and parishes
6. Above all working together as one community based on faith and charity.

**Erection of parishes and other adequate ecclesial structures:** As we see in England, USA, Australia and Canada, the Syro-Malabar Church is flourishing in an incredible momentum at all levels. Can we aspire for such divine dreams to be actualised in the immediate future so that the variegated beauty of the Catholic Church shines forth in its diversity of particular churches? Let us pray for the better future of our church in Ireland with the intervention of the concerned authorities for the adequate provision of the ecclesial structures.

#### Acknowledgement

Our sincere thanks to Mar Stephen Chirappanath, the Apostolic Visitor for the Syro-Malabar faithful in Europe, for his presence, guidance, preaching, prayer and personal relationship with the community which has given a great impetus to the integral growth of SMC in Ireland. Sincere gratitude to His Beatitude Cardinal George Alencherry and the Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin, for their great and strenuous effort for the development of SMC in Ireland. How can we forget all the Archbishops and Bishops who gave us gentle and generous support for the SMC to its present status? With deep sense of gratitude, we extend our sincere appreciation to Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. He was and is always like a silent sentinel who shows us the way of faith, hope and love. It is his goodwill and thoughtfulness that we have a Church in Rialto and a Pastoral Centre for our wide variety of ecclesial needs.

Gratefully remember all those who have wonderfully worked for the growth of this community, the group of Nurses, their families, the priests and bishops who facilitated for the growth of SMCCI. Prayer meetings and Qurbana in the houses in the beginning and later in the parish halls, were a great experience of communion and fellowship of SMC and ever an expression and celebration of our culture.

## **DORMITIO MARIAE - The Feast of Our Lady of Assumption in Finglas**



The Feast of Our Lady of Assumption was celebrated on 15th August 2019 at 5pm at St. Canice's Church Finglas. All those who bear the name of Mary were honoured during the celebration. Ladinju, Procession carrying the statue of Our Lady, Thirunnal Nercha (Festal offering) were the main spiritual events of the feast.

## **Feast of Holy Innocents and Dedication of Kids before Infant Jesus (Adimavekkal)**



On Saturday 28th December 2019 at 9.30 am, in the Church of Incarnation, Fettercairn, Tallaght, Syro-Malabar Church celebrated the Feast of Holy Innocents. Apostolic Visitor for the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Europe, Mar Stephen Chirappanath, presided over the ceremony. Offertory procession, dedication of children to the Infant Jesus (ADIMAVEKKAL), special blessings for children were the specific programmes of that day besides the Holy Qurbana. Children were given gifts. Subsequently, there was also cake cutting to celebrate the feast. Bishop in his homily said, "When Herod heard about the birth of Jesus, he wanted to see the child and kill him. But his attempt failed. So, he killed all the children below the age of two in that region. Those children are the first martyrs of the Church and they were the first saints of our Church. The presence of Christ and Christian ventures are always a threat against the authoritarian and egoistic world." The early Church observed this day as the day of Innocents. It is also a practice in the modern Catholic Church to celebrate the Feast of Holy Innocents.

## **"PADUVEEYEM"- Feast of St. Anthony**



Feast of St. Anthony 'PADUVEEYEM' was celebrated on Thursday 13th June 2019 at Mary Immaculate Church, Inchicore. The celebration started with Holy Rosary at 6 pm followed by Solemn Holy Qurbana. Novena, Ladinju, Procession and Distribution of Nercha offering added spiritual fervour to the feast day celebrations. There was a special prayer for all the faithful who bear the name of Anthony and Anto. Special prayers were also conducted for children who were preparing for exams. Nine days of novena and Qurbana were celebrated at Our Lady of Holy Rosary Church, Rialto in preparation for 'PADUVEEYEM'.

## **Sadharam 19 – The Feast of the Death of St. Joseph**



SMC celebrated the feast of St. Joseph at St. Joseph's Blackrock (Guardian Angels Church, Newtownpark) on 19th March 2019. The praise and worship session at 5 pm and subsequent Music Ministry by the Choir, Ministry of the Word, Ladinju, Novena, created a great atmosphere of prayer and reflection. The procession conducted after the Solemn Holy Qurbana gave a spiritual nostalgia of the feast celebrated in Kerala. The day was commemorated as Pithrudinam (day of fathers). All the male parents/guardians of the family and those who bear the name Joseph were specially remembered and honoured. Those who were in the church's leadership were also remembered. The feast came to a happy conclusion with a fellowship meal (Agape). There were special prayers for children seeking the protection and patronage of St. Joseph.

## **Reflection of May Month Devotion (Vanakkamasa Chinthakal)**

Video Presentations and Reflection and Experience Sharing on Marian devotion and Marian filial piety by the children and the youth gave a new spiritual fervour and Marian flavour to the month of May.



## **"At every moment and on every day, we have to celebrate Christmas" – Bishop Stephen Chirappanath**

"Let us narrow down the gap between our humanity and divinity and celebrate every day and every moment the Nativity of Our Lord. Then only the relevance of Christmas becomes a reality."- Bishop Stephen mentioned in his Nativity message. In the different Qurbana Centres of Dublin there were celebrations of the Nativity and Holy Qurbana.



## Dedication of the Relic of St. Anthony of Padova at Tallaght



On 26th November, Tuesday, the relic of Saint Anthony of Padova was officially placed at Tallaght, Holy Qurbana Centre by Mar George Valiamattam, the Archbishop Emeritus of Thalassery Archdiocese. On this auspicious occasion the Archbishop George presided over the Divine Liturgy. Presently the relic is placed at the Church of Incarnation, Fettercairn, Tallaght Holy Qurbana Centre. The relic was brought from Italy from the Basilica of St. Antony of Padua. Every Tuesday, at 6 pm there is Holy Qurbana and Novena of St. Anthony in the Fettercairn Church.

## Orukkam (Preparation) – Marriage Preparation Course



The Marriage preparation courses under the auspices of the Family Apostolate Department of Syro-Malabar Church, Ireland were held at Holy Rosary Church, Ballycragh and Our Lady of Holy Rosary of Fatima Church, Rialto. About 150 Youth attended the seminars which were conducted in the months of February, August, and November 2019 and in February, August 2020. The course was designed according to the syllabus of the Syro-Malabar Major Archbishopial Church and recognized by all the eparchies.

## Pleroma –Mission Fest

Christian artistic and literary competitions for children and youth were conducted in different Qurbana Centres on 7th December 2019. Dublin Zonal committee, Parish Committees and Catechism Department led this venture. Mission Fest in the parish level was conducted from December 2019 to February 2020. All other competitions and award giving ceremony were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.



## The Feast of St. Sebastian solemnly celebrated at Lucan Holy Qurbana Centre



The feast of St. Sebastian was solemnly celebrated on 26th January 2020 at 3.30 pm in the Divine Mercy Lucan Holy Qurbana Centre. (Parish of our Ladys Nativity, Leixlip) Ladinju, Solemn Holy Qurbana, Novena, Procession and fellowship meal gave a spiritual and social lift to the worshipping throng. There was Ambu Ezhunallippu (procession of the arrows symbolizing the arrows pierced on the body of St. Sebastian). People who bear the names Sebastian, Seby, Davis, Devassy were specially honoured.

## Welcome All Youth(WAY) – Catholic Youth Movement



On 30th November 2019, Saturday the youth who have come from India to Ireland for Studies and Jobs gathered at Rialto Parish. This meeting started at 3 pm and ended with a dinner at 8 pm. Honourable Second Secretary, Shri Terence Jude Dick (Head of Chancery and Culture) of Embassy of India and Mr. Manu led the classes. A variety of useful programmes were arranged for youth to alleviate their tensions related to job and studies. The meeting discussed about solving the issues related to the migrant youth. National Coordinator Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath, Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu, Zonal Secretary, Trustees, Mr. Jimmy Antony and Mr Maju Peckal led the session.

## Hagios

About hundred children participated in the audio-visual program introducing the saints of the Catholic Church. This programme helped to continue the communion of children and helped them to be cognisant of the lives of the Saints in the Church



## Word of God Challenge

In the months of April and May under the auspices of Catechism Department conducted 'Word of God Challenge' for children. They presented the Word of God which were apt and fitting for the pandemic situation that helped to discern the divine plan.



## Hridayathalam

In the years 2019 and 2020 in preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord, Rev Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath gave the morning messages in the name 'Hridayathalam'. Fr. Rajesh in his very inspiring and motivating messages stressed that prayer, good works, charity, good moral behaviour will lead to happiness of human beings.

“Mothers are the strongest antidote to the spread of self-centred individualism. “Individual” means “what cannot be divided”. Mothers, instead, “divide” themselves, from the moment they bear a child to give him/her to the world and help him/her grow.”

Pope Francis



## Mathruvedi

Mothers are the most influential factor for Christian formation in the family. Syro-Malabar Catholic Church has always been very keen in the welfare and upbringing of its women folk. Mathruvedi is an association of Syro-Malabar Faithful mothers, wherein they foster their talents, strengthen spirituality, and assure religious progress. Mathruvedi ensures active participation of women in the cultural and spiritual fabric of the church. The goal of Mathruvedi is imbibing Christian values in families, developing and nurturing leadership qualities of mothers, upbringing the dignity of human life and promoting values of life and most importantly enabling mothers to proclaim faith to the present generation and generations to come. Mathruvedi has chosen Mother Mary as their spiritual guide, through whom they foster their inherent capabilities and strengthen their spiritual power. The official motto of Mathruvedi is

“Mother, the Protector of Life and the Light of Family”

## MARIAN QUIZ



Marian Quiz was conducted online under the auspices of Mathruvedi and was held on all Saturdays during the Month of October 2020 for women of Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland. Many participants attended Marian Quiz programme from all parts of Ireland. The main intention of this Marian Quiz was to know Our Lady clearly, and to love her dearly and to follow her path very nearly. Rosary, Mary in the Gospel, Marian apparitions, Church teachings on Mary, History of Our Lady, Saints who had special devotion to Our Lady, Popes who spoke about Our Lady, Places and Painting of Our Lady were the different themes chosen for this Marian Quiz. Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath was the Quiz Master. Mathruvedi members coordinated the Quiz Program. Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil and Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu assisted the program. Jincy Jiji and Alphonsa Binu coordinated the program. **Mereena Wilson, (Tallaght), Leena Varghese (Bray), Reeja Geordy, (Phibsborough)** were the winners. They were given special appreciation and felicitation soon after the quiz programme.



Mathruvedi was formally inaugurated by Bishop Rev. Dr. Stephen Chirappanath (Apostolic Visitor Europe) during May 2018 at Knock Basilica, Ireland.

During the year 2018- 2019, Mathruvedi units were formed and office bearers were appointed in all nine Mass Centres of Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin, Ireland.

SMCC National Coordinator, Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil is the Director for Mathruvedi, Dublin. Mathruvedi units in each Mass Centre coordinate various activities in the Mass Centres and get involved in every aspects of church activities. An Executive group of all Mathruvedi representatives from individual Mass Centres were formed in 2020, aiming for organising various activities at the central level, in order to enable its members in the formation of families based on the Christian virtues and values. Mathruvedi was instrumental in organising an online “Marian Quiz” programme for all SMCC women from all over Ireland who are above 18 years. This Quiz Programme ran over a period of four consecutive Saturdays during October 2020 aimed at to impart knowledge about Mother Mary. Mathruvedi also initiated a new programme named “Akhana Japamala” on 31st October, where women recited Chain Rosary at the Parish of Our Lady of Holy Rosary of Fathima, Rialto.

Mathruvedi made use of the benefits of technology during COVID-19 Pandemic to engage and offer soothing spirits to its members. Impossibilities were transformed to possibilities, with the effective use of technology and virtual meetings.

In preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary and celebration of Mathruvedi Day, a grand programme was conceptualized. “Maria Pulary” was a video streaming programme, wherein one representative from each Mass Centre created and posted video every morning from November 30th, until December 8th. These short videos included personal healing experiences and their enhancements in prayer life in devotion to Mother Mary.

“Mathrusandhya” was an online Holy Rosary prayer service for all families, which was led by Mathruvedi units in each Mass Centres. This programme contained a Bible reading session and some beautiful Marian songs.

“Immaculata”, an online celebration conducted by Mathruvedi on December 8th, to observe the Mathruvedi day and Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary. This service was presided by His Excellency Bishop Dr. Stephen Chirappanath and Feast day Message was given by Rev Fr. Sebastian Nellankuzhiyil OCD.

Mathruvedi from its humble beginning has now been contributing for the overall development of its members, and Church as a Whole. We hope this modest organisation within the church could guide our women effectively in the formulation of a faith-based family structure.

# CATECHISM

The Catechism department of the Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland is a response to the clarion call of Jesus Christ "Go to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" Mk. 16:15. Syro-Malabar Church founded by St. Thomas, the Apostle of Jesus in AD 52 tries its best to preserve the spiritual, theological, liturgical and disciplinary patrimony in the form of Catechism in various ways.

1. Family as the domestic Church initiates children to faith, traditions and customs at the very early stage.
2. Family units (Basic Ecclesial communities) in the mode of early Church (Prayer, Breaking of the Word, Breaking of the Bread and Communion) is another locus for prayer and fellowship.
3. Liturgy is the divine milieu where Christ's teaching is carried out through the Proclamation of the Word of God, prayers and hymns.
4. Sunday Catechism class is the best means to help the faithful to believe and practice the faith in Jesus the Son of God and to build up the mystical body of Christ i.e.; the Church.
5. Modern means of communication helps us to reach the people swiftly and personally. These are the astute ways we can preach the Gospel of joy to the youth and children.

The Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland has initiated number of activities for the good of the children, parents and teachers so that they may be enriched by the gifts of the Holy spirit and be enhanced in the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge and may worship God the Father in truth and spirit.

Following are the activities we have done so far.

1. Regular Sunday Catechism classes in all the Mass Centres.
2. Special classes for children of class II for the preparation of Holy Communion.
3. Dublin Catechism Teachers' Convention.
4. All Ireland Catechism Teachers' Convention.
5. Holy Qurbana in English for Children.
6. Formation of Children's choir for Qurbana.
7. Gloria – 2020 – Elocution for children during Christmas.
8. "Biblia" – Bible Quiz competition for all the Mass Centres.
9. Bible Fest – a meeting of talents for Christian cultural expressions.
10. Catechism Teachers' special training program class wise.
11. Hagios – Audio visual program for children introducing saints.
12. Planning of Alpha Theology Course and classes on Catechism of the Catholic Church for teachers.
13. Special prize distribution for all those who have secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions for the exams conducted in all Mass Centres in Dublin.

Presently there are 192 catechism teachers in 11 Mass Centres and 1339 students in Dublin zone and 359 catechism teachers and 2093 students in whole Ireland guided by director, Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu with a very good catechism team in Dublin zone and for whole of Ireland.



## A CONVENOR FOR SYRO-MALABAR COMBINED CATECHETICAL MISSION (SMCCM) OUTSIDE INDIA

The first meeting of the Combined Catechetical Mission was held on August 10 – 2020, an initiative to coordinate the Catechetical Ministries of the Syro-Malabar Church in the Eparchies and the Apostolic Visitations outside India by collaborating in all the realms possible to make the ministry more effective.

Discussions in the presence of Respective Bishops, priests and designated lay representatives, uncoiled the possibilities of fulfilling the short-term goal of the collection and distribution of all available online resources, ranging from workbooks, online textbook formats, other related videos, and catechetical resources from different eparchies and apostolic visitations, through a common platform. Rev. Fr. Roy George Vattakattu was nominated as its Convenor, the National Director of Catechism, Syro-Malabar Church, Ireland. His past experience as the Director of Catechism, Eparchy of Mananthawady and currently as the director of SMC Catechism, Ireland will be a great asset for this very useful venture. The Ireland Catechism department, and Mr. Pintu Jacob and Ms. Sibil Rose Sabu are assisting this new undertaking.

**SMCCM Website: <https://smccm.org>**





## SMYM DUBLIN



## SMYM DUBLIN

Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) is the official youth movement of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church globally. Although we have had movements like "Youth Ignite" in Dublin prior to the introduction of SMYM, the need for a movement with a global uniformity with the Syro-Malabar tradition led to the establishment of SMYM Dublin. Initiated through "Nuova Amicizia.", under the Directorship of Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath in December 2019, and duly supported by Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil (National Co-ordinator) and Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu (Catechism Director), SMYM Dublin has over 400 members from the 9 Mass Centers in Dublin.

SMYM Dublin tries to live out its mission to lead all the youth of our community to follow the tradition and beliefs of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, and strives to bind them together as an integral part of the Church, and helps to develop them as future leaders/members of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church. SMYM Dublin has actively organised various programs and activities aimed at the holistic development of youth, aligning its members with the religious and social causes of the Church. The programs designed by SMYM Dublin contribute to the development and growth of faith in its members, developing the leadership skills and enabling our youth to be future leaders of the church, encouraging them to pro-life, educating them on values of life and the Church's teachings by the use of social media, retreats, soft-skills training, counselling, participation in Holy Mass and inspiring them to support in Church activities which help in the personal development of the youth. The office bearers for the youth from among them is an ideal platform for them to harness their leadership skills and abilities under the able guidance and support of the Chaplains.

### Few Highlights of SMYM Dublin Activities:

#### 'Lead 1'

SMYM DUBLIN's official inauguration and initial senate meeting, "Lead", was held on 09 February 2019 in the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Fatima, Rialto.

The day commenced with Holy Qurbana celebrated by Bishop Stephen Chirappanath, followed by his message to the youth explaining the vision of youth ministry in Europe. The first SMYM Dublin Executive team was elected with Kevin Jose as its President. Bishop Stephen Chirappanath inaugurated SMYM in Dublin by lighting the lamp along with the newly appointed executive team, animators and Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath, Director of SMYM Dublin. The event culminated with a group discussion and presentation of ideas for an action plan and ended with the bishop's blessings.

#### 'Caritas'

CARITAS- A faith filled and entertaining residential camp for the youth took place in De La Salle Retreat Centre, Co. Laois from 16 August 2019 to 18 August 2019. The three-day camp was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil and Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu. The camp, which was attended by 60 youth was led by SMYM Ireland Director, Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath and SMYM Dublin Executive. The three days were filled with enlightening sessions, music, games, sports, competitions, movies, magazine and poster presentations, prayer, praise and worship and Holy Qurbana. The youth described the camp as a great opportunity to connect with their peers in a fun and spiritual environment.

#### 'Lumen Christi'

SMYM DUBLIN celebrated its first Patron's Day, Marian Night and Youth Convention on 20 October 2019 to observe the feast of SMYM's heavenly patron, Pope John Paul II. The programme was held in the Church of the Incarnation, Fettercairn, Tallaght. Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil inaugurated the youth convention which was attended by over 200 youth. The convention was led by Binu KP and focused on the need for the youth to involve themselves in the activities of the Church and the importance of being a witness to Catholic Faith and Culture in this modern era. The solemn Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Bishop Stephen Chirappanath followed by a Marian Rosary Procession led by the youth. The day ended with the final blessing of Mar Stephen Chirappanath who reminded the youth to be saints of the 21st century like Blessed Carlo Acutis.

### **'SMYM Football Tournament'**

Football is one of the most popular sports world-wide and helps in bringing youth together. SMYM DUBLIN conducted a football tournament for youth on 27 July 2019. The tournament had play-offs, semi-final and finals on the same day. Various boys' teams from the different Mass Centres competed with each other for the prestigious SMYM DUBLIN Football Trophy. SMYM Lucan ended up as overall winners and secured the 1st prize and rolling trophy, while Tallaght finished as runners up. The day provided an opportunity for youth of all locations to get together and have a fun-filled day in fellowship and comradery.



### **'Knock Pilgrimage 2019'**

Youth representation in Knock Pilgrimage 2019 depicts an excellent example of youth participation and leadership in Syro-Malabar Catholic Church's activities and its future. The youth from all Mass Centers were actively involved in supporting the committee members in the smooth conduct of all the events on this day.

### **'Youth Retreat':**

Participation and leadership of youth from different parts of Ireland under the leadership of SMYM Dublin during the annual family retreats has proved to be a great motivation for teenagers and youth members of Syro-Malabar Church. The overwhelming attendance of the youth in these retreats and their active participation were a great depiction of their faith which manifested in their praise, worship and fellowship. The current pandemic did not defeat the spirit of youth where they effectively used online media to proclaim their faith by organising and attending zoom workshops and seminars.



### **'Multicultural Carol Singing'**

SMYM DUBLIN represented the Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin at the Multicultural Carol Singing Service on December 8 2019, held in Holy Family Church in Aghrim Street. The occasion consisted of Catholic communities of different rites and nationalities each performing in their own language and music. The Syro-Malabar youth sang two Malayalam carols with live instruments. The night was a wonderful opportunity to cherish one's own faith and to be introduced to the vibrancy and diversity of different sister churches.



### **'Shubaho 2019'**

SMYM DUBLIN represented the Syro-Malabar Community in Ireland at the Kerala Christian Union's Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service, Shubaho 2019. Conducted every year, this carol service showcases the various churches of different denominations and rites originating from Kerala, who perform at this annual event. SMYM DUBLIN was duly represented by the youth from various Mass Centres, who concluded SMC Ireland's performance with an English Carol that rocked the event. The program boasts of a prestigious guest list including the



land.

### **Crib and Christmas tree competition 2019:**

Crib and Christmas tree competition organised and executed by Youth members in many of the Mass Centres added season's spirit, Peace and Joy to the Christmas time.



### **'Lead 2'**

The second Senate Meeting of SMYM DUBLIN was held on 01 February 2020 in the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Fatima, Rialto. The meeting started with Holy Qurbana celebrated by Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath, Director of SMYM Ireland. Thereafter, Fr. Rajesh welcomed all senate members to the meeting. The National Coordinator of Ireland, Rev Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil graced the occasion with the keynote address followed by presidential speech by Sibil Rose Sabu. Secretary, Meenu George read the activity report of SMYM Dublin for the year 2019 and treasurer, Jeff Kottaram read the financial report for the year 2020 followed by the secretaries of respective Mass Centres reading their SMYM unit's activity reports for the year 2019. The tenure of SMYM Dublin team was extended as Sibil Rose Sabu as the president. The additional councillors were elected during this session. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks, conveyed by general secretary, Jijo Vincent.



## 'Oshana Singing Challenge'

SMYM DUBLIN organized an online singing challenge on Palm Sunday 2020. As the doors of Churches remained closed for the public during the Holy Week due to Covid-19, no hymns were sung for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Thus, SMYM DUBLIN opened an opportunity through the social media platform for all to praise Jesus with hymns. The challenge was accepted by approximately 70 participants who sent videos of them singing hosanna hymns which was then shared on Facebook and YouTube. The singers then joined together with the help of Nithin Xavier to create a cover of the famous song 'Gagaltha Malayil Ninnun'. The cover was released on Good Friday.

## 'Mar Walah - Faith Fest 2020'

SMYM DUBLIN conducted Mar Walah Online Faith Fest for children preparing them for the feast of Dukhrana on July 3rd. The feast was held on 01 July 2020 and 02 July 2020 via zoom application. Rev. Fr. Kevin Mundackal from the USA and Rev. Fr. Jackson Xavier Kizhavana from Austria led the faith fest with the participation of around 300 children. The faith fest included fun icebreakers, inspiring talks, live music, prayer, quizzes about Syro-Malabar Church and her traditions.

## 'You Can'

'YOU CAN' - youth enrichment and empowerment workshop were conducted on 30, 31 October and 01 November. The workshop was conducted through zoom application and attended by 60 youth from all regions of Ireland. Counselling Psychologist and the Director of Pope John Paul II Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy, Dr. Kurian Puramadathil led the three-day workshop. The workshop covered topics which included developing self-esteem, motivation, goal-setting, attitude, formation, stress management and positive thinking. The workshop concluded on a highly positive note from the youth who responded by saying it shone a positive light to their lives.

## 'Youth Café: Prayer, Care & Share'

Youth Cafe is an initiative of SMYM DUBLIN commenced in Nov-2020 to gather the youth for a prayer filled session to draw them closer to Christ and to nurture Christian fellowship. The prayer meeting aspires to spread the joy in Christ through praise and worship, sharing the Word of God and fun activities. The prayer meetings are conducted on the first and third Fridays of every month from 7:30 pm to 8:45pm. SMYM Dublin cordially invites all the youth in Ireland to be part of this spiritually nourishing initiative.

The SMYM Dublin has also been actively involved in events organised by SMYM Europe. Some of the programs our youth have actively participated are:

## 'Arise- SMYM Combined Mission Gathering'

SYRO-MALABAR YOUTH MOVEMENT DUBLIN participated in the first International Youth Leaders' meeting organised by the SYRO-MALABAR COMBINED MISSION. The meeting discussed potential endeavours collaborating the youth from these various eparchies and apostolic visitations to inspire each other and build great friendships among youth to grow in faith.

## 'Grand Awake'

The second European Youth Leaders' Meet, GRAND AWAKE, took place in Switzerland from 5 August 2019 to 8 August 2019. Over 60 Syro-Malabar youth leaders from various countries in Europe attended the meet and SMYM Dublin was represented by 11 youth members and an animator.

## 'Snehapranamam'

Snehapranamam - a prayer service was conducted for the departed souls and Marian Consecration of the Youth Apostolate Europe, on 29 November 2020. Members of SMYM Dublin partook in the services actively and devotedly.

## 'Ammakkarike'

The Rosary month of October was concluded with a Marian Night titled, 'Ammakkarike', organized by SMYM Europe.

## 'Cammino 2020'

SMYM Europe's official inauguration and the festal celebrations of our heavenly patron, Pope John Paul II, was held on 22 October 2020. The meeting which was conducted through zoom application was attended by over 300 involving directors, animators and youth leaders from 20 different European countries.

## 'Journey - Towards a Purpose'

Members of SMYM Dublin actively partook in the online summer youth retreat organized by SMYM Europe. The retreat was conducted via zoom on 3 July and 4 July 2020.

To conclude, the youth of Ireland have demonstrated great improvement in their faith and leadership abilities over the past two years through various activities that are conducted by SMYM Dublin under the able guidance and support from our beloved priests, Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath (Director, SMYM Dublin) and duly supported by Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil (National Co-ordinator) and Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakatt (Catechism Director).

We thankfully acknowledge the efforts of all the youth spread across all the Mass Centres of Dublin and remember them in our prayers for their active participation in all the events conducted by SMYM Dublin and for all the leadership qualities they have displayed through the conduct of various events. The levels of energy and enthusiasm they are continuing to display even at these challenging times of Covid-19 through the effective use of online resources and in designing programs that captivate and educate and strengthen our faith journey is worth a mention. Their great love and affection to our faith, that they are continually growing in is highly appreciable. We are sure they are in the right hands and are being mentored to be future leaders of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church of Ireland.





## As a seed to Tree ... Growing SMYM Dublin.

SMYM was inaugurated on November 2018 in all Syro Malabar Mass Centres, Dublin under the guidance and mentorship of Rev.Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath. Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil and Rev. Fr Roy Vattakattu have greatly contributed to the growth and success of this movement.

SMYM has successfully conducted many landmark events since its formation in 2018. SMYM has actively participated in the fund raising for St. Vincent de Paul, Dublin in September 2019 through its food stall programme. SMYM have also played an instrumental role in contributing to the Snehaveedu by its endeavour of 30 Presudenthis in September 2019. SMYM Prayer meetings are conducted in each mass centre. As part of the fund rising, SMYM organised a bake sale and it was indeed a huge success. Youth were actively involved in designing of posters for the pro-life campaign. In each mass centres youth were fortunate to honour mothers on mother's day to show their love and appreciation. Youth bring the joy of the Lord to the community through their gatherings, Christmas celebrations, and gift runs.

The SMYM members from each mass centre are also been actively involved in events organised by SMYM Europe.

The Youth of Ireland have demonstrated great improvement in their faith and leadership abilities over the past 2 years through various activities under the guidance and support from our beloved priest Rev.Fr Rajesh Mechirakath (Director SMYM Dublin). Our youth has set a remarkable example at these challenging times of Covid 19 through effective use of on line medias and designing programmes for their spiritual growth. SMYM has grown drastically over the last few years in their love and affection towards Christian faith. At times they have acted as a role model for younger children and we are confident that these SMYM members will be the future leaders of Syro- Malabar Catholic Church of Ireland.

### SMYM DUBLIN Executive 2019 – 2020

Fr. **Rajesh** Mechirakathu (Director)

Mr. **Jayan** Mukalel, Ms. **Ligimol** Varghese

Mr. **Binu** Antony, Ms. **Raji** Dominic (Animators)

**Kevin** Jose (President – 2019)

**Sibil** Rose (President – 2020)

**Jijo** Vincent (General Secretary)

**Bibin** Varghese (SMYM Global Rep)

**Jeff** Kottaram (Treasurer)

**Jamin** Joseph (Vice President)

**Anupa** Thomson (Deputy President)

**Golda** Benny (Organiser)

**Anna** Roy (Secretary)

**Divya** Sunny (Joint Secretary)

**Christy** Pious, **Meenu** George, **Nevil** Shaji,

**Emil** Thomas, **Neha** Benny, **Roshin** Sunny,

**Merin** Joseph, **Jesbin** James (Counsellors)



**THANK YOU BELOVED PRIESTS FOR YOUR PRAYER AND CARE**



**Blanchardstown :**  
Huntstown Church  
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
**Rev. Fr. Binoy Mathew SVD**



**Bray :**  
Holy Redeemer Church,  
Main Street Bray  
**Rev. Fr. Michael O'Kelly**



**Bray :**  
St. Fergals Church Bray  
**V. Rev. Fr. Jimmy McPartland**



**Blackrock :**  
Church of Guardian Angels  
**V. Rev. Dermot Leycock**



**Beaumont :**  
St. John Vianney, Ardlea  
**Rev. Fr. Hugh Hanley**



**Beaumont :**  
Church of the Nativity  
of Our Lord  
**Rev. Fr. Robert Smyth**



**Lucan :**  
Church of Divine Meary  
**Rev. Fr. John Laizer C.S.Sp.**



**Lucan :**  
Parish of our Ladys  
Nativity, Leixlip  
**V. Rev. Fr. Gregory O'Brien**



**Inchicore :**  
Mary Immaculate  
Catholic Church  
**V. Rev. Fr. Leo Philomin OMI**



**Phibsborough :**  
St. Canices Church, Finglas  
**Rev. Fr. Richard Hyland**



**Tallaght :**  
Church of the Incarnation,  
Fettercairn  
**V. Rev. Fr. Pat McKinley**



**Rialto :**  
Our Lady of Holy Rosary  
of Fathima, Rialto  
**Rev. Fr. Fergal MacDonagh**

**Mass Centre Secretaries**



**ROSE THOMAS  
BALCKROCK**



**CEASER VARGHESE  
BLANCHARDSTOWN**



**SALIAMMA PIOUS  
INCHICORE**



**JINCY JIJI  
LUCAN**



**JOSE SEBASTIAN (JOY)  
PHIBSBOROUGH**



**SHAJI AUGUSTINE  
SWORDS**



**BLESON THURUTHIKARA  
TALLAGHT**



## PITHRUVEDI



*Pithruvedi is an association of male parents in the parishes of Syro-Malabar Church. The father in the family should enshrine the image of God the Father. He loves, cares and protects the members of the family.*

*In Syro-Malabar Church, the "Pithruvedi" has its own values and obligations. "Pithruvedi" envisions spiritual social and charitable activities of the community. The presence of its members in the parish celebrations is noteworthy. The Main Feasts celebrated are Feast of St. Joseph, the heavenly patron of this association, on every 19 March (Sadharam) during which all male parents and the name bearers of Joseph are specially remembered and honoured: St. Joseph's the Worker during which there is solemn blessing of the vehicles. The main goal of "Pithruvedi" is to equip the fathers of each family to be leaders of faith and morals and also conscientize the fathers about their duties as a responsible father to their children, a committed husband to his wife and caring son to his parents in the family. The lead for the charitable activities is mainly done by the members of Pithruvedi. From 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021, Pope Francis has exhorted us to celebrate as the year of St. Joseph. May the values of St. Joseph inspire all the fathers of the family to lead a responsible life in the family and the society at large for the good of the community. Syro-Malabar Church plans to have three types of spiritual orientation this year namely, 1, Special prayers of St. Joseph on every Wednesdays (Ite ad Joseph) 2. Reflections on St. Joseph on every 19 of each month 3. Solemn celebrations on 19 March 2021, 1 May 2021 and 8 December 2021, if situations are conducive.*

*May the good Lord bless all the members of Pithruvedi with His choicest blessings.*

## Installation of the new Holy Qurbana Centre at Navan. The Feast of the Patroness & First Holy Communion



*Navan Qurbana centre was officially inaugurated as a part of Syro-Malabar Church Dublin Region, in the name of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. This Qurbana centre was instituted upon the request of the faithful of Syro-Malabar Church in the Trim and Navan area and with due consultation with Blanchardstown committee and zonal committee of Dublin and approval from Bishop Stephen Chirappanath. The official Qurbana Centre was inaugurated on 26th September 2020 Saturday at 10 am at Church of Nativity, Johnstown, Navan.*

*National Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil inaugurated the session. Parish Chaplain and Priest in charge Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakatt, Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath, the SMYM Director, Rev. Fr. Paul and Rev. Fr. Shinto from the St. Paul's Society, Maynooth, Rev. Fr. George Augustin were present during the function. The Feast day of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour was celebrated on this auspicious occasion. The history of this Qurbana Centre starts with the family unit started by Rev. Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara for the Trim and Navan area. From 2015 onwards, Holy Qurbana was celebrated in Trim and later in 2017, the celebration of Holy Qurbana was changed to Navan, Johnstown Parish for the sake of convenience. In 2019 Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu became the official Priest in charge of Navan Family Unit. In September 2020, Catechism classes were started. About 40 families are present in this Qurbana Centre. Holy Qurbana is celebrated in this Qurbana Centre on every first and third Saturday at 10 am. Sunday Holy Qurbana will be started in the near future. Crystal Forbin John, Emil Reju, Kevin Emmanuel Jossy, Michael Xavier, Sarah Prince were the First Holy Communicants who received Jesus on the auspicious occasion of the installation of this Holy Qurbana centre.*

*Nine Durbana Centers at a Glance*



»»» BLANCHARDSTOWN



»»» BEAUMONT



»»» BLACKROCK



»»» INCHICORE



»»» LUCAN



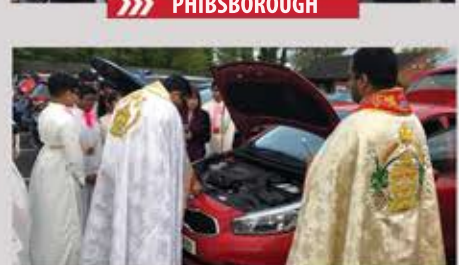
»» BRAY



»» SWORDS



»» PHIBSBOROUGH



»» TALLAGHT

'BEANNACHT' The feast of St. Joseph, the worker on 1st May 2019 at Church of the Incarnation of Fettercairn



FIRST CONFESSION



ANGELS DAY OUT



CATECHISM TEACHERS TRAINING



# MARTHOMĀ NĀZĀRĀNIS

Those who became the followers of the Way (Margam) of Jesus Christ through the Way (Margam) of St Thomas the Apostle (Mar Thoma Shliha) used to say to their children: "We are the children of St. Thomas the Apostle". Traditionally they were called Mar Thoma Nazranis. The name Nazranis is a very popular name for those who follow Jesus the Nazarene. In the pre-sixth century Syriac literature we find it, for example in the writings of St. Ephrem (c.306-373). It stood for Christians with a Judeo-Aramaic background.

## 'Syro'

Syro-Malabar is a prefix coined from the words Syriac as the church employs the East Syriac Rite Liturgy, and Malabar which is the historical name for modern Kerala, south west state of India. The Nasrani Qurbana used to be sung in the Suryani (Syriac) language. Until 1970s most of the churches followed Syriac Liturgy. Syriac is a form of Aramaic language, which Jesus spoke.

## Holy Qurbana

The ritual service (liturgy) is called the Holy Qurbana, which is derived from the Hebrew Korban (קרבן), meaning "sacrifice".

Generally, footwear is removed before entering the church and women cover their heads during worship.

Saint Thomas Christians use terms like "Eeesho" (Jesus' name in Aramaic, "Yesu" (Hebrew name Yeshua) to denote Jesus Christ.

## Church

The architecture of the early church reflected a blend of Jewish and Kerala styles. The "Holy of Holies" is divided by a red curtain for most of the time and is opened during the central part of the Qurbana.

## Agape

Local native customs and cultural elements were harmoniously blended together with Christian faith. Agape of Apostolic times is kept up even today to some extent. Different food items (e.g. Food (nerchas) like razakanji, thamuku, kozhukkatta, kallappam, neyyappam, unniyappam, aval, kanji, rice, pachor, puzhuku, etc.), were offered and distributed in the Church. All are eager to participate in this kind of sacred meal in or around the Church in connection with worship. Both rich and poor, young and old offer and share this nercha agape. One tenth (tithe - passaram) of wealth was offered to the common needs of the Church.

## Fasting

On fasting days of Lent and advent Nazranis used to take only a single meal after the evening prayers. All those who were staying near the Church came for evening and morning prayers. Some came even for the midnight prayers. Those who were far away made these three prayers at home. Even children were woken up for midnight prayers. Many pious Nazranis ate only a few pieces of "indari" and "kozhukatta" from Maundy Thursday (Pesaha) until the following Saturday evening. Many kept silent vigil during these days. Even children were to keep silence; if at all they speak only in a very small voice. Some used to sit in the Church (bhajanamirickal) on these days and other important days of fasting. There were some who did not eat anything for Three Days Lent. Fasting and abstinence on Fridays and Wednesdays (as prescribed in the first century work Didache) were a common apostolic practise among Nazranis. 50 Days Fast of Lent, 25 Days Fast of Advent, 50 Days Fast of the Apostles, 15 Days Fast before the Feast of Our Lady Of the Assumption, Fast of 12 Fridays after Christmas, 3 Days Fast of Ninevites, 8 Days Fast before the Feast of The Nativity Our Lady, Fast of the Virgins, Fast of Elijah, Fast of Transfiguration and other vigil fasts are an indication towards the intense ascetic orientation of Nazranis. Once we avoid overlapping days, the total fasting days come 225 per year! Fasting meant total abstinence from meat, fish, egg, milk and milk products, alcohol, sexual life, smoking, chewing betel, etc.

## Rakuli Perunnal

In the middle of the night of Denha (Epiphany) all St Thomas Christians used to take a public bath in a nearby river or pond before entering the Church. This ritual bath is a reminder of the Baptism of Jesus in Jordan. On the same day at homes, they celebrated "pindikuthiperunnal". Oil lamps were arranged on the stem of plantain or banana trees and Nazranis went around it shouting repeatedly, EL PAYYA (meaning God is Light). In some places both these celebrations exist even today.

## Pesaha Appam

St. Thomas Christians celebrate the Pesaha in a Christianized manner. On Maundy Thursday evening they "break the bread" and "drink milk". This unleavened bread is called "kurishappam". It is to be broken and distributed by the senior most male member of the family. Only Christians will be given a piece of this bread. So too they share a special thick drink made from coconut-milk. This bread and milk they make only for Pesaha. If a death has occurred in the family it will not make "kurishappam" that year. But relatives or neighbours bake two loaves of bread, one for themselves and the extra one for the family of the deceased.

## Marriage

Marriages were well planned and arranged between two families according to their social, economic, cultural, educational, political status. Individuals were less important than the family and community. "Thalikettu" -A golden leaf (in shape of 'aalila') containing a cross made of twenty-one gold globes is the 'thali' of Nazrani bride. Three or seven threads are taken from 'manthrakodi' (bridal vestment) in order to form one thread to tie the 'thali' around the neck of the bride. As long as the married woman is alive, she will not part with the 'thali'. When she dies it is deposited in the coffer of the Church; often the portion with twenty-one crosses is broken for this offering in the Church. The thread and the 'kozha' (hole or handle) are buried with her. This symbolizes the sacredness and indissolubility of Nazrani marriage. Divorce and adultery were unheard of among traditional St. Thomas Christians. So too the evils like murder, alcoholism, theft, etc. were frowned upon.

## Sacrament of Initiation

The sacraments of initiation (also called the "mysteries of initiation") are the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. As such, they are distinguished from the Sacraments of healing (Anointing of the sick and Sacrament of Penance) and from the Sacraments of Service (Marriage and Ordination).

In the Eastern Church all three sacraments are usually administered at the same time, even in the case of infants.





## Pope Francis on Twitter:



"I want to be close to all doctors and nurses during this time in which the pandemic calls us to be near all men and women who suffer. Thank you for drawing near to them, thanks for your tenderness, thanks for your professionalism in taking care of the sick."

As we know at least one of the family members of the Syro-Malabar Migrants in Ireland is working in the health care sector. Many of the sons and daughters of our Church contracted disease during their tedious service in the hospitals and care homes. There were instances in which they had to work alone without anybody's support and expecting all the probability of catching of this contagion. They were quite aware that these days which had to be endured without company of friends and relatives. Anxiety of the beloved ones in the native places really haunted them. The death of the dearest and nearest ones, unable to see their faces for the last time: Helplessness to attend the needs of the beloved ones in their agony; anxiety and concerns of the job; despair of those who lost job; the students who had to be in the fearful solitude; inability to attend the liturgical ceremonies; all created an atmosphere of pessimism and gloom.

But there were lot of positive things done by the Syro-Malabar Church for the People of God during these crucial times especially in giving spiritual support for the suffering minds. When most of the churches were closed during the pandemic, there were daily Holy Masses celebrated at Rialto Parish which could be viewed through online. We could participate in the prayers led by His Holiness Pope Francis, the head of the Universal Church and His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, the father and the head of the Syro-Malabar Church. When the restrictions of the lock down were reduced, the number of Holy Masses offered were increased to facilitate the sacred wishes and the holy desires of the people of God. The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Benediction and Rosary gave divine courage to the desperate ones. Very effective programs were conducted through online for the children to motivate and inspire them. The online catechism classes are still continuing. Thankfully remembering the Rialto Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Fergal Mac Donough and Sacristan Respected Robert Allen; they both deserve our sincere appreciation.

Though those planned activities like Pilgrimage to Holy Land, Pilgrimage to Eternal City, Pleroma Zonal Competitions, Lenten Retreat, Familia Fest, Bible Fest, and Catechism Exams could not be realized due to this unforeseen situation, let us hopefully and prayerfully wait for the days to come and if God wills, we shall execute the activities of our Church in a more profound way and with deep enthusiasm.



# Season of Corona

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## Syro Malabar Liturgical Calendar

Patriarch Ishoyabb III gave the final form of the liturgical calendar in the seventh century AD. The Cathedral Liturgical order and Monastic Liturgical Order that existed before were harmonized by him to make this new liturgical ordo. In Latin Rite we predominantly use the Sanctoral Cycle whereas in Syro-Malabar Church we have the Temporal Cycle i.e. liturgical year planned according to the seasons. According to this form the liturgical year is the unveiling of the salvific work which starts with the incarnation of Misiha (Jesus the anointed) and ends with the heavenly entry of the Church. The seasons of the liturgical year is based on the seven-week principle. The different liturgical seasons are as follows:

 <p><b>1. Mangalavartha</b> (Annunciation)</p>	 <p><b>2. Piravi</b> (Birth of Misiha)</p>	 <p><b>3. Denaha</b> (Epiphany)</p>
 <p><b>4. Nombu</b> (Lent)</p>	 <p><b>5. Uyirppu</b> (Resurrection)</p>	 <p><b>6. Sleeha</b> (The Apostles)</p>
 <p><b>7. Khaitha</b> (Harvest)</p>	 <p><b>8. Eliya Sleeva Moosa</b> (Elijah, Cross and Moses)</p>	 <p><b>9. Pallikkoodasa</b> (Dedication of the Church)</p>

“ Dear young people,  
let yourselves be taken over  
by the light of Christ,  
and spread that light  
wherever you are. ”



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