

JANUARY 2022, VOLUME 3

The Irish Syro Malabar Catholic

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH, IRELAND



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church

communion | participation | mission

**Together on the road in love and service
for a new evangelisation**



The Season of Denha

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The Syriac word Denha means 'dawn', 'manifestation', 'revelation', etc. The season starts with the feast of Denha which commemorates the baptism of Jesus Christ. The Father and the Holy Spirit revealed the Son of God at His baptism and here commences the public ministry of Jesus, the Sun of Justice. This season reminds us that at the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Trinity is revealed. This season which remembers the public ministry of the Messiah, highlights the personality of Jesus through the readings. As a crucial moment of His public ministry, the call of the Apostles is given much importance in this season. The mother Church teaches that the Messiah came to earth for the sinners and He is the Lamb of God, and it is through Him, man attains remission of sins and salvation. The readings of this season proclaim that Jesus is the fulfillment of Law, He is the Bread of Life and He is the Good and Merciful Shepherd who sends His disciples in search of the sheep. The first Friday of Denha commemorates the feast of John the Baptist who experienced the glory of Jesus even from his mother's womb and witnessed this glory from heaven at the time of Jesus' 2022 January 15 baptism. The following Fridays remember the saints who witnessed Jesus by experiencing His divine glory. The last Friday is dedicated to all the departed who await in great hope of resurrection. Since the season of Great Fast should have seven weeks before the feast of resurrection, the number of the weeks of Denha may vary. As a preparation for the season of Great Fast, which has the spirit of contrition and penance, there is a three day fast in this season, 18 days before the season of the Great Fast

Syro Malabar Liturgical Calendar





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Together on the road in love and service for a new evangelisation

Following the theme of ‘fanning the flames of faith’ in the second edition of our newsletter we now progress further on our road together for a New Evangelisation in the context of Synodality.

Pope Francis believes that the Holy Spirit is guiding the Church towards a New Evangelisation in line with the salvific, historical and cultural reason for her existence, which is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. This allows the Church to share God’s Trinitarian mission and this proposed Synod is an open invitation to all of us to reflect on the importance of synodality in today’s world. The Pope firmly believes that this is what God expects of the Church in this millennium.

Synodality is described as a path along which the People of God walk together, listening to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, leading us to an ever-deeper communion, fuller participation and greater openness to fulfilling the salvific mission of Jesus. It is a term in the Church that describes the process of fraternal collaboration and discernment. A study on ‘Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church’ highlights the fact that the word ‘synod’ was very much rooted in the ancient Church and is analogous with the Latin word concilium meaning ‘Council.’

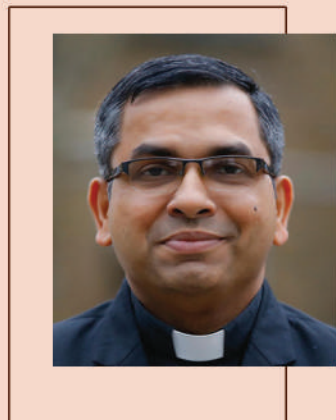
Synodality should be seen as an integral part of the Church’s ordinary way of living and working and it is to be hoped that the ‘Syro-Malabar Irish Catholic Newsletter’ will be an important link between the various Syro-Malabar communities in Ireland, thereby strengthening the Synodal movement at this special time of grace.

Your cooperation and support in helping with the development of this newsletter is very much appreciated and we trust that it will go from strength to strength.

With renewed thanks and prayers and best wishes on behalf of the Editorial Team.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Karukayil

Message



Dear friends in Jesus Christ.

Two years have gone. The pandemic had many positive and negative consequences in the lives of us. But this was an instance, where we have prayed together and helped each other. Let us be thankful to Our Lord for we still exist (Lebt noch). We might have lost our dear and near ones. Let us accept these realities with courage and patience. Some are physically and mentally tired. Let us try our best to console each other. Children are always challenged by the online classes. The youth lost their vitality and vigour because of the slackening of common endeavours. The old people experienced the cold of isolation and seclusion. Offline gatherings were meagre, which slew our social fellowship. Intellectually we are also weary and exhausted.

But we see some rays of hope. Our good Lord will not abandon us. In the aching void of our lives, He whispers to us Peace be with you. Let us not be tormented by the dangling aspect of human existence. Amidst our anxieties and anguishes, may we speak the language of the heart. Only hearty relationships can heal and help. We need to mould ourselves by listening others. 'Patient listening is the perfect perfume of Communication.' Moreover, we need to experience the power of silence in our lives. Let us show by our good life that our works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. Let our wisdom be informed and shaped by the Holy Spirit so that it may bear fruits of peace and fulness of mercy without any traces of partiality or hypocrisy. Let us walk together as one community built on deep faith in the Lord who is our sole refuge, unfailing hope and ever revitalizing virtue of love.

Fr. Clement Padathiparambil
National Coordinator
Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Ireland

Prayerful Greetings



Golden Jubilee of Priesthood

December 18, 2021

Silver Jubilee of the Episcopal Ordination

February 2, 2022

MAR GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY
The Head and Father of Syro Malabar Church



Syro Malabar National
**KNOCK
PILGRIMAGE**

**SATURDAY
21 MAY 2022**

**SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH
IRELAND**

'Light of Christmas shines all the brighter amid darkness of pandemic'



Jesus shows the way from littleness to greatness : Pope Francis

At the Mass during the Night for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Pope Francis reflects on how God comes into the world in littleness, as a tiny infant, drawing near to us to touch our hearts. The Pope celebrated the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with a smaller congregation on hand in respect for health-safety rules.

Three-Day Lent or Fast of Nineveh

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2022 February 7,8,9

Fast of Nineveh is a three-day fast starting the third Monday, before the Monday of Vibhoothi (Ash Monday).

A unique tradition in Syriac Christianity.

The smallest of the canonical Lents of the holy Church.

Ritualistically similar to the Fast of the Great Lent. However, some refrain from food and drink for three consecutive days, from Monday till Wednesday.

Commemorates the three days that Prophet Jonah spent inside the fish and the subsequent fast and repentance of the Ninevites at the warning message of the prophet Jonah.

Historically this lent is promulgated in the Syriac Orthodox Church in the year 536 AD, in response to a plague that was occurring at that time.

Usually falls between January 12th and Feb 18th depending on the Easter date.

Syrian Christians of Kerala observed this fast even in the 15th Century, as per historical record.

Kerala traditions include 3 days fast & prayer in the church, reading psalms and hymns of St. Ephrem, 4th day 'sleeva vandanam' and holy mass etc.

Considered as the preparation lent for the great lent of Easter.

Synod on Synodality



Synodality

Pope Francis believes synodality is the way of being the Church according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit. The importance of listening, dialoguing, praying, discerning, and making decisions together for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel of our Lord cannot be overstated.

A synodal Church pursues a common mission through the participation of each one of her members, inspiring people to strive to be the Church through fulfilling the tasks already mentioned.

For Pope Francis, the synodal life of the Church is essentially orientated towards mission. With a sense of faith (sensus fidei) every faithful should be called to share responsibility in making the blessings of the Holy Spirit, manifest in the community of faith. This applies especially to experiences of faith, popular piety and pastoral, cultural, social, and personal competence. Our walking together also means listening to the Word of God, understanding the message of faith.

We need to consider how successful our 'journeying together' is today, both at local and universal levels, as we seek to accommodate the Church's proclamation of the Gospel. We also need to be aware of how and when the Spirit may be inviting us to play a positive role in the growth of a synodal Church.

In establishing the synodal process Pope Francis has passed those responsibilities to each member of the Church. This journey involves four different components.



1. Walking Together for a Synodal Church

Pope Francis states that our present world should be respected, despite all its contradictions and demands that the Church develops strong links and cooperation in all areas of her mission.

This call for greater cooperation in the mission of the Church is addressed to the entire People of God, as the Holy Father believes that all baptised people should feel totally involved in the ecclesiastical and social change in our Church today.

2. Journeying Together to live in Communion

Our good Lord expects us to journey together as a people of one faith in unity and diversity, thus with this shared communion we find its deepest roots in the love and unity of the Most Blessed Trinity. From this we will find the inspirations in hearing the Word of God as proclaimed by the Church and through the living Tradition of the Church and grounded in our shared *sensus fidei* (sense of the faithful). Therefore we all have a role to play no matter how great or small in discerning and living out God's call for His people.

The Second Vatican Council spoke very clearly about the role of the laity in the Church in its foundational document *Lumen Gentium*, wherein we read that each member of the Church benefits from a perfect equality of dignity and action. Both Pope Saint John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI stressed the importance of equality and unity linking all the members of the Church, laity and clergy alike. Pope Francis has spoken of 'the Synodal pathway' as both clergy and laity journeying together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This vision did not begin with him but with the Vatican Council, whereby the Fathers of the Council reclaimed and articulated the vision of the Church as proclaimed in the Acts of the Apostles, as that of a community united in heart and mind and led by the Holy Spirit.

3. Travelling Together to Achieve Participation

This is a call for all God's people, the laity, the consecrated and those ordained to the priestly ministry to take part in listening to each other in a deep and respectful manner. This listening creates space for all of us to hear the Holy Spirit together and it fuels and enhances our aspirations for the future life of the Church. Participation in this process is most important since all of the faithful are qualified and called to serve one another through the gifts and talents they have each received from the Holy Spirit.

In a synodal Church the whole community are free to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern with the help from the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. Consequently any decisions that are reached will be as close as possible to God's will. Genuine efforts should be made to include all those who feel excluded and allowing them to become part of this process.

We should remember that the local listening exercise is a precursor to a worldwide process of determining the direction of the Church in the modern world and culminating in the forthcoming 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which will be held at the Vatican in October of 2023.





4. Moving Together to be Open to Mission

The Church exists to evangelise, in other words its mission is to save souls therefore it is essential that we allow everyone to experience and witness our love of God and of our fellow man in Christ Jesus who commanded us to love one another. This Synodal Process paves the way for this missionary dimension to which we are called. It is intended to enhance and show the world and the unbelievers our witness to the Gospel of love. As a result, synodality becomes a path by which the Church can fulfil this mission of evangelisation in the profane world by living out the gospel message.

When we consider this lofty calling seriously, we will realise that each person who is involved will have to make a sustained effort to fulfil these ideals. Let us without fear or hesitation, ask the Holy Spirit to help us along this path as the many opportunities present themselves to us.

The dimensions of the themes: communion, participation, and mission are profoundly interrelated and constitute the vital pillars of a Synodal Church. They carry equal weight and each one enhances and enriches the other to the extent that it is impossible to discuss one without considering the other two.

Common Journey and a Shared Path

We sincerely hope that this newsletter presents some incentives to our enthusiasm for this synodal movement. There is a wise African proverb that should inspire us and it goes like this: 'If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together!'

Synodality as the Presence and Action of the Holy Spirit.

There is a 'breathing together' of the Church teaching and people's lived experience. The faithful who are nourished by prayer and worship, gain knowledge and an understanding of the faith from the community of believers that constitutes the Catholic Church.

We should constantly ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we travel on the road together in both love and service for a New Evangelisation.

So let us pray the Synodal prayer composed by Isidore of Seville:

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather in Your name.
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts.
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.*

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path, or partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and always doing what is right

Compiled by :- Rev. Dr. Joseph Karukayil Varghese



The official logo of the synodal path

A large, majestic tree, full of wisdom and light, reaches for the sky. A sign of deep vitality and hope which expresses the cross of Christ. It carries the Eucharist, which shines like the sun. The horizontal branches, opened like hands or wings, suggest, at the same time, the Holy Spirit.

The people of God are not static: they are on the move, in direct reference to the etymology of the word synod, which means "walking together". The people are united by the same common dynamic that this Tree of Life breathes into them, from which they begin their walk.

These 15 silhouettes sum up our entire humanity in its diversity of life situations of generations and origins. This aspect is reinforced by the multiplicity of bright colours which are themselves signs of joy. There is no hierarchy between these people who are all on the same footing: young, old, men, women, teenagers, children, lay people, religious, parents, couples, singles; the bishop and the nun are not in front of them, but among them. Quite naturally, children and then adolescents open their walk, in reference to these words of Jesus in the Gospel: "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children". (Mt 11:25)

Logo Design : **Isabelle de Senilhes**, French freelance graphic designer, communications officer and journalist

www.www.synod.va



Initiation and Preparation of the Synod on Synodality in the Syro Malabar Apostolic Visitation in Europe

The 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, referred to as the synod on synodality, is an upcoming synod of bishops of the Catholic Church that will take place in October 2023 and has as its theme "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission."

In line with the preparation for the Synod, His Excellency Mar Stephen Chirapanath inaugurated and initiated the works in the Syro Malabar Church in Europe. The inaugural ceremony was held in Dublin.

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission is the theme of this synod. Holy Father Pope Francis reminds us that "Synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit."

Bp Stephen exhorted that the core of the theme of the synod is communion and that it must begin within the families. The art of listening put in practice in a family keeps the members in communion. He further added that the Synodal Church is a path that leads to eternal life therefore it is important to listen to all those not only who are aligned with our beliefs but also the ones who have contradicting views.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the Church of the Incarnation, Dublin and was attended by the National Coordinator, the Catechism Director, National and Zonal Council Executives, and various Department Leads. The ceremony was also broadcasted online for people joining from outside of Ireland. Several initiatives are planned and are in the process of roll-out as preparation for the Synod on Synodality.

Synod

A synod is a council of a Christian denomination, usually convened to decide an issue of doctrine, administration or application. The word synod comes from the Greek: meaning "assembly" or "meeting" and is analogous with the Latin word concilium meaning "council". Originally, synods were meetings of bishops, and the word is still used in that sense in Catholicism, [citation needed] Oriental Orthodoxy and Eastern Orthodoxy. In modern usage, the word often refers to the governing body of a particular church, whether its members are meeting or not. It is also sometimes used to refer to a church that is governed by a synod.

Sometimes the phrase "general synod" or "general council" refers to an ecumenical council. The word synod also refers to the standing council of high-ranking bishops governing some of the autocephalous Eastern Orthodox churches. Similarly, the day-to-day governance of patriarchal and major archiepiscopal Eastern Catholic Churches is entrusted to a permanent synod.

In Roman Catholic usage, synod and council are theoretically synonymous as they are of Greek and Latin origins, respectively, both meaning an authoritative meeting of bishops for the purpose of church administration in the areas of teaching (faith and morals) or governance (church discipline or law). However, in modern use, synod and council are applied to specific categories of such meetings and so do not really overlap. A synod generally meets every three years and is thus designated an "Ordinary General Assembly." However, "Extraordinary" synods can be called to deal with specific situations. There are also "Special" synods for the Church in a specific geographic area such as the one held November 16-December 12, 1997, for the Church in America.

“Receive Christ with a burning desire in your hearts” - Mar Stephen Chirappanath



Bishop Stephen exhorted his people of faith to receive Christ with a burning desire one’s heart. He was delivering a homily during the ‘Angels Meet’ in Dublin addressing children who received their first holy communion. Bishop cited the story of disciples who launched into the deep after listening to Jesus in his homily.

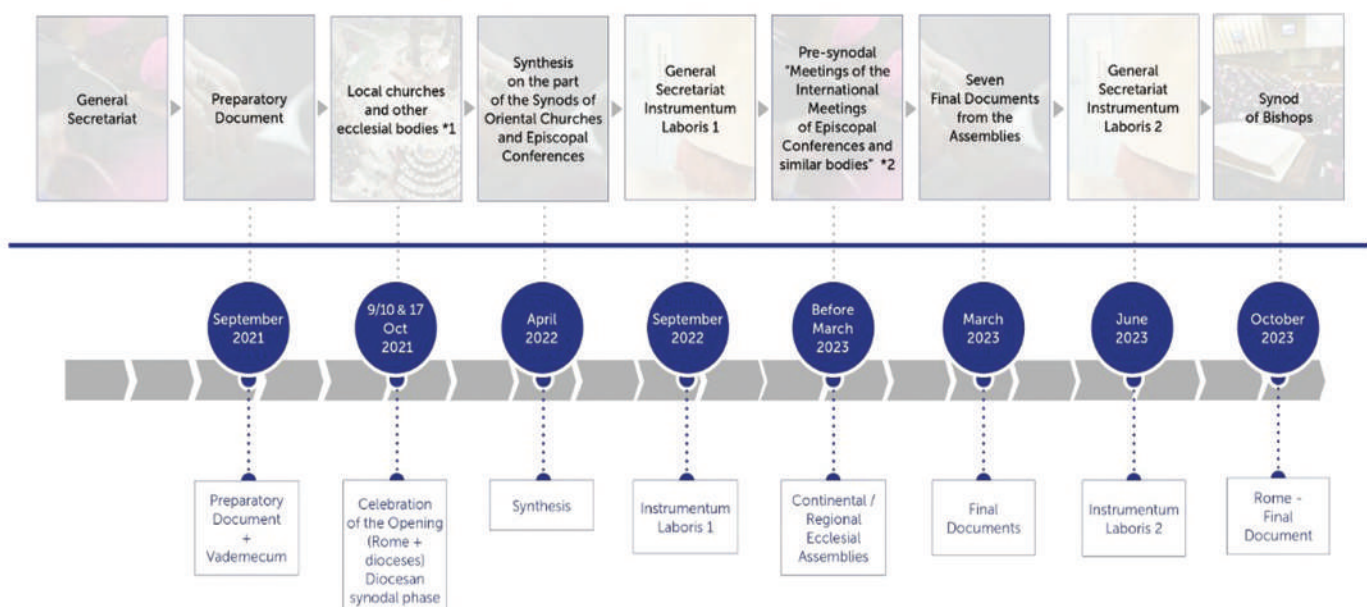
The ‘Angels Meet’ programme was held in the Blackrock Parish in Dublin. Children from the mass centers in Dublin who received their first holy communion in the last two years along with their parents participated in the programme. In the last year, more than 100 children received their first holy communion in the Syro Malabar liturgical traditions. The children underwent special preparations and training programmes for their first confession and communion. The first communion celebrations were held in each parish adhering to the Covid protocols prevalent.

The ‘Angels Meet’ programme was organised and supported by the Blackrock Mass Center Committee, Dublin Zonal Council, and the Catechism Department.



Synod on Synodality (Cont...)

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION
XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS





Syro Malabar Holy Qurbana at Knock Basilica on Second Saturdays

12 Noon : Confession (Malayalam)
 1:00 PM : Adoration & Rosary
 1:30 PM : Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)

After a long wait, on December 30, 2021, Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana commenced at Ireland's International Eucharistic & Marian Shrine at Knock. Rev. Fr. Davis Vadakkumpadan CMI was the main celebrant, with Rev. Fr. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil (National Coordinator of Syro-Malabar Church of Ireland), and Rev. Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara (Galway Regional Coordinator) as co-celebrants.

Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana will be held every second Saturday from February 2022 at 1:30 pm at Knock Basilica. Confession facility in Malayalam has also been arranged for the faithful before the Holy Qurbana. Syro-Malabar priests from different mass centers all over Ireland will be visiting Knock to offer the Holy Qurbana in the coming months.

Thousands of pilgrims from all over Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland take part in the Knock Pilgrimage held by Syro - Malabar faithful in May every year. It has been the wish of the Syro-Malabar faithful to offer Holy Qurbana at the Knock Marian Shrine at least once a month. Representatives of the Syro-Malabar Ireland National Pastoral Council (Assembly) have repeatedly raised this demand and directed the National Coordinator to speak with church authorities.

As a result of meetings and discussions between Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam and Fr. Rev. Richard Gibbons, Rector of Knock Shrine, Syro-Malabar Apostolic Visitor Bishop Mar Stephen Chirappanath, National Coordinator Rev. Fr. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil and other priests, the request for a Holy Qurbana once a month was officially approved.

The Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland would like to thank Rev. Fr. Richard Gibbons for all his support to the community. We would like to thank Rev. Fr. Davis Vadakkumpadan CMI for all the assistance he renders. The Syro-Malabar National Coordinator conveyed his best wishes to retiring Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam, and prayerfully wished the Archbishop Francis Duffy on his new appointment.

Salve Regina
 National Mathruvedi Inauguration
 Catholic Association for Married Women

REV. DR. CLEMENT PADATHIPARAMBIL, National Coordinator, SMC Ireland
 MAR STEPHEN CHIRAPPANATH, Apostolic Visitor, Europe
 REV. DR. BASU PANATTUPARAMBIL, Coordinator, SMC, America, Canada, Africa
 REV. FR. WILSON ELUATHINGAL KOONAN, Director, Mathruvedi Ireland
 REV. DR. BINU MILAWARICAL, Director, Mathruvedi, U.K.
 REV. FR. JOSE BHARANIKULANGARA, Director, Mathruvedi Ireland
 DR. K.V. REETHIMA, President, Mathruvedi Ireland
 DR. SHERLY GEORGE, Secretary, Mathruvedi Ireland

Tuesday
 2021 December 7
 6:45 PM

SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH IRELAND

Salve Regina Inauguration of the National Mathruvedi Ireland

The National Mathruvedi Ireland inaugural meeting- "Salve Regina" was celebrated on December 7, 2021 with a variety of events. This pious association for married women functions under the Syromalabar Catholic Church Ireland. The Salve Regina meeting began through Zoom, with a prayer service at 6.45 pm. Mathruvedi Ad Hoc Committee President Dr. Sherly George (Tallaght, Dublin) warmly welcomed everyone and especially the chief guests present at the meeting. Ireland Mathruvedi National Director, Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara delivered the introductory speech. His Eminence Bishop Stephen Chirappanath, Apostolic Visitor of Europe, officiated at the inauguration of the Irish Mathruvedhi movement. On that occasion the by-law of Mathruvedi was submitted to the Bishop for official approval. Ireland Syro Malabar Catholic Church National Coordinator Fr. Clement Padathiparambil delivered the blessing speech.

The logo of Mathruvedi was also revealed on the occasion. The logo which contains images of the Holy Mother and St. Gianna caught everyone's attention. Alphonsa Binu, Secretary of the Family Apostolate, explained the arrangements behind Mathruvedi's national growth in Ireland.



Director of International Syro Malabar Mathruvedi Fr. Wilson Eluvathingal Koonan (Kerala) and President Dr. K. V. Reethamma (Kerala) greeted the gathering. SMYM Europe Director Rev. Fr. Binoj Mulavarikkal (Rome) also addressed the inaugural meeting. Fr. Binoj emphasised the diversity of each of the events that happened. In a game of "Spin the Wheel", the names of exemplary women in the Bible were given to each Mathruvedi unit and based on these women, each unit will conduct Bible studies.

Mathruvedi Ad Hoc Committee Vice President Lisha Rajeev (Belfast NI) thanked all the participants and all those who worked tirelessly for the success of Salve Regina at various levels. The meeting concluded by singing the International Mathruvedi Anthem. Mathruvedi Director Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara wished everyone his blessings as we went onto celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on the following day. Secretary Raji Dominic (Lucan Dublin) and Treasurer & Joint Secretary Sweetey Milan (Blanchardstown Dublin) hosted the Salve Regina event.

In the first of these events, which hosted members from every Mathruvedhi unit in Ireland, approximately 250 families took part. For all, the event was a spiritual and eye opening experience.



Conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph

'Saadharam', the yearlong prayer session dedicated to St. Joseph was concluded with 'Patris Codre' programme. The online gathering was held under the aegis of the Pithurvedi Department of the Syro-Malabar Church in Ireland.

His Excellency Mar Joy Alappat, the auxiliary Bishop of the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Chicago delivered the keynote address. The bishop urged the congregation to look up to St. Joseph, the patron of families, as an example to lead a good family. Bp Joy highlighted love and happiness as the foundational values that the families must imbibe and emphasise to keep a strong familial bond.

Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil delivered the introductory remarks in the programme. The novena of the St. Joseph was led by Rev. Dr. Joseph Karukayil.

Other dignitaries in the programme included, the National Director of Pithurvedi in Ireland, Rev. Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel; the Catechism Director Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu; the Pithurvedi National President, Mr. Thomson Thomas, Vice President Mr. Raju Kunnakattu, and Secretary Mr. Francis Joseph. The programme witnessed participation of around 400 members from across the Republic of Ireland and the Northern Ireland, UK.

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father had proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

The Syro Malabar Church in Ireland observed the year in full fervour starting on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary on 8th December 2021. Several programmes and initiatives were held to celebrate the year of St. Joseph. One of the signature programmes was 'Saadharam' which was a weekly prayer session and Novena of St. Joseph held every Wednesday evening. More than 50 priests from across the world led the Novena and delivered weekly messages to the congregation.

BELFAST

There were Holy Mass and One Hour Adoration in St Paul's Church all the first Fridays of the past months.

There was Rosary devotion for ten days through Zoom, 02 – 11 October, connecting all five Mass centres. From 12th to 21st October, family units conducted the Rosary through zoom. On October 31st conclusion of Rosary devotion, celebrated with Holy Mass in St Paul's.

Antrim Mass centre conducted an auction in connection with Mission Sunday and a Flood Relief Fund, on October 31 for Kerala with a 'Food Mela.' A sum of £2005 was collected from this Food Mela, and donated to a flood affected family from the diocese of Kanjirappily, St. Jude's Parish Yendayar, to reconstruct their house.

On November 2nd and 30th November we celebrated Mass and Office for the dead, for all departed souls.

From 3rd November to 30th November, Office for the dead was prayed through Zoom, connecting all the five Mass centres.

There was a collection for Joby Thomas' family, who died suddenly and an amount of £2600 was handed over to his family on Nov.10th.

Bishop Stephen arrived in Belfast on 12th November. On 13th November he met Bishop Donal McKeown, bishop of Derry and celebrated Mass in Ballyhackamore in the evening.

On Sunday 14th, Bishop Stephen celebrated Mass in Antrim and inaugurated Pithruvedi, Mathruvedi and Catechism of the new academic year.

On the same day Bishop Stephen addressed the congregation in Belfast and congratulated the silver wedding jubilarians, and inaugurated the PMS (Parish Management System). In the evening, there was a meal arranged for distinguished priests from the Diocese of Down and Connor, including V. Rev. Fr. Eugene O'Hagan, Chancellor, along with Bishop Stephen.

On Monday 15th, Bishop Stephen met with Bishop Noel Treanor, bishop of Down and Connor, and left for Dublin.

We celebrated the month of December as a month of Bible reading.

We had five Masses for Christmas in Antrim, Ballyhackamore and Belfast.

On December 31st we had Year ending prayer with Adoration and Holy Mass and New Year prayer in St Paul's church Belfast, and also in St. Joseph's Church, Antrim.

PITHRUVEDI

Christmas Charity Collection

This Christmas, Pithruvedi Down and Connor conducted a charity collection for families in need. Food items were collected from mass centres and handed over to Rev. Fr. Tony Devlin to be managed by St Vincent de Paul at St Paul's Church, Belfast.

Money donated through the collection was put forward to St Vincent De Paul Thodupuzha Town Church in support of a project to build a home for a poor family in Kerala.

This charity collection would not have been possible without the generosity of the communities from the mass centres and those who helped organise and collect the donations. The following representatives collected donations from each mass centre and were led by President Roji Sebastian and Secretary Jyothis Cherian: Anish Antony (Bangor), Anand Joseph and Monce Mathew (Ballyhackamore), Shanto P. Kurian and Tom Cyriac (Lisburn) and Joseph Thomas (Belfast).

Rev. Fr. Paul Morely, Rev. Fr. Jain Mathew and Rev. Fr. Joe Pazheparambil, whose coordination and support of the Pithruvedi committee enabled the success of this charity service.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Mt.25:40

SMYM

SMYM conducted a Christmas gathering on 30th December in Antrim and Fr Binoj Mulavarickal led the session with Holy Mass and Christmas celebration, under the leadership of Fr Jain.

SM TEENS

SM Teens held Marian Devotion for 10 days starting 22 October, by reciting small Marian prayers and doing small tasks. An online (Zoom) gathering was conducted on 28 October. Rev Fr. Anoop Mundakal gave a talk on God's Grace. 45 Teens attended. Another online (Zoom) gathering was conducted on 29 October. Mr Siljo and Ms Evelyn from Dublin delivered a wonderful session. 47 Teens attended. SM Teens joined with SM youth to lead the conclusion of rosary month observation on October 31. SM teens observed November as the month of remembrance, and they remembered and prayed for their deceased family members, as well as for other souls in purgatory. On 28 November, the first face to face meeting of Teens was conducted at St. Paul's Church. 31 Teens attended and the team of leaders was reconstructed. In December, SM Teens actively prepared for the birth of Christ by following the advent calendar provided for them. The SM Teens' Christmas preparation retreat was conducted on 19 December at the Church of the Resurrection parish hall, and 78 Teens participated. It was led by Rev. Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal.

MATHRUVEDI

During October and November the Mothers group had two meetings, one in the church and one in a member's house. On December 7th Mathruvedi had National Mathruvedi Day, and the Belfast Mathruvedi sang the praise and worship song via Zoom.



A light has been lit in Portadown St Alphonsa Community for an opening year Silver Jubilee celebration for Fr Joseph Karukayil.

CORK



First Holy Communion

Cork Syro Malabar Church celebrated the first holy communion mass on Sunday 26/09/2021 at SMA Wilton, where 11 children received Jesus for the first time in the Divine Sacrament. Chaplain Fr. Jilson Kokkandathil was the celebrant and Fr. Sibi Arackal and Fr. Paul Thettayil were the co-celebrants. On behalf of the parents, Mr. Sony Joseph congratulated all the children and thanked the parents, teachers and relatives who prepared them for this good day. SMCC Cork especially remembered the teachers, Mrs. Jessy Baby, Ms. Sandra Jackson and Fr. Sibi, who had been giving spiritual guidance to children for the past two years. 'Sneha Virunnu' prepared by the parents, for the children and church community became an experience of fellowship. After the holy mass, SMA parish priest Fr. Michael O'Leary along with Fr. Sibi, Fr. Paul and Fr. Jilson, congratulated the children and offered God's blessings and prayers for their spiritual life.

The End of the Holy Rosary Month

The celebration of the end of Holy Rosary Month of Cork SMCC was held on Sunday, October 31st at SMA Church Wilton. Confession, Adoration and holy Rosary started at 4pm and holy mass was celebrated at 5pm. 'Pachor Nercha' prepared by the St. Paul Family unit was distributed among the church community after the holy mass.

The holy rosary was recited at Family Unit level from October 1st to 20th and through the ZOOM from 21st to 30th. Family Unit level rosary led by each family and ZOOM rosary led by each family unit each day. For the church community, holy rosary month has become a platform for God's blessings in the face of COVID restrictions.

Celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord

Celebration of the Nativity of Jesus started with Syro Malabar Holy Mass at 4pm on 24th December in SMA Church, Wilton. The arrangements were made with the existing COVID restrictions. SMA parish hall is also used with screens, for the faithful to be a part of the holy celebrations. During homily, Fr. Jilson wished peace and joy of Christmas to all the families. Confession was held on Sunday, December 19th by two priests, for the spiritual preparation to receive baby Jesus.

After the Mass, carol singing and dancing with Santa Claus led by the youth, took place outside the church. The Christmas celebrations continued on the online platform whereby families were invited to participate in various competitions. A family Christmas carol singing competition and a nativity crib competition were held as a family basis. Online Bible quiz competition for the children under the supervision of catechism teachers, further enhanced the Christmas spirit.



SMYM

Quiz Night

SMYM Cork held a quiz night in November in the presence of the chaplain, Fr. Jilson Kokkandathil. Quiz was related to Christmas and the prizes were awarded to the winners.

On the same day, a new committee was elected for the year 2022. Jacob James is the new president of SMYM Cork. Other committee members are, VICE PRESIDENT: Sancta Jatson, SECRETARY: Felix Joby, ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Arbite Jaison, TREASURER: Kevin Shaji, INTERCESSOR: Noble Thomas and PRO: Dia Harry Thomas.

Quiz night ended with a dinner and a blessing prayer of Fr. Jilson. It was a heart-warming experience for the members.

Europe SMYM Coordinator's Visit to Cork

SMYM Cork welcomed all-Europe SMYM coordinator, Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal along with SMCC National Coordinator Fr. Clement Padathiparambil to Cork with a meeting held on the 29th of December 2021. Around 35 youths who attended the event were cheered up with group activities and games. Fr. Binoj's message was about faith and addiction. He also explained about current activities of SMYM and its future plans for the coming years.

The day was blessed with the presence of Fr. Michael O' Leary (SMA parish priest), Fr. Jilson Kokkandathil (Chaplain), Trustees of SMCC Cork and SMYM animators. Youths conveyed their wishes and prayers for the 'ordination anniversary' of Fr. Clement, Fr. Binoj and Fr. Jilson at the occasion, with a cake cutting. The meeting concluded with prayers and hot food served at the end.

WATERFORD



The Feast of the Holy Rosary

SMCC Waterford observed the reciting of the Holy Rosary at St. Joseph and St. Benildus Church for 10 days. The feast of Rosary celebration was completed on October 31 2021. Fr. Sibi Arackal celebrated Holy Mass and delivered a grace message, after which 'Palchor Nercha' was distributed among all participants of the feast.



Prayers and Greetings

SMCC Waterford celebrated a special Mass and prayers for the 15 children who received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2021. Fr. Sibi Arackal was the celebrant who congratulated and handed over the gifts as an appreciation to strengthen and express their faith in the Loving God Almighty.

Christmas Celebration

The Syro Malabar Catholic Church Community in Waterford celebrated its Christmas special holy mass on 23rd December 2021. Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, most reverent Alphonsus Cullinan DD was present at the mass to deliver a meaningful Christmas message. The Syro Malabar community in Waterford welcomed reverent Fr. Jomon Kakkanattu who celebrated the holy mass along with Fr. Bobit Thomas MI.

Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan marked the Christmas celebration by presenting baby Jesus before the nativity crib at the altar for the congregation to bow to and receive blessings from. A traditional Christmas cake was also cut by the reverent celebrants after Holy mass and distributed among those who attended. The Syro Malabar calendar for the year 2022 was also presented after mass for the families to take home.

The Christmas celebrations continued on the online platform as well. A family Christmas carol singing competition and a nativity crib & Christmas tree competition were held, whereby families were invited to submit photographs and video recordings to participate in the competition, which surely enriched the Christmas spirit.

The Syro Malabar Catholic community in Waterford heartily welcomes Fr. Jomon Kakkanattu to Ireland and wishes him the best to continue his service in this country.

GALWAY

St. Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Church Galway

St. Thomas Church Galway mass centre is enriched with around 160 families and 40 international students spread in six family prayer units, we celebrate 3 Holy masses every month of the year, on every first Fridays and first and third Sundays. Rev. Fr. Jose Bharaninkulangara is the Chaplain of Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Galway. We are giving faith formation to 1 to 12 catechism classes for around 100 students. Also, Mathruvedi, Pithruvedi, SMYM units in Galway join with the pastoral council of the parish to support the different activities of the mass centre. Kondhasamapanam, Mission Sunday and Catechism Prize distribution.

The Parish wise Kondhasamapanam, mission Sunday celebrations and catechism prize distribution was held on 31st October 2021, by 3 pm at Holy family Church, Mervue and Mervue community hall.

Rev. Fr. Sunny Jacob S.J, Jesuit house Galway was the chief guest for the day he spoke about the importance of Mission Sunday observation to uphold the values of Catholic church. Rev. Fr. Jose, the Chaplain of the parish played a vital role planning and guiding us in making the event a great success. Each decade of rosary was led by catechism students, catechism teachers, mathruvedi, pithruvedi and SMYM. Fr. Sunny Jacob has distributed the prizes for the catechism students and special farewell and recognition were given to the students completed 12 years of catechism formation. Each family units of the parish played a key role in arranging auction for mission fund rising and serving the refreshments on the day. Families in Galway mass centre brought different items on the for auction as a part of mission Sunday celebrations.



BHISOP STEPHEN' S VISIT

His Excellency, Mar Stephen Chirappanath has visited the Galway mass centre at Holy Family Church, Mervue, on 09/11/21, following his visit to Galway Bishop Brendan Kelly. In the formal meeting with Bishop Stephen, many reps from church joined like Rev.Fr.Jose Bharanikulangara, Rev Fr. Martin Glynn Parish priest of Holy Family church, the members of pastoral council, catechism teachers, representatives from Pithruvedi, Mathruvedi and SMYM, Ms Mary, the secretary of the Mervue Church, Mr. Robin altar servers trainer and Choir leader- Mr. Johny Sebastian.



CHRISTMAS MASS AND SMYM CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AND YOUTH MEET

The SMYM youth meet was conducted on 26/12/21, prior to the Christmas mass in the Galway mass centre. Rev. Fr. Binoj Mulavuraikal, the SMYM Europe director, was the chief guest of Christmas celebrations and youth meeting. People from different parts of the county participated in the Christmas mass and Christmas cakes were distributed after the mass. The winners of the Christmas online quiz competitions conducted by Catechism department were given prizes on that day.

SLIGO



It was another stepping stone for Sligo Syro Malabar Church to begin our Catechism, which we have commenced from november for 18 Children. Apostolic Visitor Mar Stephen Chirappanath greeted parish members for this achievement.

Parish Pithruvedhi unit formed and the Executive members selected in the presence of Rev. Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara.

Mathruvedhi is actively continuing their mission in the Parish by gathering once in month and through their active participation in Liturgy.

There were 5 children who received Holy Communion and 4 children received Confirmation from our Parish, Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara greeted and presented gifts to children as an appreciation. It was a wonderful moment for the Parish.





DUBLIN

Dublin Syro Malabar Church - Family Renewal Retreat held on October 23 to 25

The annual family renewal retreat of the Syro Malabar Church in Dublin was held on the October 23rd to 25th in Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church in Glasnevin. The three-day retreat started each day at 1pm and ended by 6pm, the schedule included Holy Qurbana, Retreat Preaching, and Eucharistic Adoration.

The retreat was led by His Excellency Mar Antony Prince Panengaden, the bishop of Adilabad; Mar Raphael Thattil, the bishop of Shamshabad; Rev. Fr. Roy Palatty CMI, the Spiritual Director of Shalom World; Rev. Fr. Jiji Kunnel, the Director of Spirituality Center, Irinjalakuda Diocese; and Fr. Sebastian Nellankuzhiyil, OCD, Dublin.

The retreat programme was held in compliance with the existing Covid protocols and was a success. More than 500 people participated in the retreat and gained spiritual enrichment.



Rosary Rally to Bray Head on Feast day of Our Lady of Holy Rosary

Dublin Syromalabar Catholic Church celebrated the feast of our Lady of Holy Rosary on 7th October. Feast day celebration began in St. Fergal's Church, Bray at 11 am with the Solemn celebration of Holy Qurbana by Rev.Fr. Clement Padathiparambil and Rev.Fr. Roy Vatakattu. This was followed by rosary procession to the Bray head. This was well attended by Families from different mass centres. They came together to take part in Holy Qurbana and praying the rosary with devotion. This was a time of abundant blessing and unforgettable experience for everyone who attended.





Kunjupaithangalude Thirunnal (Feast of Holy Innocents)

Feast of the Holy innocents day was celebrated on 28th December to commemorate the memory of the small children of Bethlehem who was put to death by Herod. This special feast day Celebration began in Church of Incarnation, Fettercain, Tallaght with celebration of Holy Qurbana by Rev.Fr. Clement Padathiparabil and Rev.Fr. Roy Vattakkattu. Many families participated in this celebration. All children from new born to those before their first Holy communion and their families were invited to participate. Holy innocents are the special patron of small children and it was an excellent time for parents to bless their children. There was special blessing of children followed by unnisoykku adimavekkal . Cake cutting , presenting balloons and sweets added colours to this joyous celebration.

Inauguration of CML& Holy Child hood



CML & Holy Childhood was inaugurated on November 1st in Church of Incarnation, Fettercain, Tallaght. This day marked the 5th anniversary of the Apostolic Visitation Europe. Bishop Stephen Chirappanath celebrated Holy Qurbana. Faithfull gathered there thankfully remembered all the blessings received through apostolic visitation. This was followed by the inauguration of CML & Holy child hood in Dublin. Children representatives from various mass centres participated in this joyous occasion. Mr. Binu Antony gave a brief presentation about the CML, and Holy childhood. The CML & Holy child hood will function through Catechism department . Binu informed that Animators and Children representatives will be elected from each mass centres for coordination of its activities. Celebrations ended with light refreshments.

BLANCHARDSTOWN

Housing Charity

The parents of children who celebrated Solemn reception of Holy Communion in 2021 donated INR 150, 000 towards a housing charity in Kanjirappally Diocese.

Mission Sunday

A cake sale was conducted on Mission Sunday (17 Oct 2021) by SMYM and Mathruvedi to fund raise for the mission Sunday.

CML & Thirubalasakhyam

Cherupushpa Mission league (CML) & Holy Childhood (Thirubalasakhyam) were officially inagurated on 17 Oct on the occasion of Mission Sunday.

Statue of Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary

Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara blessed the new statue of Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary on 29 Oct.





Edavaka Thirunal

Parish Vicar Fr. Roy George Vattakkattu hoisted the flag for Edavakathirunal on 26 Oct 21. Rosary, Novena & Holy Qurbana were celebrated from 26 Oct to 31 Oct. Bishop Stephen Chirappanathu was the main celebrant for the Feast celebrations on 31 October.

Altar server's training

A training was conducted for the new batch of Altar servers on 05 Nov by Rev Fr. Roy George Vattakkattu. All Soul's Day

All Soul's Day was commemorated on 06th Nov with celebration of Holy Mass and 'Office for the Dead' at Huntstown church.

Pothuyogam 2021

Annual Pothuyogam for 2021 was conducted on 21 Nov at 9.30 am at Huntstown church.

House Blessings

House Blessings were done for Blanchardstown Mass Centre during Oct & Nov-2021 by Rev Fr. Roy George Vattakkattu.

New Uniform Holy Qurbana for Syro Malabar Church SMCC Blanchardstown has implemented the new uniform way of offering Holy Qurbana approved by the Synod of Syro Malabar Church with effect from 28 Nov.

Snack Sale

A snack sale was conducted on 05 Dec to facilitate the publication of ECCLESSIA 2021

Feast of the Immaculate conception of Mother Mary

Feast of the immaculate conception of Mother Mary and Mathruvedi Day were celebrated on 08th Dec at Huntstown Church with Holy Mass and Novena.

Christmas

Midnight Mass and Christmas services were conducted at Huntstown Church from 11.30 pm on 24th Dec. Christmas Carols were performed by members of Pithruvedi, Mathruvedi, SMYM and Altar servers after the Mass.



BRAY

Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday Auction has been organized by SMYM in St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara mass center Bray with solid support of Mathruvedhi, Pithruvedhi and Church Committee members on 17/10/21. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Nellankuzhyil has blessed the traditional religious event and many parishioners extended their sincere cooperation for the success of the program.

SMYM Unit Visit

Rev. Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal visited SMYM unit on 11/12/21 in St. Fergal's Church Bray. This was well attended by the SMYM members of Bray mass centre. There was talks, sharing, games and activities organised by the SMYM members.

SMYM and Church Committee Members wished Rev. Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal on his birthday in St. Fergal's Church Bray after the Malayalam Holy Qurbana on 12th December.

Christmas celebration in Bray

Many parishioners participated with families in the Christmas Eve midnight Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Tommy. SMYM members organized beautiful carol services with support of youth animators after the Christmas Eve midnight Holy Mass.



LUCAN

English Holy Qurbana (Syro- Malabar Rite) for Youth and Children

English mass for children and Youth started in Lucan Mass Centre during the month of January 2022 under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil. Every Sunday at 4.30 PM, Holy Qurbana is celebrated in English. Children and Youth choir participate in the Mass very actively and devoutfully. Following Holy Qurbana, children learn about saints and catechetical information through interactive presentations and quizzes.

Remembrance Mass

Lucan Mass Centre celebrated the remembrance Mass for the departed souls on November 28. Rev. Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal was the main celebrant. Holy Qurbana was followed by the Office of the dead. Photos of the deceased loved ones were placed on the altar and flowers were offered on the altar by the faithful.





Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday was celebrated on October 23 in Divine Mercy Church Lucan after the Holy Qurbana. It was a coordinated initiative of SMYM & Mathruvedi. There was cake sale, auction of vegetables, plants, sale of baked items, Kappa Biriyani, Puffs, tea and coffee. Mathruvedi members prepared the food items. Fund raised from the Mission Sunday will go for the Mission activities and youth activities.

Crib and Christmas tree competition

Crib and Christmas tree competition was held on December 23. Many families participated in this competition. Entries were judged by panel of experts based on creative ideas, originality, mode of presentation. 1st Prize was won by Jobin Sebastian, Second Prize was won by Evelyn and Lian Jith, Third Prize by Robin and Royce Joseph. Consolation Prizes won by Sabu Sebastian and Arun Thomas.

SMYM : Skittles Fiesta

Skittles Fiesta was a gathering of Lucan SMYM members after the covid restrictions were eased off. Approx 30 SMYM members gathered in Rialto Our Lady of Fatima church on October 31. The day included prayer, adoration, fun activities and sharing.

SMYM Unit Visits

As part of the strengthening unit activities, Rev. Fr. Binoj visited the SMYM units. SMYM held various activities such as Prayer, interactive sessions, video, sharing by members, games, and activities. This definitely lifted up the energy and enthusiasm of the members.

24 hours Chain Rosary

Mathruvedi members initiated a 24 hours chain rosary in preparation for the Idavaka Perunnal.

Apostolic Visitation

Europe Apostolic Visitor Mar Stephen Chirappanath visited Lucan Mass centre on October 31st and celebrated Holy Qurbana. On this auspicious occasion, Bishop blessed all the First Holy Communicants and newly wedded couples and those who celebrated 25 years of wedding anniversary.

House blessings

Rev. Fr. Clement visited approximate 120 families in different family units of Lucan and blessed houses during the month of October 2021.



PHIBSBOROUGH

Phibsborough Mass centre celebrated Mission Sunday on 7th November 2021, and Kristuraj Thirunaal on 21 November 2021. SMYM members participated in the Christmas Raffle held in December.

SWORDS

Swords Mass Centre welcomed the New year with midnight mass. Rev Fr Roy celebrated the Holy Qurbana. After the mass, everyone joined to wish Fr. Roy happy birthday wishes followed by cutting the cake by Rev Fr Roy Vatakkattu. Swords Mass Centre had celebrated midnight mass at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve which was attended by many. Rev Fr Binoj Mulavarickal gave a good Christmas message with his meaningful, simple and humorous words. After the mass each family was given a cake as part of Christmas greetings.

TALLAGHT

Tallaght Mass Centre celebrated Christmas on 24th December, Amalolbhava Thirunnal on December 8th, All Saints day on November 1st, New year Mass on December 31st evening. CML was Inaugurated by Fr. Roy on November 14th.







OCTOBER RETREAT

SMYM Dublin held a 3-day retreat for all youth from the 23rd to 25th October 2021 at the Church of Incarnation, Fettercain. The 3 days were filled with prayer, adoration, games, praise and worship, and mass. Many special guests were invited to share their testimonies and to inspire the youth. Activities and talks were led by the Home of the Mother Retreat Team, Fr. Timothy Nolan, Aisling Armstrong, and Fr Patrick Cahill. The youth had a wonderful experience hearing from different guest speakers and were inspired by their testimonies and experiences. The retreat was one that rejuvenated the youth during these troublesome times.

SMYM RAFFLE DRAW

In preparation for Christmas, SMYM dublin held a christmas raffle called Win With" during November and December. The prizes were as follows:

1st prize - iPad 9th gen, 2nd Prize - Tefal Air Fryer. 3rd Prize - Fitbit Smart Watch, 4th Prize - Sony Headphones
 Tickets were sold by youth from all Dublin units and a separate raffle for a road bike was drawn with all agents who sold the tickets. There were also 2 consolation prizes for each mass centre. The raffle was drawn at Rialto on 23rd December 2021 in the presence of Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, Fr. Roy Vattakattu, and Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal. The draw was live streamed through zoom and Facebook.

UNIT VISITS

The director of Youth Apostolate Europe, Fr. Binoj Mulavarickal arrived in Ireland in November. Fr. Binoj visited all 9 SMYM units in Dublin and Ireland during November and December. Each unit welcomed Fr. Binoj with excitement and spend time with him discussing various different topics and sharing experiences. Fr. Binoj's birthday was celebrated during the visits aswell. Fr. Binoj was able to get a glimpse at what life of our youth here was like and get feedback on how we can further support and inspire our youth.

ZONAL GATHERING

On 26th December 2021, SMYM Dublin held a regional leaders gathering in the Church of Incarnation, Fettercain. The gathering was for all unit executive teams and leaders. It was a wonderful opportunity for the youth leaders and teams to hear from Fr Binoj on how to strengthen SMYM units, inspire youth and become strong, inspirational and unique leaders. The day was filled with talks, discussions, games, adoration, and music. Fr. Clement's birthday was also celebrated during the day with the youth.





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EXECUTIVE TEAM OUTING

On 27th December 2021, the Dublin SMYM Executive team went to GoQuest. The executive team members, animators, Jincy Joseph and Siljo Thomas and Fr binoj were present. The day was a great opportunity for the team to get to know each other and share their skills through different activities and tasks.



Getting Married soon

ബിറമലബാറിലെ

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Under the Auspices of FAMILY APOSTOLATE
SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH IRELAND

2022

February 16,17,18

August 10,11,12

November 23,24,25

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

For Registration & More Details
www.syromalabar.ie
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FIND THE RIGHT ANSWERS FOR THE QUESTIONS FROM THE HIDDEN WORDS
 Your answers send us before March 15 to kidscorner@syromalabarcatholic.ie.
 Selected entries will win some exciting prizes !

Z B H I W U J U S W I F U P J A O G Y D X S Y Y P
 V Q T G J L Z H G X M K Q O P K S J J Y F O W D H
 R H U R D F W E D U J V U H H R O M U M I Y H M L
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Theme of the upcoming synod is " for a synodal church; communion, participation and _____

Word synodality means process of _____ together

Synod is a Greek word meaning _____ -

Name the pope who called for Synod on Synodality

How many years is this (Synod on Sinodality) Synodal Process

Denaha is the feast where we remember the _____ of Jesus

Another name of feast of Denaha _____

Syriac word Denaha means _____

The last Friday of the Denaha season is dedicated to the memory of _____

The tradition of decorating with cores of banana plants with light and singing is called _____



UPHOLD THE FAMILY VALUES

At the Pope's Angelus on the 26th of December 2021, the Feast of the Holy Family, the Holy Father 'reflected on how God chose a humble and simple family to come into our midst'. He elaborates further that the 'family is the story from which our own lives originate and have roots' and reminds us that Jesus is also the son of a family story.

The family today is often misunderstood or denigrated in ways which could not have been thought of before. Family is seen merely as part of life instead of what it really is: an integral part of our life.

All of us are part of a family, not just our own nuclear family, but the family of God and the family that is Church, however this reality is not seen in our world today. Often family is seen as the last thing or something that is put aside in an unrealistic quest for success. It, in every sense, is maligned. The putting aside of the family has also affected the way we view the church and our faith: something that is done as an extra (a cherry on the top).

The Holy Father spoke about the 'need for openness, day by day, to learn how to be a family, since every day presents new challenges and opportunities that require flexibility and creativity'. He refers to the Gospel when 'Mary and Joseph finally find Jesus with the teachers in the Temple'. The response that Jesus gave them, that he had to be about his Father's business, was something not clear to them at the time. This, the Holy father says, is important in our families as we try to face the "daily challenge" that requires a good attitude, simple actions, and loving care. This is vital in our world today, whether it is about families or about simple relationships. Often, we break connections and friendships due to misunderstandings and problems that have very little to do with the core of the relationship. The Holy Father in essence reminds us that it is very important to work on our relationships and persist through struggles so that we can reach the other side in a way which the relationship is back to what it was in the beginning.

All Christians are called to live a life which glorifies God. We are all given certain vocations through which we can live that life. In a family which lives according to the way God wishes us to live (as taught by the Church), we see how the vocation of marriage can lead to the glory of God. The focus in our families and in our lives must be union with God by constant prayer.

We live in a society that often speaks openly against what the Church teaches and the value of the family a life. In such situations we must pray, fast, and carry out acts of mercy so that we can gain the strength to bring up Christian families in our world today. In order to do this we must steadfastly preserve our traditions and live out our faith wherever we are. Our faith is not to be kept private, it is public and so one must remember that the actions one takes must be taken keeping in mind one's faith. We may fail to do this at time, and it will be difficult at first however, like the infant who tries to walk but falls, we must preserve until we can walk our faith and like St. Paul we can say 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith'.

The Holy Father's message is to sustain, defend, and safeguard the family. Our society is made up of families who love and nurture individuals so that they can become virtuous and thus make a society.

By: **John Joseph, SMYM Derry**



Youth and vision make an unbeatable combination

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity,” 1 Timothy 4:12.

The youth and the future are synonymous. A world without youth; without vigour and spirit characteristic of youth; without empowerment of youth; is a world without a future. Moreover, a church that does not propel its youth towards activism and leadership is like “a house founded on sand.”

At a time when the rift between religion and the youth is ever broadening, assurance that young people “are not marginalised members of the body but are co-creators and conspirators in the divine work of the church” is ever pertinent.

To provide such assurance and coax active engagement from all members, under the guidance of our director and dear, distinguished Chaplain Rev. Dr. Joseph Karukayil; formulation of our dedicated animators and collaboration of executive members; the SMYM community of Portadown has outlined a youth prayer plan detailing the content and community members co-ordinating monthly prayer for the year of 2022.

The enriched format of prayer, among many meaningful aspects, consists of a birthday blessing, administered by our director, where the life-giving God, the life He has created and the abundance of gifts He has bestowed is celebrated. Another, addition is the relevant and moving youth prayer, written by executive member, Sandra John, invoking protection and guidance to steer the “anxieties and distractions ever present in our world today.”

Furthermore, the collaborative element, where youth, teenagers and children are encouraged to cooperate and combine efforts to produce an evening of prayer and meditation, strengthens communal harmony at a time when it can be said that unity and alliance are most necessary. Such partnerships across age groups are also promising opportunities for peer teaching where communication, collaboration, and leadership skills among many are fortified.

Most importantly, the idea and structure of this youth prayer plan has allowed to create a more empowering and enriching environment where young people feel included and valued; better themselves individually and collectively; and can witness their talents and efforts manifest in a way pleasing to God.

On behalf of the youth of SMYM Portadown, we feel appreciated to be appointed with such responsibilities and will cherish opportunities to work together, to teach, to lead and to use our efforts for the spiritual enrichment of each other and our community.

Ayana Gijo, President of SMYM Portadown



Christ with me,
 Christ before me,
 Christ behind me,
 Christ in me,
 Christ beneath me,
 Christ above me,
 Christ on my right,
 Christ on my left,
 Christ when I lie down,
 Christ when I sit down,
 Christ when I arise,

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
 Christ in every eye that sees me,
 Christ in every ear that hears me



St. Patrick used the three leaves of a shamrock to explain the holy trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Celtic Cross

St. Patrick Day: March 17

St. Patrick the patron saint of Ireland

St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. His father was a Christian deacon.

At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian.

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice—which he believed to be God's—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. To do so, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation—an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than 15 years.

After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. (Interestingly, this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.)

Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when Patrick arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion. The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. When this is considered, it is no surprise that the story of Patrick's life became exaggerated over the centuries—spinning exciting tales to remember history has always been a part of the Irish way of life.

He may be known as the patron saint of Ireland, but Patrick was never actually canonized by the Catholic Church. This is simply due to the era he lived in. During the first millennium, there was no formal canonization process in the Catholic Church. After becoming a priest and helping to spread Christianity throughout Ireland, Patrick was likely proclaimed a saint by popular acclaim.

He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D.

Credit : History.com



Blessed Martyr Sr. Rani Maria Vattalil FCC

February 25

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13)." The tomb of blessed Sr. Rani Maria has been carved with this 'Word of God' quite significantly.

Sr. Rani Maria, an Indian Syro Malabar professed religious and a social worker in the Franciscan Clarist Congregation was martyred on 25th February, 1995 with 54 stab wounds while travelling by a bus. She was declared as servant of God on 29th June, 2005 and beatified on 4th November 2017.

Sr. Rani Maria was born on 29th January 1954 as the second of seven children of Paily and Eliswa Vattalil at Pulluvazhy, a small village in Kerala- a southern state of India. She was baptized on February 5th, the same year and was given the name Mariam. She received the first Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation on 30 April 1966. Sr. Rani joined the Franciscan Clarist Congregation at Kidangoor on 3rd July 1971 and made her first profession on 1st May 1974. Her final commitment to the Lord was on 22nd May, 1980.

She began her mission life in northern India at Bijnor in 1975 and was appointed as a teacher in St. Mary's School Bijnor, in spite of her desire to serve the poor in the villages. After two years of teaching in the school, she got fully involved in social service until she was transferred to Odagady in the diocese of Satna in 1983. She was appointed as coordinator of the social activities and worked to uplift the poor and downtrodden. From 1989 to 1992 Sr. Rani Maria served as Local Superior too.

In 1992, she was transferred to Udayanagar in the diocese of Indore. During the initial years of her mission, she involved herself in the education of children both formal and non-formal. This slowly gave way to a much wider field of development of the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized. Due to her developmental programmes the poor tribals became active citizens and started to free themselves from the bondage of the unscrupulous moneylenders and social exploiters. This made her become an object of their hatred, which grew steadily in step with the progress of the poor. On her way to Indore in a bus she was brutally murdered by Samandar Singh who was hired by some landlords. Drawing out a knife he repeatedly stabbed her inside the bus. In front of the passengers, he dragged her out of the bus and stabbed until she died. The post-mortem registered 40 major injuries, besides 14 bruises. She kept repeating the name of "Jesus"- her favourite prayer, right up to the end of her death agony. She was buried at Udaingar in Dewas district.

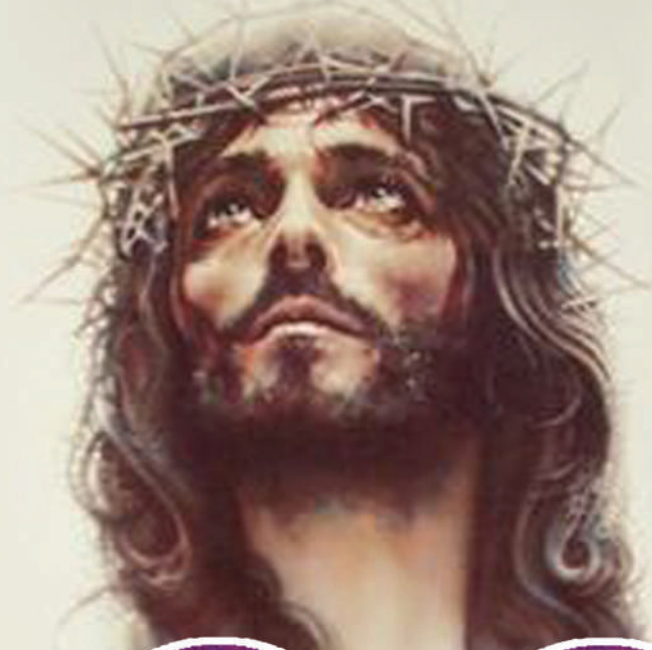
Numerous favours obtained through the intercession of Sr. Rani Maria are reported by many people. Some received favours by participating in the funeral procession itself. By keeping her photo, the poor tribals of Udaingar used to ask for her intercession in their needs.

The powerful expression of God's forgiving love was given by Rani Maria's younger sister, Sr. Selmy Paul FCC, when she visited Samundhar Singh, the assassin of Rani Maria, in the Indore Central Jail. Rightly interpreting the mind of her elder sister, on 21st August 2002, the day of "Rakshabandhan" [an annual feast held among the Hindus to consolidate a sacred relationship between brothers and sisters], Sr. Selmy tied 'Rakhi'- a decorated thread, on Samundhar's wrist, accepting him as her brother. Overwhelmed by this unexpected gesture, he asked forgiveness of Sr. Selmy and expressed his repentance.

On the occasion of the eighth death anniversary of Sr. Rani Maria, her mother Eliswa visited the jail and kissed the hands of her daughter's assassin. When Sr. Selmy tied 'Rakhi' to Samundhar Singh for the second time in 2003, she received a letter from him with 'Jai Krist' (Glory to Christ) inscribed at the top. The letter expresses his experience of peace and joy after receiving her forgiveness. He was pardoned by the Sr. Rani Maria's family and he is considered one of their own. He also attended the beatification ceremony and recalled his brutal act. Thus, Rani Maria continues her mission as evangeliser even more efficaciously after her death. She remains immortal in the hearts of thousands of poor people of the area. Her tomb is a sign and symbol of love, dedicated service and sacrifice."

Compiled by : Shiny Jayesh, Cork

THE GREAT FAST 2022



February 27
Pethrutha



February 28
Vibhoothi



March 23



April 8
40th Friday



April 9
Lazarus Saturday



April 10
Palm Sunday



April 14
Pesaha Thursday



April 15
Passion Friday



April 16
Great Saturday



April 17
Easter Sunday



April 22
Feast of All Saints



April 24
New Sunday

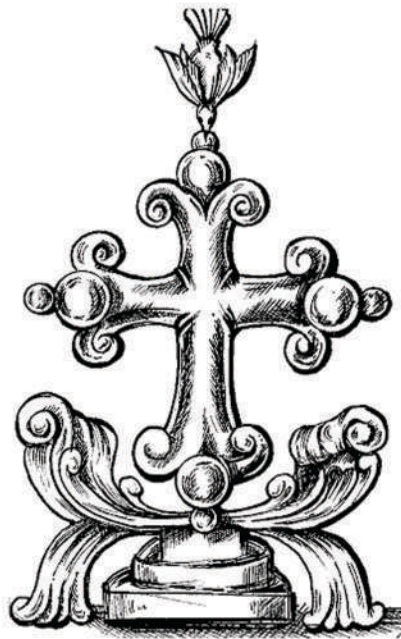


May 26
The Feast of Ascension

عَرَه مَكَل دُتَب



June 5
Feast of Pentecost



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