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PARISH BULLETIN

ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL - DUBAI

Happy
New Year

for members only



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Fr. Lany Chacko
Asst. Vicar

2015 is over! We are now past the threshold of a new year. It is a time to start a new, with hope for new experience, activities and plans and as well as renewed strength for the new challenges on which lie ahead of us in our life journey. Every year, month, week, day, hour and minute can present us with new challenges with regards to every aspect of our lives. This is especially true with the aspect of our spiritual life, in terms of our maturity and growth in our faith and relationship with God.

We are depriving ourselves of the treasures and wealth of our faith as we do lip service and remain in our comfort zones as we give in to laziness and fail to live up to the challenges of the Gospel. As we continue on our journey, let us not fail to keep in our consciousness our duty to grow and develop in becoming true Christians and faithful disciples of Christ, even in the most ordinary time of our lives. As one of the old saying is “doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way”. This means that we must transcend the “ordinariness” and “routinenes” of our everyday works. This is done by putting effort in all we do and doing so with love as an offering to God, for our sanctification, the benefit of our brothers and sisters and the betterment of our society and our world. This is the

very challenge that we are going to face as we travel along our journey. Let us make good resolutions and renew our commitments and our strength to live up this challenge.

As we reflect on our lives, we realize that our Lord loves us and helps us to correct and fix our failures and mistakes by living our lives in Him. It is His grace and love which enables us to live this way, to ascend the heights, meet new challenges, and serve Him with gladness. With this way of life, we will not only draw closer to God but also to our brothers and sisters as well, learning the language of love, how to better communicate with each other, using the gifts that He has given us- peace and love - so that we can live in harmony with one another, without bitterness, strife and hatred.

As we begin a new year, let us not forget this dignity of ours but keep it in our minds and hearts as the psalms tell us “Do not forget the good things God has done for you.” This year let us not stop at the conceptualization of the teachings of Jesus but live them out, (as what St. James once said “faith without works is dead”) in order for us to truly be faithful and sincere servants of God and one another, worthy of the name “Christians”. In doing so, God will find favor on us for we would have been victorious against the given challenge, and we too will hear: “This is my beloved son/ daughter, on whom my favor rests...”
Happy New Year and God bless!

The Feast of Denho

The Feast of Denho (Also known as Epiphany or Theophany) is celebrated on 6th January. The main event commemorated in this Feast is the baptism of Christ in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, but in Western Latin tradition and in Greek Eastern tradition two other events, namely the arrival of Magi and the miracle of changing water into wine at Cana were added to it. This Feast is the liturgical expression of the ideas of redemption, renewal and restoration of all creation, which was distorted by the fall of man, through the incarnation of the Son of God.

The four main themes expounded through this study are the Feast of Epiphany as the Feast of Divine Manifestation, as the Feast of Baptism, as Bridal Feast and as the Catechesis of the Living Water on the basis of Christ's baptism in the river Jordan.

Epiphany (from the Greek epiphaneia) means "manifestation from above," that is, "divine revelation." The Christian feast of the Epiphany primarily entails the manifestation of God in Christ, Christ being manifested as the Son of God and God as the Trinity of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.. The public ministry of Jesus was inaugurated with His baptism in the Jordan, where He was revealed to the world as God through the witness of the other two Persons of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Baptism of Jesus was the Theophany

of the Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity in a very unique manner. The manifestation of the Holy Trinity is made known to St. John the Baptist through three human senses. According to Syriac tradition, the role of the Holy Spirit in Christ's baptism is as the 'finger of the Father' to bear witness to the Son of God. The Father is manifested to the world through His profound voice testifying to the Son, the Holy Spirit is manifested in the form of a dove that rested on the Son, and thus the Son is revealed as God and as a Person of the Holy Trinity, now manifested on earth for the first time in history.

Blessing of the water, the central act of the Feast of the Epiphany, is the liturgical expression of the experience of Christian Baptism, the expression of the experience of the 'living water.' This act fulfills the catechetical purpose of reminding the believers of their baptismal experience and its meaning in their life, mainly their redemption, renewal and restoration. The role of the river Jordan as an instructive symbol of Living Waters may also be connected with the theme of baptism and is clearly reflected in the prayers and hymns of the order of the Feast. To the fathers of the Church, Jordan is a figure of Baptism. It is described by them as the baptismal font, as an instrument of renewal and redemption, and as the first fruit of sanctification.



Nineveh Lent

The Nineveh lent, one of the most strictly observed fasts in our Church tradition is the shortest lent in our Church Calendar. This fast lasts for three days beginning on the Monday, the third week before the beginning of the Great Lent. Since it is observed for three days, it is commonly known as Moonnunoimbu (three days fast) in the Malankara Orthodox Church. It is also known as the fast of Jonah since it commemorates the conversion of Nineveh through the preaching of prophet Jonah. It is time for the penitential practice for the whole Church and the Church does her penance and prayers like that of Jonah in the belly of the big fish. Unlike other lent, the 3 days Lent and the 50 days' lent's start dates are not fixed, but it starts sometime in January-March timeframe and they are 18 days apart from each other.

Nineveh lent is in remembrance of how the people in Nineveh were saved from God's wrath by fasting and penance. When the big fish swallowed Prophet Jonah he fasted and prayed for three days inside the whale. Jonah had committed sin by disobeying God's order and running away, but his sins were forgiven by his fasting and prayer. In the same way, the people of Nineveh listened to Jonah, regretted their sins and sitting in ashes fasted and prayed to God. God forgave them. This shows that a sinner is not without hope and God will forgive those who truly regret their sins, fast and pray. This 3 days lent teaches us the greatness of repentance and fasting.



His Holiness Baselios Augen I, The Fourth Catholicos of the East in Malankara

His Holiness was born on 26 June 1884 at Perumbavoor, Vengola, to Abraham Kathanar of Chettakulathukara family. He was ordained as deacon by Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios and in 1908 at Jerusalem he was elevated to the monastic order of Ramban. He was consecrated as Metropolitan Oughen Mar Timotheos on 15 May 1927 at Jerusalem. He was appointed as the fourth Metropolitan of Kandanad. He has left his imprint in several offices that he held during his life. He was principal of the Orthodox Theological Seminary, and the Metropolitan of Kandanad and Thumpamon dioceses. On 17 May 1962, when the Malankara Association met at Niranam, he was chosen as the Catholicos of the East. It was on 22 May 1964 at M.D. Seminary, Kottayam that he was installed formally as the fourth Catholicos. As he was very old, he relinquished his position as Malankara Metropolitan to his successor on 24 September 1975. Having achieved exceptional scholarship in Malayalam and Syriac languages, he translated into Malayalam the 'Pengkisa Namaskaram', 'Prumiyonukal', 'Valiya Nombilae Namaskaram', 'Pattamkoda Shushrusha Kramangal' and 'Pallikoodasha Kramangal'. He also composed the 'Hood- omakal' for 'Holy Synods' and the 'State after death'. He passed away on 8 December 1975 at Develokam Aramana and was laid to rest near the Aramana Chapel. His Annverary: 8 December. ●

His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II, The Third Catholicos of the East in Malankara

His Holiness was born to Ulah-anan and Naithi of Kallaserri family in Kurichi, Kottayam on 16 June 1874. On 24 April 1892, Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios ordained him as deacon and on 24 November and 27 November 1898 he was ordained as priest and Ramban (Monk) respectively by St. Gregorios. As per the order of St. Gregorios, he resided in Kadambanad church and took charge of the southern dioceses. He also served as Manager and Malpan of Old Seminary. He published books like "Sahodaran- marude Charithram". "Rehasya Prarthanakal". "Parudaisa", and "Mar Yuhanon Mamdana". On 8 September 1912, His Holiness Patriarch Abdhedh Meshiah consecrated him as Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Gregorios at Parumala Seminary. He was appointed as the Metropolitan of Thumpamon, Kollam and Niranam dioceses. On 15 February 1929. With the Malankara Metropolitan Vattaserril Geevarghese Mar Dionysios as the chief priest, he was installed as the Catholicos of the East. When the Association met on 24 December 1934 at M. D. Seminary, Kottayam, he was chosen as Malankara Metropolitan. It was a period when issues became very complex. Through prayer and fasting he received strength from God to lead his people for long years, courageously, inspiring his people to work for their church and for the glory of God. Following the peace pact of 1958, he had the good fortune to guide the destiny of the unified Malankara Church. Apart from consecrating twelve Metropolitans, and ordaining more than thousand priests and deacons, he founded and consecrated

many churches. On 22 April 1932 and on 20 April 1951 he conducted the ‘Mooron Koodasha’ (Chrism Consecration) at the Old Seminary. On 2 November 1947 he declared Geevarghese Mar Gregorios and Yeldo Mar Baselios as Saints. From his time onwards the offices of Catholicos and Malankara Metropolitan came to repose in one and the same person. The deep spirituality and wisdom of this Catholicos earned him the title “Valiya Bava,” or “The Great Catholicos.” Shedding luster like a Beacon illuminating the history of the church, he led it from glory to glory. He entered the eternal realms on 3 January 1964 at Devalokam Aramana He was laid to rest beside the Devalokam Aramana Chapel. His Anniversary is 3 January

H.H. BASELIOS MAR THOMA MATHEWS II

H.H. Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews II was the Sixth Catholicos of Malankara Orthodox Church and 89th Apostolic Successor of St. Thomas and 19th Malankara Metropolitan. The life of His Holiness was a well-celebrated one and he lived his life to the full, the richness of which touched the hearts of millions and imprinted enduring mark on the history of Malankara. Being anointed to His Holy Episcopate by the descent of the Holy Spirit, Mar Baselios guided the Malankara Orthodox Church with diligence of a most devoted shepherd for fifteen years from 1991 to 2006.

He was born at Perinad in Kollam district of Kerala, and had his theological education at Old Seminary Kottayam and also at Basil Dayara, Pathanamthitta. Later he joined Bishop’s College, Calcutta for his B. D. Degree, and studied Theology at the General Theological Seminary, New York.

He was ordained as deacon in 1938 then as priest in 1941. On 15 May 1953 he was ordained as bishop Mathews Mar Coorilose at the age of 38 by the Catholicos Baselios Geevarghese II. Mar Coorilose was appointed by the Catholicos to assist Metropolitan Alexios Mar Theodosius of Kollam Diocese. In 1980 he was unanimously elected by the Malankara Syrian Christian Association as the successor-designate to the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan. When Catholicos H.H. Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews I abdicated the throne due to ill health, Mar Coorilose was elevated to the throne of St Thomas as Baselios Marthoma Mathews II, Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan on 29 April 1991, becoming the Sixth Catholicos in Malankara and 89th Successor to the Holy Apostolic Throne of St Thomas.

A good orator, an eminent scholar, a renowned theologian, an able administrator and a man of the Word of God, he has all the qualities needed for a spiritual leader and a good shepherd. With his intelligence, wisdom, love and vision and with his vast experience in various fields he has proved himself successful as a skillful ecclesiastical head of an ancient Church. With his devotion and dedication in life and sincerity of purpose, no doubt the community at large is benefited by his true Christian life as a servant of God in the service of mankind.

Due to ill health from old age H.H. Mathews II resigned his position as the Supreme Head of the Indian Orthodox Church on 29 October 2005. H.H. Bava departed from this world for his heavenly abode at 5.10 PM on January 26, 2006 at Devalokan Aramana in Kottayam and was interred at Mount Horeb Chapel, in Sasthamkotta on the 28th.



MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016



Fr. Shaji Mathews
Vicar & President



Fr. Lany Chacko
Asst. Vicar



Johnson D.Y.
Hon. Trustee



Babuji George
Hon. Secretary



Shaji Punchakonam
Hon. Jt. Trustee



Cherian K.K.
Hon. Jt. Secretary



Kuriakose M.M.
Ex-Officio & Al Qusais



Abraham P.A.
Al Qusais



Shaji Kochukutty
Al Qusais/al Nahda



Mathew M. George
Al Shaab



Binu Yohannan
Al Quoz-Jabel Ali



Abu John
Bur Dubai



Abraham Alenchery
Hor Al Anz/port Sayed



Joseph Varghese
Karama



Reji Mathew
Karama



Thomas T. Varghese
Karama



Thomas P. Alexander
Rashidiya/Sonapur



Binu Varghese
Rashidiya/Sonapur



Varkey K. Cherian
Satwa



Roy John
Sharjah / Other Emirates



Saji K. John
Sharjah / Al Nahda



Mathew Thomas
Yousaf Baker / Frij Murar



Koshy C. Samuel
Hon. Accounts Auditor



Chacko P.K.
Hon. System Auditor





Alexander Jose Alex
Charity Committee Member



Paul George
Charity Committee Member

Church Website Committee Members

Jaic George (Ex-officio) | **Jobinse P. John** (Ex-officio)
Shiju Thankachen | **Libi Mathew** | **Stanley Sunny**

MGOCSM Office Bearers 2016

Secretary	Jomina Kurian	
Treasurer	Terry Thomas	
Jt. Secretary	Jevin Varghese	Committee Members
Ex. Official	Gibin Babuji George	Sancia Kuriakose Feba Rachel Babu Eapen Geevarghese Anish Varghese

OCYM Office Bearers 2016

Vice President	Johnkutty Idikkula	
Secretary	Ginu George	Ex-officio-Bintu Mathai
Jt. Secretary	Abraham Mathew	Committee Members
Jt. Secretary	Ginu Koshy	Cherian Oommen Roshen Rajan Allen Philip Abraham Saji Mulamoottil
Treasurer	Anto Abraham	Bibin Abraham SanjuSam George (Jaimon)

Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam Office Bearers 2016

Secretary	Mani Thomas	
Jt. Secretary	Sherly John	Committee Members
Treasurer	Sheejamma Reji	Anu Saji Minjo Robin Nancy Jacob Nisha Roby Shyama Shaji

SUNDAY SCHOOL

08/01/2016	New Academic Year starts
15/01/2016	Regular Classes
22/01/2016	Sunday school Annual Day 5:30 pm onwards
29/01/2016	Regular Classes

ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

REGULAR MEETING

Divyabodhanam Class - Every Monday 8 pm to 9.30 pm (To increase general awareness of the Bible, Church History & Basic Beliefs of the Malankara Orthodox Sabha.)
More Informations Contact: Biju Thankachen - 050-7387846

OCYM Job Cell - Highly active Job Cell that matches job seekers with employers from a wide range of sectors.
More Informations Contact: Manoj Thomas - 050-8829454

Library - Library opens every Friday after the holy mass. More than 10,000 collection of books in various topics. Especially the books available for children. Library membership will be available for all the church members.

Contact Mr. Abraham - 0552956071

Email : ocymdubai@gmail.com Website: www.stthomasocymdubai.org

Job Cell : jobcellocymdubai@gmail.com

MGOCSM

08/01/2016	Inauguration
	Regular Meeting
15/01/2016	Fujairah MGOCSM unit visit and Excursion
22/01/2016	Exam Counselling session and house visit
	Regular Meeting
29/01/2016	Regular Meeting

MOMS

15/01/2016	Official Inauguration
19/01/2016	Ninave lent
22/01/2016	Membership campaign
29/01/2016	Membership campaign

ജനുവരി-പ്രധാന ദിവസങ്ങൾ

- ജനുവരി 01 : നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവിന്റെ ചേലാകർമ്മപ്പെരുമാൾ
: മാർ ബസേലിയോസ്, മാർ ഗ്രിഗോറിയോസ് പിതാക്കൻമാരുടെയും സകല വിശുദ്ധൻമാരുടെയും ഓർമ്മ
- ജനുവരി 03 : മാർ ബസേലിയോസ് ഗീവർഗീസ് ജിതീയൻ കാതോലിക്ക ബാവായുടെ 52-ാം ഓർമ്മ (കോട്ടയം ദേവലോകം കാതോലിക്കേറ്റ് അരമന)
: കുറുൻ കുരിശ് സത്യം സ്മരണാദിനം (മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി സെന്റ് ജോർജ്ജ്)
- ജനുവരി 06 : കർത്താവിന്റെ മാമോദീസാ - ദനഹാപ്പെരുമാൾ
- ജനുവരി 07 : മാർ യൂഹാനോൻ മാംദാനയുടെ പുഷ്പയുടെ പെരുമാൾ
- ജനുവരി 08 : മാർ സ്തേഫാനോസ് സഹായുടെ ഓർമ്മ
- ജനുവരി 15 : വിത്തുകൾക്കുവേണ്ടി വി. ദൈവമാതാവിന്റെ ഓർമ്മ
: താപസനായ മാർ പൗലോയുടെ ഓർമ്മ
- ജനുവരി 18 : മാർ ശമുവേലിന്റെയും, മാർ ശമുവുന്റെയും, മാർ അന്തോനിയോസിന്റെയും ഓർമ്മ
- ജനുവരി 21 : ഫിലിപ്പോസ് മാർ യൗസേബിയോസ് മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തായുടെ 6-ാം ഓർമ്മ (പത്തനംതിട്ട ബേസിൽ അരമന)
- ജനുവരി 23 : സന്യാസ ശ്രേഷ്ഠനായ മാർ ഔഗേന്റെ ഓർമ്മ
- ജനുവരി 26 : മാർ ബസേലിയോസ് മാർത്തോമ്മ മാത്യൂസ് ജിതീയൻ കാതോലിക്ക ബാവായുടെ ഓർമ്മ (ശാസ്താംകോട്ട ഹോറേബ് ആശ്രമം)
: കുറ്റിക്കാട്ടിൽ പൗലോസ് മാർ അത്താനാസിയോസ് മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തായുടെ ഓർമ്മ (ആലുവ തൃക്കുന്നത്ത് സെമിനാരി)

Three Days Lent

January	18	10.30 am to 12.30 Pm	Meditation and Noon Prayer
January	19	10.30 am to 12.30 pm	Meditation and Noon Prayer
January	20	10.30 am to 12.30 pm	Meditation and Noon prayer
		07.00 pm	Evening Prayer
		07.30 pm	Holy Qurbana

HOLY SERVICES, PRAYERS & MEETINGS

Fridays	: 06.45 am - 07.25 am	Night Prayer, Morning Prayer
	: 08.15 am - 10.30 am	Holy Qurbana
Fridays	: 07.00 pm - 07.30 pm	Evening Prayer
	: 07.30 pm - 09.00 pm	Holy Qurbana
Sundays	: 07.30 pm - 08.00 pm	Evening Prayer
	: 08.00 pm - 09.30 pm	Holy Qurbana
Tuesdays	: 05.30 am - 07.00 am	Holy Qurbana
Wednesdays	: 07.30 pm - 08.30 pm	Evening Prayer & Intercessory Prayer for St. Mary
Saturday, Monday, Tuesday	: 07.00 pm - 07.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursdays	: 07.00 pm - 09.15 pm	Holy Confession, Evening Prayer
		Intercessory prayer to St. Thomas
		Church Prayer Meeting & Choir Practice
Marth Mariam Samajam	: 11.00 am - 12.20 pm	All Fridays
M.G.O.C.S.M	: 11.00 am - 12.20 pm	All Fridays
Youth Movement	: 11.00 am - 12.20 pm	All Fridays
Retreat	: 09.00 am - 12.30 pm	Every Month Second Wednesdays



AREA PRAYER MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY - 2016

DAY & DATE	WEEK	AREA	NAME	CARDEX	ADDRESS
02-1-2016 SATURDAY	FIRST	AL SHAAB	Mathew M. George	M-149	Flat No. 117, SBK Bldg., (Madina Supermarket Bldg.) Al Shaab
04-1-2016 MONDAY	SECOND	KARAMA	Babu Daniel	B-70	Flat No. 514, Zabeel Bldg., Near GPO, Karama
04-1-2016 MONDAY	SECOND	PORT SAYED/ HOR AL ANZ	Binu Abraham	B-328	Flat No. 601, Barbas Bldg, Near Grand Central Hotel, Al Rigga
09-1-2016 SATURDAY	second	Al Quoz	Rajeev Abraham	R-244	Flat No. B-104 Building No. 3, Layan Community, Near Arabian Ranges
09-1-2016 SATURDAY	SECOND	BUR DUBAI	Jinto Hanley		Al Watan Bldg., Flat No. 104, Golden Sand Area, Kuwait Street, Bur Dubai
11-1-2016 MONDAY	SECOND	AL QUSAIS AL NAHDA	Philip George	P-120	Flat 906 Awqaf Bldg., Near Calicut Paragon Restaurant Behind Zulekha Hospital, Al Nahda, Qusais
12-1-2016 TUESDAY	THIRD	AL QUSAIS	M.M. Kuriakose	K-60	Flat No. 110, Dubai Municipality Staff Accom., Bldg No. 4, AL Towar Street, Qusais
16-1-2016 SATURDAY	THIRD	SHARJAH	Sanil Babu	S-560	Room No. 506, Nasriya Bldg., Next to Al Ahil Super Market, Muwillah, Sharjah
16-1-2016	THIRD	YOUSUF BAKER/ AL BARAHA	Siby John	J-673	Flat No. 104, 1st Floor, Building No. 13, Behind Belhoul Hospital, Al Baraha, Deira, Dubai
23-12016 SATURDAY	FOURTH	SHARJAH AL NAHDA	Joby Mathew	J 306	805, Jumal Majid Bldg, Next to Nawas Al Madina S/M Al Nahda, Sharjah
23-1-2016 SATURDAY	FOURTH	SATWA	Ciji Varghese	C-119	Flat No. 38, Union cooperative building, Satwa
25-1-2016 MONDAY	FIFTH	MUHASINAH LULUVILLAGE	Binu Thomas	B-159	Flat No. 310, Al Thurya Bldg, opp. Plaza Silicone Oasis
25/01/2016 MONDAY	FIFTH	RASHIDIYA	Biji T. Punnose	B-053	Vila No. 5, Gresco Bldg, Near Rashidiya Metro Station, Rashidiya
26-1-2016 TUESDAY	FIFTH	AL QUSAIS	Mintoo Jacob Raj	M-316	Flat No. 406, Block No. 2, Dubai Residential oasis, Qusais
26-1-2016 TUESDAY	FIFTH	KARAMA	Saji P Thomas & John Eapen	S-104 J-66	At Church

SONAPUR PRAYER MEETING - EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT EVERHOT CAMP@17 : 00 - 19 : 00 HRS

CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS - 2016

Rev. Fr. Shaji Mathews	<i>Vicar & President</i>	052 8711031	frshajimathews@yahoo.co.in
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Shaji Punchakonam	Hon. Jt. Trustee	055 7294045	shaji.punchakonam@gmail.com
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