

**APOSTOLIC EXARCHATE FOR THE SYRO-MALABAR
CATHOLICS IN CANADA
BULLETIN**



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POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR LENT 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a “sacramental sign of our conversion”. Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

With this message, I would like again this year to help the entire Church experience this time of grace anew, with joy and in truth. I will take my cue from the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: “Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold” (24:12).

These words appear in Christ’s preaching about the end of time. They were spoken in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, where the Lord’s passion would begin. In reply to a question of the disciples, Jesus foretells a great tribulation and describes a situation in which the community of believers might well find itself: amid great trials, false prophets would lead people astray and the love that is the core of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many.

FALSE PROPHETS

Let us listen to the Gospel passage and try to understand the guise such false prophets can assume.

They can appear as “snake charmers”, who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go. How many of God’s children are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness! How many men and women live entranced by the dream of wealth, which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests! How many go through life believing that they are sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!

False prophets can also be “charlatans”, who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless. How many young people are taken in by the panacea of drugs, of disposable relationships, of easy but dishonest gains! How many more are ensnared in a thoroughly “virtual” existence, in which relationships appear quick and straightforward, only to prove meaningless! These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love. They appeal to our vanity, our trust in appearances, but in the end they only make fools of us. Nor should we be surprised. In order to confound the human heart, the devil, who is “a liar and the father of lies” (Jn 8:44), has always presented evil as good, falsehood as truth. That is why each of us is called to peer into our heart to see if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets. We must learn to look closely, beneath the surface, and to recognize what leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, because it comes from God and is truly for our benefit.

A COLD HEART

In his description of hell, Dante Alighieri pictures the devil seated on a throne of ice, in frozen and loveless isolation. We might well ask ourselves how it happens that charity can turn cold within us. What are the signs that indicate that our love is beginning to cool?



More than anything else, what destroys charity is greed for money, “the root of all evil” (1 Tim 6:10). The rejection of God and his peace soon follows; we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in his word and the sacraments.[3] All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own “certainties”: the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the alien among us, or our neighbour who does not live up to our expectations.

Creation itself becomes a silent witness to this cooling of charity. The earth is poisoned by refuse, discarded out of carelessness or for self-interest. The seas, themselves polluted, engulf the remains of countless shipwrecked victims of forced migration. The heavens, which in God’s plan, were created to sing his praises, are rent by engines raining down implements of death.

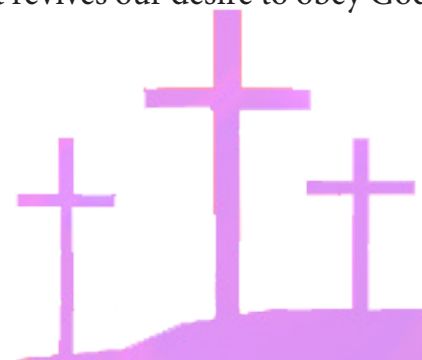
Love can also grow cold in our own communities. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, I sought to describe the most evident signs of this lack of love: selfishness and spiritual sloth, sterile pessimism, the temptation to self-absorption, constant warring among ourselves, and the worldly mentality that makes us concerned only for appearances, and thus lessens our missionary zeal.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

Perhaps we see, deep within ourselves and all about us, the signs I have just described. But the Church, our Mother and Teacher, along with the often bitter medicine of the truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

By devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well. Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church! For this reason, I echo Saint Paul’s exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God himself. When we give alms, we share in God’s providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.



I would also like my invitation to extend beyond the bounds of the Catholic Church, and to reach all of you, men and women of good will, who are open to hearing God's voice. Perhaps, like ourselves, you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, you are concerned about the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the one human family. Join us, then, in raising our plea to God, in fasting, and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need!

THE FIRE OF EASTER

Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew.

One such moment of grace will be, again this year, the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative, which invites the entire Church community to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic adoration. In 2018, inspired by the words of Psalm 130:4, "With you is forgiveness", this will take place from Friday, 9 March to Saturday, 10 March. In each diocese, at least one church will remain open for twenty-four consecutive hours, offering an opportunity for both Eucharistic adoration and sacramental confession.

During the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate once more the moving rite of the lighting of the Easter candle. Drawn from the "new fire", this light will slowly overcome the darkness and illuminate the liturgical assembly. "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds", and enable all of us to relive the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.

With affection and the promise of my prayers for all of you, I send you my blessing. Please do not forget to pray for me.

From the Vatican, 1 November 2017

Solemnity of All Saints

FRANCIS



POPE FRANCIS ANNOUNCES DAY OF PRAYER, FASTING FOR CONGO AND SOUTH SUDAN

On Sunday, February 04, during his Sunday Angelus Pope Francis announced that the February 23, first Friday of Lent, would be a day of prayer and fasting for peace given the many ongoing conflicts throughout the world, particularly those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

Here is a summary of Pope's message:

"Facing the tragic continuation of conflicts in different parts of the world, I invite all the faithful to a special day of prayer and fasting for peace on Feb. 23, the Friday of the first week of Lent." He asked that the day be offered specifically for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan and invited both non-Catholics and non-Christians to join "in the ways they deem most appropriate."

"Our heavenly Father always listens to his children who cry out to him in pain and anguish," he said, and made a "heartfelt appeal" for each one of us to "hear this cry and, each one according to their own conscience, before God, ask ourselves: 'What can I do to make peace?'"

While prayer is always an effective resolution, more can be done, Francis said, explaining that each person "can concretely say no to violence to the extent that it depends on him or herself. Because victories obtained with violence are false victories, while working for peace does good for all!"

Pope Francis organized the prayer vigil in order to pray for an end to war in the two countries and to ask for comfort for victims of the violence.



സർക്കുലർ

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയമുള്ള ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വൈദികരേ, സമർപ്പിതരേ, സഹോദരീസഹോദരന്മാരേ,

ആരാധനക്രമവത്സരമനുസരിച്ച് ദനഹാക്കാലം കഴിഞ്ഞ് നോമ്പുകാലത്തിലേക്ക് നാം പ്രവേശിക്കുകയാണ്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നടത്തുന്ന കുട്ടികളും യുവാക്കളും അവധിക്കാലത്തിലേക്ക് പ്രവേശിക്കുന്ന സമയവുമാണ്. ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ആവശ്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് നിങ്ങളോട് പറയാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. അത് മറൊന്നുമല്ല, മിഷൻ രൂപതകളിലേക്കുള്ള വൈദികരുടേയും സമർപ്പിതരുടേയും ദൈവവിളിയെക്കുറിച്ചുതന്നെ.

“വിളവധികം വേലക്കാരോ ചുരുക്കം” (മത്താ. 9:37) എന്ന ദിവ്യനാമന്റെ വാക്കുകൾ നമ്മുടെ സഭയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ഇപ്പോൾ കൂടുതൽ അന്വർത്ഥമാണ്. നമ്മുടെ പല മിഷൻ രൂപതകൾക്കും പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനത്തിന് നേതൃത്വം കൊടുക്കാൻ വേണ്ടത്ര വൈദികരെ ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഭാരതം മുഴുവനിലും നമുക്ക് അജപാലനപരവും പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനപരവുമായ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം നൽകിക്കൊണ്ട് പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഷംഷാബാദ്, ഹൊസൂർ രൂപതകൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുകയും തക്കല, രാമനാഥപുരം രൂപതകളുടെ അതിർത്തികൾ വിസ്തൃതമാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ വൈദികരുടേയും സമർപ്പിതരുടേയും ആവശ്യം വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ്.

കേരളത്തിൽ നിന്നുള്ള വൈദികരെ മിഷൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കുമ്പോൾ പല ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും നേരിടുന്നു. കേരളത്തിലെ വൈദികർക്ക് മിഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനാവശ്യമായ പരിശീലനമില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ ആ മേഖലയിലേക്ക് പോകാൻ പലരും വിസമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. കേരളത്തിലെ അജപാലനശൈലി അപ്പാടെ മിഷൻ രൂപതകളിൽ നടപ്പിലാക്കുക സാധ്യമല്ല. അതാത് പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ ഭാഷ പഠിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം വെല്ലുവിളികൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. അതിനാൽ, സഭയുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ തന്നെ അർത്ഥികളെ സ്വീകരിച്ച് മിഷൻ പരിശീലനം നൽകി വൈദികരായി അഭിഷേകം ചെയ്യാനുള്ള സംരംഭത്തിന് ഇക്കഴിഞ്ഞ ജനുവരി മാസം നടന്ന സഭയുടെ സിനഡ് തീരുമാനമെടുത്തു.

അതിൻപ്രകാരം, ഈ വർഷം തന്നെ സെമിനാരി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ സ്വീകരിച്ച് പരിശീലനം തുടങ്ങാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കുകയാണ്. നമ്മുടെ രൂപതകളിൽ നിന്ന് മിഷനറി വൈദികരാകാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന 10-ാം ക്ലാസ്സോ ഉപരി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ യോഗ്യതകളോ ഉള്ള കുട്ടികളും യുവാക്കളും മേജർ ആർക്കി എപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ കൂരിയായിലെ വൊക്കേഷൻ കമ്മീഷനിൽ അപേക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കമ്മീഷൻ സെക്രട്ടറിയോടോ മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പിനോടോ നേരിട്ട് ബന്ധപ്പെടാവുന്നതുമാണ്. കമ്മീഷൻ സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ അഡ്രസ്സും ഫോൺ നമ്പറും ഈമെയിലും താഴെ കൊടുക്കുന്നു. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വികാരിയച്ചന്മാരും സമർപ്പിതരും കുട്ടികളെ വേണ്ടത്ര പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ച് നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ മിഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ പരിപോഷിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന് അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ സഭ്യമത്തിന് സഹകരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാവരെയും വിളവിന്റെ നാമൻ സമൃദ്ധമായി അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ!

ഈശോയിൽ സസ്നേഹം,

കർദ്ദിനാൾ മാർ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ്.

CIRCULAR

Circular of the Major Archbishop after the XXVI Synod
of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, Session 1,
held from 8 to 13 January 2018
in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Twenty sixth Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church was held at the time of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the declaration of the Church as a Major Archiepiscopal Church. The Synod congratulated and welcomed at the beginning of the session Mar Joseph Pamplany, the Aux. Bishop of Tellicherry, Mar Sebastian Vaniapurakal, the Curia Bishop, Mar Tony Neelankavil, the Aux. Bishop of Trichur and Mar Sebastian Pozholiparambil, the Bishop of the newly erected eparchy of Hossur who were attending the synod for the first time. The appointments of Fr. John Nellikunnel, Bishop-elect of Idukki, and of Fr. James Athikalam MST, Bishop-elect of Sagar, were declared during the Synod. Please keep the new bishops in your prayers.

The Synod also expressed its gratitude to late Mar James Pazhayattil and to the present administration of the eparchy of Irinjalakuda for the great effort they had put in for the growth and development of the newly established eparchy of Hossur.

The Synod also offered its congratulations to Mar Raphael Thattil, the newly appointed bishop of the newly created Shamshabad eparchy. With the establishment of this eparchy, the Syro-Malabar Church has got jurisdiction all over India for evangelization and pastoral care. The Synod gratefully acknowledged the services of late Cardinal Mar Antony Padiyara, Mar Gregory Karotemprel CMI, and Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI, the former Apostolic Visitors, for all the preparatory work they had done for the provision of jurisdiction all over India for evangelization and pastoral care. The Synod requests all the eparchies and religious congregations in Kerala to extend their generous support for the new eparchy. The right for evangelization and pastoral care throughout the Country given to the Syro-Malabar Church is a great opportunity for intensification of the evangelization mission of the Church in India and to strengthen deep bonds of relationship with other sui juris Churches in India. It is very gratifying to note that the all-India jurisdiction was given to the Syro-Malabar Church in its Jubilee year.

The Synod offered its greetings to Mar Jacob Murikan and Mar Tony Neelankavil who were celebrating the silver jubilee of their priestly ordination. I remind you of the need to pray for these Bishops on this occasion.

The synod expressed its deep anguish at the suffering experienced by Christians in the eparchies of Satna, Sagar, and Jagdalpur for the suffering and persecutions they experienced in the recent past.

The details of the Jubilee celebrations were discussed during the Synod. On Jan.13, Holy Qurbana was celebrated in thanksgiving with the participation of all the Bishops. The public meeting held in the afternoon at 2.30p.m. was inaugurated by His Beatitude Luis Raphaël Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Church. Most Rev. Dr. Giambattista Diquattro, Apostolic Nuncio, presided over the meeting. His Beatitude Baselios Mar Cleemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church and President of CBCI, Abp. Cyril Vasil, the Secretary, Congregation for Oriental Churches,

Abp. Francis Kallarakal, the former Archbishop of Verapoly, His Excellency Bishop Dimitrios Salachas, Exarch emeritus of the Greek Catholic Church, Justice Kurian Joseph, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Sr. Siby, CMC Mother General, Adv. Biju Parayannilam, President, Catholic Congress, Mrs. Gigi Sebastian, Secretary, Matruvedi, and Mr. Arun Davis, President SMYM offered their congratulatory messages. Besides the Bishops attending the Synod, Major Superiors of religious congregations, representatives from all the Syro-Malabar Eparchies including priests, consecrated men and women, and lay representatives, especially the youth also participated in the Jubilee celebration.

The Synod discussed seriously the problems experienced by the people engaged in agriculture and emphasized the need to offer security to their lives and work. The need for special protection from the attacks of wild animals encroaching the farmsteads was pointed out. The Synod requested the Government to come to the aid of farmers by constructing protective walls around their farms. The unsympathetic attitude of the Government looks as if the Government is more interested in protecting wild animals than the lives of the people. The Government and the political parties have to devise strong and sustainable programmes for the protection of the farmers. INFARM and AKCC have to pay special attention in this matter and plan suitable programmes. In order to protect the produce of the farmers and to secure their lives, new financial projects have to be envisaged. The Synod views with anxiety the tendency among farmers to abandon agricultural work. This will definitely create a new form of migration.

You may be well aware that the Synod has formed a new commission for the promotion of vocations. The Synod has viewed with anxiety the decrease of vocations especially for the religious congregations of women. All are requested to cooperate with this commission for the promotion of vocations at the parish and eparchial levels. The parish priests and the religious communities in parishes have a major role to play in fostering vocations. Organizations like the Mission League should take the initiative to encourage religious vocations among students and the youth. During the years of their formation in the seminaries, they should be made aware of their missionary responsibilities.

The newly ordained priests should be provided with opportunities for working in the missions and the same arrangement may be done for the seminarians during their years of regency. It is also good to encourage the laity and the members of voluntary organizations to work in mission eparchies. Similarly mission-appeals on the part of those who work in mission eparchies should be encouraged in home eparchies in Kerala. The Synod has specially requested the eparchies to help the vocation promoters who come to different eparchies to preach about the missions. There was a suggestion that there should be a special arrangement for the admission and formation of seminarians under the direction of the Major Archbishop to work in the missions.

The following are some of the proposals of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly approved by the Synod to be implemented in all eparchies:

1. When bishops come for various functions in various parishes and institutions make the receptions simple at the entrance of the parish church. Avoid reception from the parish boundary or from the church gate or with flexes and arches along the road.
2. All celebrations are to be simple. Any kind of publicity is to be merely informative and simple.
3. Institutions run by eparchies/parish churches and institutes of consecrated life are not to ask compulsory donations for admissions and appointments.
4. Education institutions run by eparchies/parish churches and the institutes of consecrated life

are to give concession to poor students as well as to the fourth and following children of Catholic parents.

5. The Catholic Aided schools or schools in the public sectors are to be fostered.
6. Every financially sound parish is to adopt a mission centre and keep a regular contact with it.
7. Skills of senior citizens are to be made use of in every parish.
8. A percentage of the amount of family celebrations is to be set apart for the poor.
9. When some fees /contributions are fixed in a parish, the amount shall be fixed according to the financial status of the families. No compulsory fees/contribution shall be demanded.
10. The data of those who go away from the home parishes for education and jobs are to be kept in the offices at parish/eparchial levels. They should be helped to connect with the local Syro-Malabar Catholic communities where they live or go for studies and do not demand donations as prerequisite for the administration of the sacraments in their local parishes.

The Synod made an evaluation of the steps involved in the sale of the property of the Ernakulam-Angamlay Archeparchy and offered helpful suggestions for the resolution of the problems that arose from the sale of the property.

The Synod drafted a Pledge Form that the seminarians have to sign before their ordination to Diaconate. Synod approved the Safe Environmental programmes for Church personnel which would make the priests more aware of their moral responsibilities concerning the children entrusted to their care.

There was a suggestion to strengthen AKCC especially in this year when its Jubilee is being celebrated.

The Synod discussed seriously the pastoral needs of the Syro-Malabar faithful living outside India and decided to continue the discussions in this regard with the authorities concerned. The Synod considered the proposal to make the Syro-Malabar parish in Doha, Qatar an independent parish. The Synod also elected the representatives to participate in the next Synod of the Youth in Rome which has the theme “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment”. The Synod remembers with gratitude the interactions with the Chaldean Patriarch Luis Sako, Apostolic Nuncio Giambattista Diquattro, Archbishop Cyril Vasil, the Secretary of the Oriental Congregation, Fr. Lorrenso Lorusso OP, the Under Secretary, and Msgr. Pascal Gollnisch, the Director General and Mr. Dominic Bletry, Chargé d’Affaires of l’Oeuvre d’Orient during the Synodal sittings.

The Synod also discussed the theme of the CBCI plenary session “United in Diversity for a Mission of Mercy and Witness” and made preparatory studies on the theme.

Wishing all of you a fruitful season of Lent,

Yours cordially in Christ,

+George Cardinal Alencherry

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



APOSTOLIC EXARCHATE FOR THE SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLICS IN CANADA

For The Glory of God

Prot. No. 05, 2018

Circular

Lenten Message 2018:

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

Dear loving Priests, Religious, Parents and most beloved Youth and Children in Jesus Christ,

As we begin to enter the Season of Lent, the first step in observing Lent is to develop an understanding of the true spirit of Lent. We must align ourselves with the Church and use this time as inward cleansing and purification so as to overcome evil with good. Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (*Joel 2:12*). Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive. During this season of Lent Christ is inviting us to "overcome evil with good" (*Mt 5:38-42*) and lead a holy life.

Everybody is called to lead a holy life. St. Peter exhorts: "Be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy" (*1Pet 1:15*). Lent is a holy gift given to us by the Lord, but we have to unwrap it and apply its remedial and healing prescriptions. The Lord in whom we now live through Baptism, has been Raised from the Dead. He is walking through time now, in his Body, the Church. He wants to save us and set us free as we live our lives in that new world which is the seed of the Kingdom to come.

The Gospel for this first Sunday of Lent (*Matt. 4:1-11*) begins with this statement by St. Matthew, "At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil." Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert. Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to overcome the evil with prayer, fasting and Word of God. Whereas the book of Genesis presents another account of temptation, with a very different outcome. Our first parents succumbed to the tempter and fell. Now, Jesus,

the New Adam, the One in and through whom the new creation has begun (Col1:15), equips us to overcome. In Him, we see the Way - and find the Way. As the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council reminded us, "The truth is that only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light." (*Gaudium et Spes*, # 22)

The ancient practice of setting aside 50 days of Lent by the Syro-Malabar faithful is to enter - in Jesus - into the desert places in our own daily lives and confront the temptations and struggles we face. It is a gift; and it comes from the Lord and is offered through the Church who is our mother. The Desert of Lent is where we learn to conquer in the One who both shows us the Way and is Himself the Way.

Hence, Lent is not just a ritual, or a passing liturgical season; it represents the whole of our life of waiting, in expectation and hope, for bodily death and spiritual resurrection in the forgiveness of our sins. Lent symbolizes the whole of our baptized life as a struggle with temptation. The Spirit of Lent is to imitate Christ in suffering love, to be ready to become victims rather than victimizers. The temptations of Jesus typify many of our own human temptations. We are tempted to use the gifts that God has given us to gratify our instinctive needs, urges or desires, to achieve power and superiority over others. We are tempted to test God, to measure God by our own criteria and according to our own understanding, thereby bringing God down to our level. We are even tempted to play God ourselves, rather than behaving as sons and daughters of God. Lent is a time of grace, when we may know ourselves and our true worth in the face of the temptations that we experience and our ability to overcome them. Our response to temptation shows us whether we are able to think, decide, judge and act as sons and daughters of God. It also reminds us that we are dependent on God and in need of His grace in order to resist temptation, and to be forgiven when we fail.

I wish you all a blessed and fruitful Lenten season! May good God shower His choicest blessing upon you!

Lovingly in Christ,



+ Bp. Jose Kalluvilil

Apostolic Exarch of the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada

NB: Please read this circular in all parishes and missions during Sunday Holy Qurbana on February 11, 2018 or other nearest day.

Pastoral Center, Syro-Malabar Apostolic Exarchate, 6630 Turner Valley Rd, Mississauga, ON L5N 2P1 Canada
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BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

FEBRUARY 2018

05/02

Return to Canada

06/02

Curia Meeting

07/02

College of Consultors Body meeting

08/02

Meeting with kaikarans and parish council members of St. Thomas
Church Scarborough

13/02

Monthly Recollection

19/02

Exarchate Pastoral Council Meeting

25/02

Family Milestone Celebration at Cathedral, Mississauga

26/02-March 01

AWCB Assembly of Western Canada Catholic Bishops



CURIA NEWS

APPOINTMENTS

1. Rev. Fr. Jacob Edakalathur, Pastor of the St. Thomas Parish, and Chaplain of the Apostolic Oblates Convent, Scarborough, w.e.f. February 08, 2018, in addition to his present ministries.
2. Rev. Fr. Daris Moolayil, Associate Pastor of the St. Alphonsa Cathedral, Mississauga, w.e.f. February 09, 2018, in addition to his present ministries.

THANKS & BEST WISHES



Rev. Fr. Thomas Valummel was doing his priestly ministry for the Syro-Malabar faithful in Canada since the last three years. He has returned to his mother diocese Palai in order to take over priestly ministries there.

We take this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr. Thomas Valummel for the valuable services he has rendered in the Apostolic Exarchate for the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada and wish him God's abundant blessings and all success in his future priestly ministry.

NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

THE FAMILY APOSTOLATE

PRE-MARRIAGE COURSES

SCHEDULE FOR 2018

May 2018	19, 20, 21	Sat, Sun & Mon
August 2018	4, 5, 6	Sat, Sun & Mon
November 2018	9, 10, 11	Fri, Sat & Sun

The classes will begin at 9.00 a.m. and conclude at 6.00 p.m. every day.

Venue: St. Alphonsa Cathedral, 6630 Turner Valley Rd., Mississauga.

It is important that the participants attend all the session, for getting the certificate.

For further details contact: Rev. Fr. Jacob Edakalathur. Cell No.: 519-851-9000

Rev. Fr. Jacob Edakalathur
Director



NEWS FROM PARISHES

ST. ALPHONSA CATHEDRAL, MISSISSAUGA

1. Bible Reading Plan -II

We have started reading of the Bible Plan-II from January 15th 2018. Almost 250 readers, both young and adults are taking part in it. We have formed a whatsapp group named "Bible Reading Plan II" and posting a Bible verse for everyday. Based on these 130 Bible verses, there will be a Bible Quiz separately for children and adults.

Winners of Bible Reading Plan I

Hansel- 1st Prize

Sr. Floweret CHF - 2nd Prize

Jose Lyjo- 3rd Prize

2. Public Reading of the Whole Bible

We have planned a Public Reading of the Whole Bible on February 16 to 19 at Cathedral, Mississauga.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH – HAMILTON

Our parish Pothuyogam was held on 21-Jan-2018. Kaikaran Mr. George Vadakken presented the 2017 Annual Report. The financial statement for the year 2017 was presented by Mr. Justin George. Catechism class report was presented by Dr. Jomy Vallipallam. Nurses Ministry report was presented by Ms. Bindu Raju. A draft budget for the year 2018 was presented by George Vadakken. We have 18 members in the Parish Council. Two members from the parish are serving in the Exarchate Pastoral Committee and one member is serving in Exarchate Catechism Advisory Board. Our Pastor, Rev. Fr. John Mylamvelil, thanked all the members of the parish for their whole-hearted support given to success of the various activities of the parish.



An ordinary meeting of the Nurses' Ministry was held on Sunday, February 11, after the Holy Qurbana, with prayer, sharing and discussions.

ST. MOTHER TERESA CHURCH, NIAGARA FALLS

St. Mother Teresa parish had its first "Pothuyogam" of the year on January 21st, Sunday. The "Pothuyogam" was convened immediately after the Sunday Mass.

Financial report of 2017 was presented by the Kaikaran and was approved at the "Pothuyogam". A detailed report of the activities of the parish was also presented on the same occasion.



St. Mother Teresa

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH, NIAGARA FALLS

2018 Main Events

Good Friday
March 30th





Easter Vigil
March 31st
Evening



First Communion
April 8th Sunday

Parish Picnic
July 14th
Saturday





PILGRIMAGE
August 25th & 26th
Saturday & Sunday



Parish Night
November 24th
Saturday



PARISH FEAST
September 9th
Sunday

Christmas Carol
December 14th & 15th
Friday & Saturday



Christmas Mass
December 24th
Evening









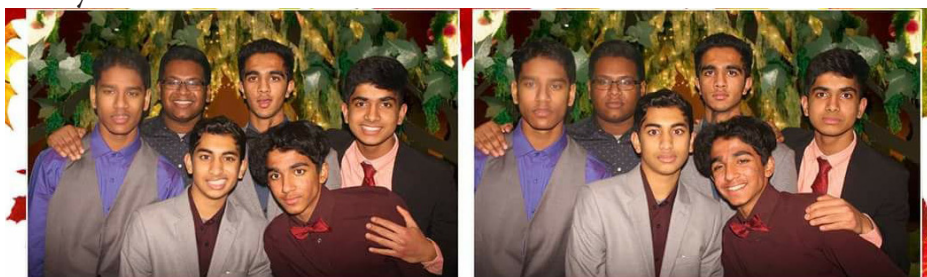
St. Mother Terasa Church Niagara Nurse's Ministry January meeting was held on 26th January and discussed the questions of Exarchate Pastor Council.

ST. MOTHER TERESA CHURCH, CALGARY

St. Mother Teresa Syro - Malabar Catholic Community of Calgary welcomed the new year. The members of the community actively participated in every parish activity with great enthusiasm and committment. The parishioners were highle involoved and offered a dedicated service in different ministries.

The youth Group participated in the SMYM Youth Conference 'Be Rooted' in Toronto

Six of our youth group who participated in the SMYM Youth Conference 'Be Rooted' conducted for teens, youth and young adults on December 27th, 28th, and 29th of 2017 at John Paul II Cultural Centre, Mississauga, Ontario and they shared their experience to the community members. The members recollected the their experience as one of prayer, discussion, fellowship with SyroMalabar Catholic youth from across the Country. The theme for this conference was 'Be Rooted in Christ and Go Forth.' The purpose of this conference was to unite all the youth that are within the Syro-Malabar Apostolic Exarchate to not only grow within their faith but also learn the necessities within the 21st century.



Be Rooted
Syro-Malabar Youth Movement
SMYM Canada National Youth Conference 2017





Food Sale Organized by Mathrujyothy

Mathrujyothy, the organization of the women of the community, as in every month, conducted a food sale in view of the fundraising for the church building fund. They prepared snacks at home and brought to the church and set up a stall after the Holy Mass. The food sale was a great success due to everyone's cooperation and encouragement.

Bottle Drive Organized by Knights Of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Council (#15871) of the parish known as "St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Council" organized a bottle drive as they do on the first Sunday of every month. People brought from their homes empty recycle bottles. The Council donates the proceedings from the bottle drive towards the church building fund. The council has been instrumental in securing a significant fund towards this cause through many other means. The council was recognized for its works of charity towards the development and service to the community by the District and State Councils of the Knights Of Columbus a number of times.



BISHOP'S DIARY

JANUARY 02

Priestly Ordination of Dn. Christo Kalluvelil at Tachambara

JANUARY 3

Participated in the Golden Jubilee celebration of Rev. Sr. Lucy Arikat CHF

JANUARY 7

Participated in the Installation ceremony of Mar Raphael Thattil and the inauguration of the Diocese of the Samshadabad

JANUARY 8-12

Participated in the Syro-Malabar Bishops' Synod, Kakkanad

JANUARY 13

Participated in the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Major Archiepiscopal Status of SMC

JANUARY 14

Offered Holy Mass and participated in the Kalluvelil Kudumbayogam, at Kanjirathanam.

JANUARY 17

Presided over the Baptism ceremony at St. Mary's Church Nagapuzha, Koothamangalam.

JANUARY 19

Presided over the Holy Mass at Gagultha Retreat Center, Thrissur

JANUARY 20

Presided over the First Holy Communion, St. Thomas Forane Church Kanjirapuzha

JANUARY 25

AM. Presided over the Betrothal ceremony at Kanjirapully

PM. offered memorial Mass at Jaigiri, Pala.

JANUARY 26

Participated in the Annual Day Celebration of Kanikamatha HSS, Palakkad.

JANUARY 27

Presided over the memorial Holy Mass at Jellipara.

JANUARY 29

Blessed a Marriage at Thodupuzha



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