

صوت الشرق

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His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon speaking at a reception dinner held at Sydney's Edessa Hall in commemoration of the 34th anniversary of His Holiness' consecration

VOICE OF THE EAST

Photos in different countries related to the 34th anniversary of consecration of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV as the Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East



Vicar and parishioners in Netherlands.



Diocese of Europe – Choir Group - Germany



Priest & clergy in Damascus, Syria



Rev. Dr. Simon Gewargis, Vicar, St. John Baptist Church, Ankawa, Iraq with choir.



Bishop Emmanuel and Archdeacon Odisho in Toronto, Canada

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Contents

1. Editorial
2. **Bulgaria says relics of John the Baptist found on Black Sea Island**
3. **Monastery in 600 A.D. in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.**
4. **34th Consecration of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV**
 - a) Archdiocese Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon Sydney
 - b) Diocese Syria
 - c) Archdiocese Iraq, Iran and Russia
5. **Christmas Celebration**
 - a) Patriarchal Diocese of Eastern USA
 - b) Archdiocese of Iraq, Iran and Russia - Diocese of Baghdad
 - c) Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon - Sydney
 - d) Beirut
 - e) Archdiocese of India and the UAE
 - f) Diocese of Syria
 - g) Diocese of Europe Stockholm
 - h) London
 - i) Diocese of Western California.
- Photographs (4 pages)**
6. **Acero**
7. **Muslim solidarity towards Iraqi Christians**
8. **Assyrian Genocide Monument**
9. **Ordination in Baghdad**
10. **H.H.Mar Dinkha IV visits H.B. Mar Narsai at Mar Odisho Church**
11. **Deacon, Sub Deacon and Reader**
12. **21st Choir Meet**
13. **Ordination of Rev. Antawan Mikhail, Melbourne**
14. **New Church History Book in India**
15. **Fire in Mar Zaia Church, Modesto, California on 9 January 2011**
- News**
 16. Mar Aprem in Mar Bh'esho Church
 17. Unity Week
 18. Mar Aprem celebrates Holy Qurbana in Mar Dinkha Hall
 19. Parish day at Mar Narsai parish
 20. Mar Pathrose Shleeha parish
 21. Mar Yohannan in Mumbai
 22. Visit of Joseph Haweil B.A. (Hons) of Melbourne
23. **Calendar**

Voice of the East

Vol. 58

January - February 2011

Nos. 1 & 2

Editorial

The first Anniversary of 2010 Holy Synod

On 17th January 2011, the first anniversary of the consecration of two Indian bishops and the first Universal Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church in India was celebrated. It was a bold venture. Many suspected that it would be impractical to hold a Holy Synod in India because the Indian Church is not big enough when compared to the sister denominations in India.

After the consecration in India, there was another Episcopal consecration in Iran. It was nearly half a century after the consecration of Bishop Mar Dinkha by Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun which was on 11 February 1962. That was an important event in the history of the Universal Assyrian Church and particularly to the Assyrians in Iran.

In addition to the two Episcopal consecrations in India and Iran, the Assyrian Church of the East had several ordinations of priests, deacons, sub-deacons and Qaroye (Readers) all over the world. Our bishops and archbishops took interest in promoting vocation to priesthood and training the clergy. Lord Jesus Christ called twelve disciples. The Apostles worked through more disciples and established churches in different parts of the world.

During the first anniversary address, Mar Aprem put before the Indian Church the need to pray for three things:

1. To have at least six people (young or middle aged) from the educated people of the parishes (doctors, engineers, Ph.D.s etc.) willing to be honorary deacons. Like all other parts of the world they will be deacons without salary. They need not become priests. Therefore, they are not deacons like the present full time deacons in Indian Church.
2. To have another 6 young people to be deacons and later priests after suitable training. It is very expensive to recruit young teenagers and train them for secular education such as B.A. and train them for B.D., M.Th etc. in different theological Colleges in India.
3. Even after 12 years the number of sisters (nuns) in India is only three. This year the number of sisters should increase to 12. That is my prayer. Then only we can carry on the duties in the Mar Timotheus Orphanage, Mar Timotheus Hospital, Home for the Aged, Bethany Ashram etc.

May God Help us to realize this divine dream.

Mar Aprem

Bulgaria says relics of John the Baptist found on Black Sea island

Relics of John the Baptist, including a tooth and hand bones, have been found on the Bulgarian Black Sea island of Sveti Ivan (Saint John), the professor who heads a team of archaeologists, Kazimir Popkonstantinov, has said.

An alabaster container found on 28 July near the altar of the oldest church on the island, which is just off the coastal resort town of Sozopol, was opened with journalists and photographers as witnesses, various Bulgarian media reported. The relics were said to include a fragment of jaw holding a tooth, hand and heel bones.

Claims that the relics would prove to those of John the Baptist, the preacher who baptized Jesus, were made at the time of the discovery by Bozhidar Dimitrov, head of Bulgaria's Museum of Natural History and also a national cabinet minister without portfolio.

"Sozopol is going to be a second Jerusalem," Bulgarian National Radio had quoted Dimitrov as saying on 1 August. Traditionally a seaside tourist resort, Sozopol could now become a destination for "pilgrim tourism", Dimitrov said. "From today, Bulgaria is under the auspices of one of the most important Christian saints," Bishop Yoanikii of Sliven said at the event at the Sozopol Museum at which the alabaster container was opened.

Popkonstantinov's archaeological team said that the container was the work of master craft workers of the forth century, Bulgarian National Television reported.

- Ivan Andreev, *ENI*

Monastery in 600 A.D. in Abu Dhabi, UAE

A general view of the United Arab Emirates' only discovered Christian monastery on

November 29, 2009, in Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi. Photograph: MARTIN PFEIFER/TDIC/AFP by AFP DUBAI - A 1,400-year-old monastery that is the only known pre-Islamic Christian site in the United Arab Emirates has opened to visitors, The National newspaper reported on Sunday.

The monastery on Sir Bani Yas island in Abu Dhabi emirate is "believed to be the only permanent settlement ever established on the island" and "the only pre-Islamic Christian site known in the UAE," it said.

It is believed to have been built around 600 AD by a community of 30-40 monks and was discovered in 1992, said the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Development Company which is developing the island.

Dr Joseph Elders, the chief archaeologist for the Church of England, is leading the team excavating the site, the company said in a statement.

"Twenty years ago, we had no idea that Christians came this far south and east" in the Gulf region, The National quoted Elders as saying. "We don't have many monasteries from this period."

The people who lived at the monastery probably belonged to the "Nestorian Church, or Church of the East," it said, adding that the settlement was abandoned after about 750 AD.

It opened to the public on Saturday in November 2010.

34TH CONSECRATION OF H.H. MAR DINKHA IV Archdiocese Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon – Sydney

His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon, has paid tribute to His Holiness

Mar Dinkha IV's perseverance in growing the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

Speaking at a reception dinner held at Sydney's Edessa Hall in commemoration of the 34th anniversary of His Holiness' consecration, His Beatitude spoke on the Patriarch's work and great achievements throughout the years.

H.H. Mar Dinkha's accomplishments in expanding the ACOE include consecrating Metropolitans and Bishops throughout the years, consecrating churches and establishing many parishes throughout various countries, most notably in the USA.

H.B. Mar Meelis also mentioned the already completed and ongoing work in the Archdiocese, specifically the newest addition, Lebanon, and the great amount of work needed within the country.

The reception, which was attended by various priests, deacons, associations and hundreds of faithful parishioners, also featured presentations of poems and speeches in respect to our Holy Father.

Presentations were made by members of The Assyrian Schools (Mar Narsai Assyrian High School and St Hurmizd's Assyrian Primary School), Youth Association, St Mary's Parish, St George's Parish, Ss Peter and Paul Parish and St Hurmizd's Parish.

We pray that God may protect and guide H.H. Mar Dinkha IV in continuing his work for the church, and to strengthen him to build faith and hope within our communities.

Diocese Syria

Prayers for the protection and guidance of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV have been raised to the Lord by members of St George's Parish in Damascus, Syria.

While commemorating the 34th consecration of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV as the Catholicos Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, St George's Parish conducted the Holy Eucharist with the presence of various priests and deacons.

During the service, Archdeacon Thomas Asitevo read the Holy Gospel and then gave a brief biography of the life of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV to the present faithful.

Following the offering of the Holy Eucharist, fellowship was undertaken over an inviting breakfast in the hall of the church.

Further prayers were raised to the Lord asking for blessings and a long and healthy life with his beloved Holy Synod and church members.

Information Committee

St George's Parish

Assyrian Church of the East – Damascus

Archdiocese Iraq, Iran and Russia

The homeland's faithful members of St John the Baptist Parish in Ankawa, Iraq gathered to celebrate the 34th Anniversary of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV as Catholicos Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

In attendance were Reverend Dr. Simon Gewargis, the parish priest at St John the Baptist (Mar Youkhanna), as well as Reverend Ninos Oicha and various deacons and faithful.

Speeches, poems and hymns were performed by the parish choir in honor of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV's anniversary, touching upon the life of His Holiness, his hard work put towards the church and the life-long dedication in working for the Lord and His bride.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Patriarchal Diocese of Eastern USA

The Holy Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has been celebrated across the world by dioceses and parishes of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

The growth and prosperity of the Church was highlighted by noticeably large gatherings of faithful during Christmas eve and Christmas day masses, including English-speaking services in Sydney, Australia; Chicago, Eastern USA; and for the first time Turlock, Western USA.

Parishes all over the Diocese of Eastern USA offered the Holy Eucharist though out Illinois, New York etc with thousands of faithful gathering in celebrating the birth of Our Lord God Jesus Christ.

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, offered the Holy Eucharist during morning mass on the 25th of December at the patriarchal headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, Diocese of the Eastern United States.

Holy Mass was attended by an exceptionally large congregation of faithful, and conducted with the help of chor bishops, priests and deacons.

His Holiness delivered his **Patriarchal Christmas Epistle**, describing our Heavenly Father's begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as the "messenger of peace unto the world."

"The earth indeed is in dire need for peace. In the same manner the earth longs for water to bring forth life, so mankind desires peace from the Lord of peace in order for him to obtain hope of living peacefully on earth," said His Holiness.

Archdiocese of Iraq, Iran and Russia

Diocese of Baghdad

Iraq's parishioners of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East have shown their faith by congregating to celebrate the feast of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Iraq, Iran and Russia offered the Holy Eucharist at Mar Odisho Church, Baghdad. Also, Reverend Shmoel offered the Holy Eucharist at St Qardagh's Church in Baghdad.

Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon

Sydney

His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon offered the Holy Eucharist during Christmas eve gathering at St Hurmizd Cathedral, Sydney. And morning Holy Eucharist was offered by Reverend Chor-bishop Ashur Lazar St Hurmizd's Cathedral Parish priest.

Drawing crowds of more than 5000 faithful for mid night Holy Offering and 2000 for morning Holy Offering, the prayer vigil (shaharta) and Holy Eucharist celebrated the Holy feast of the Nativity of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sydney's English-speaking service, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, attracted a record number of more than 600 faithful for its Christmas eve mass held at the Assyrian Australian Social Centre.

The service commenced with a prayer vigil in the English language followed by the offering of the Holy Eucharist by Reverend John Kushaba, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish priest.

Beirut

The feast of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has been celebrated in Beirut. Faithful members of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East attended Holy Mass offered by Archdeacon Emmanuel Betyou. The Holy Eucharist was also offered in other parishes such as St Pithyon Church in Zahleh and others.

Archdiocese of India and the UAE

Sharjah

Parishioners of the Church of the East living in U.A.E gathered together in celebrating the birth of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Priests, deacons, choir members and faithful attend the Holy Offering of the Holy Eucharist at St Mary's Parish.

Children's choir sung hymns and carols in remembering this Holy night, after which the service of the Holy Eucharist was offered by Reverends and deacons.

A surprise visit by Santa was also witnessed reminding the children of the purpose of Santa, showing the love that Christ showed us through His birth, death and resurrection.

Diocese of Syria

Parishioners of The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East gathered in Jaramana, Syria where H.G Mar Aprem Nathniel Offered the Holy Eucharist to a large number of faithful.

Villages along the Khaboor river also celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ where a priest and deacons worked their way through the night from one village to the next Offering the Body and Blood of Christ.

St George's Parish in Damascus, Syria celebrated Christmas Eve mass with a prayer vigil followed by the offering of the Holy Eucharist.

Diocese of Europe

Stockholm

Sweden's faithful have braved the harsh winter weather to attend celebrations of the feast of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Holy Eucharist was offered by Reverend Nilous Paul, parish priest of St Thomas' Parish in Stockholm.

London

The St. Mary's parish of London, England gathered to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with a midnight mass service on the blessed evening of Christmas Eve.

The service commenced with a vigil in late evening which was followed by Holy mass at midnight.

Parishioners contended with the freezing weather conditions currently sweeping over Europe, as they arrived to partake in the holy mysteries and find warmth through the perfect word of God.

The Holy Eucharist (Qurbana Qadeesha) was offered by parish priest Rev. Tony Malham, with hundreds of parishioners packing the Ealing-based church. The adjoining church hall was also utilized to accommodate the large congregation.

For the first time the traditional Christmas greetings delivered by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, was presented via a pre-recorded visual display, allowing the congregation to watch the church father offering his Christmas blessings.

Following Holy Mass, parishioners gathered in the church courtyard to congratulate one another and rejoice in the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Diocese of Western California

The birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was celebrated by joyful crowds at Mar Gewargis Church in Ceres, California.

His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California, led a prayer vigil followed by the offering of Holy Eucharist.

Alongside Christmas celebrations, the blessed ordination of Deacon Ashur Sarkis, a young and hard working church member, also took place.

Photographs of Christmas celebrations in various Dioceses of Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East



Bishop Mar Isaac and Choir in Ankawa, Erbil, North Iraq



Archdeacon Emmanuel Betyou with Choir and Clergy in Beirut, Lebanon



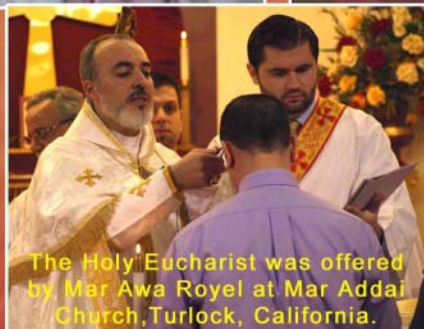
Mar Gewargis Metropolitan and people in Iraq



Choir in San Diego, U.S.A.



Rev. Thomas Steve in St. George Parish at Damascus, Syria



The Holy Eucharist was offered by Mar Awa Royel at Mar Addai Church, Turlock, California.



Assyrian Choir in Stockholm, Sweden

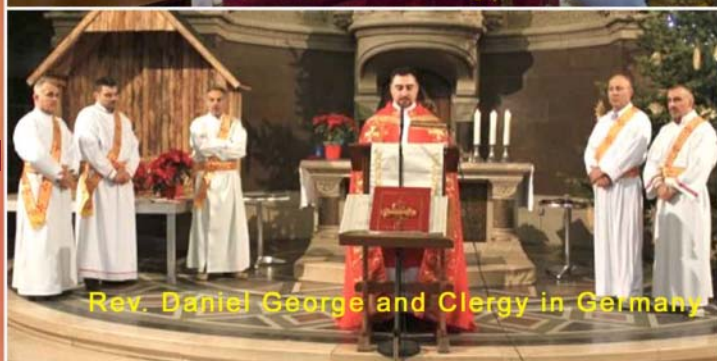
**Photographs of Christmas celebrations in various Dioceses of
Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East**



**Rev. Tony Malham in Assyrian
Church Hanwell - Ealing, London**



**Reverend Ashigat Warda at St. Yosip
Khananisho's Parish in Marcelia, France**



Rev. Daniel George and Clergy in Germany



Rev. Immanuel in Gothenberg, Sweden



Fr. Victor and Fr. Tinto at U.A.E. Parish



**Metropolitan Mar Meelis and
Church in Sydney, Australia**



Refuges in Damascus. Left to right: Mr. Elia Ritzko, Mrs. Nidal Hanna, Mr. Gilbert Warda, Rabi William Dinkha, Qasha.Tooma Estepou, Mr. Lawrence Sargon, and Mr. Esho Aprim



H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Catholicos Patriarch pictured with H.B. Mar Narsai, Metropolitan of the Ancient Church of the East and Assyrian faithful in Chicago's Mar Odisho Church.



**Photo taken during the release of the Church History Book.
Left to right: Dr. Krishnan Nair, Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa and
Prof. K.A Ignatius**



**Mar Aprem blessing the main door of the Mar Beesho Church, being
reconstructed in the same place of the existing Church. The Vicar
Fr. C D Pauly is also seen in the picture.**

ACERO

Dear ACERO Supporter,

Greetings in the Name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

December 16, 2010

First and foremost may I take this opportunity, with the Advent of the birth of our

Saviour, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I also express my

gratitude as Chairman of ACERO, for giving your Assyrian brothers and sisters a helping hand in these difficult times.

As usual ACERO has in place an extensive programme this year for helping all the needy, sick and disabled in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Iran and our people in Armenia.

Many new families have arrived in Syria in particular, due to the ongoing problems, however thanks to your help we have more funds to distribute and our committees, with the help of the church in the above countries, have already started distributing assistance.

In the New Year we have some very good projects to complete including the housing

complex in Dohuk, which includes two units to be used by our doctors as surgeries. More

projects are on their way which we can tell you about in the future.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

+Afram Athneil, Bishop of Syria

ACERO Chairman

Muslim solidarity towards Iraqi Christians

4 January 2011

By Layla Yousif Rahema

A delegation of Arab tribal chiefs visit the archdiocese of Kirkuk following the attacks against Baghdad cathedral and Egyptian Copts in Alexandria to voice their concern and express their closeness to their Christian "brothers". A Christian woman who survived the slaughter in Baghdad's Syriac-Catholic cathedral on 31 October is murdered.

Baghdad (AsiaNews) – At a time of escalating tensions and violence, Muslims leaders have expressed their solidarity with Iraqi Christians. Yesterday, some 20 sheikhs from Arab tribes in Nassiriyah, Kerbala, Diwaniyah, Imara, and Basra visited the Chaldean Archbishop's Residence in Kirkuk to present their best wishes for the New Year, but also and especially to express their solidarity with Christians as well as voice their concern over mass Christian migration, particularly after the attack against Baghdad's Syriac-Catholic cathedral on 31 October, and a Coptic church in Alexandria (Egypt) on 31 December.

During lunch with Archbishop Louis Sako, the Muslim leaders expressed their outrage and condemned the attacks against Christians. "Iraq without Christians would not be Iraq," one of the sheikhs said. Another noted that his tribe was Christian before the arrival of Islam in the 7th century, adding that "we cannot forget our roots." Others highlighted the need "to strengthen the spirit of brotherhood because we are all children."

In the meantime, Christians are still losing their lives in Baghdad. On Sunday night, Rafah Butros Toma, a 44-year-old unmarried Christian woman, was murdered in her home. She was one of the worshippers who survived the al-Qaeda massacre at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral on 31 October. She worked at a local university and lived alone after her old father moved to a village in northern Iraq. She never stopped going to church.

ASSYRIAN GENOCIDE MONUMENT

Yerevan, Armenia

The Assyrian Universal Alliance - Armenia Chapter and the Association of the Assyrians of Armenia "Atour" is pleased to announce that the construction of the monument to the victims of the Assyrian Genocide of 1915 in Ottoman Turkey has begun.

On 12 November 2010 construction work began in Yerevan in a circular park near the intersection of Nalbandian and Moscovyan streets, a location selected in a decision made on 12 November 2008. Under article NO# 5261, the mayor of Yerevan granted 16 square meters of land for construction of the monument commemorating the Assyrian Genocide.

In an atmosphere of solemn excitement, an airtight capsule containing historical information about Assyrians and the Assyrian Genocide was placed beneath the monument as the construction began.

Arsen Mikhailov, Chairman, Coordinating Committee for the Construction of the Assyrian Genocide Monument

Chapter Secretary, Assyrian Universal Alliance

Ordination in Baghdad

Deacon Martin Nabeel who graduated from the Babel College, Baghdad after studying for six years philosophy and theology was ordained by Mar Gewargis Metropolitan in Baghdad on 19th December 2010. Present at the ordination and offering of the Holy Eucharist were Reverend Shamuel Atniel, parish priest of Mar Qardagh Church, and a number of other deacons from the region.

Deacon Martin Nabeel will be serving the parish under the leadership of Reverend Yoshia Oraham, the parish priest of St Odisho's Church.

H.H.Mar Dinkha IV visits H.B. Mar Narsai at Mar Odisho Church

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, has visited the Ancient Church of the East to pay respects on the occasion of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Demonstrating efforts in bringing unity and peace between churches, His Holiness was accompanied by clergy of the Diocese of Eastern USA.

Clergy accompanying His Holiness included: Archdeacon Shlemon Hezekiel; Chor-Bishop Dr. Gewargis Tooma, parish priest of St Andrew's Church; Rev. Antwan Lachin, parish priest of St John's Church; and Rev. Poulous Benyamin, parish priest of St George's Cathedral.

H.H. Mar Dinkha, along with accompanying priests, were met by H.B. Mar Narsai Toma, Metropolitan of the Ancient Church of the East, Archdiocese of Kirkuk, Iraq along with priests, deacons and faithful.

Priests and deacons from all over the US and Canada joined in the friendly meeting, which took place at the Ancient Church of the East's Chicago parish, St Odisho's Church.

Deacon, Sub Deacon and Reader

His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod has raised three young men to various ranks of the diaconate.

The ceremony took place at Mar Gewargis the Martyr Parish in Ceres, California on the vigil of Christmas 2010.

Those ordained were: Ashur Sirop Sargis (deacon); George Yosip, Pharm. D. (sub-deacon); Gvargis Yaco (reader).

The new ordinands will serve the parish of Mar Gewargis, in Ceres, California..

Following the ordinations was the celebration of the Holy Qurbana, with a standing-room only attendance in the church.

21st Choir Meet

Congratulations to Marth Maryam Big Church Youth Association for organising 'Choir Meet', all these years without interruption. This year's Choir Meet was inaugurated by His Grace Mar Aprem Metropolitan. Now it is a practice for the believers of the Indian Church on Christmas day, after the liturgical service in the early hours in their own parishes, in the evening they gather in the Big Church ground to hear different Parish Choirs.

Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa was the Chief Guest. Six Choirs from various Parishes had participated in the competition. One of the main attractions was that Choir from Bangalore Parish which is around 1500 km away had participated. Mar Aprem Church Chelakkottukara bagged the first prize. Marth Maryam Big Church Trichur and Mar Yohannan Mamdana Church, East Fort won the 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Bangalore Parish won the audience vote.

Ordination of Rev. Antawan Mikhail, Melbourne

His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon has made an episcopal sojourn to Melbourne, where he elevated Deacon Antawan Mikhail to the sacred priesthood and announced the city's new church name.

With the laying on of hands, His Beatitude administered the sacrament of priesthood upon Deacon Antawan Mikhail at St George Parish, Melbourne on Sunday 9 January, 2011.

The ordination took place in St. George Church, with the participation of parish priests Rev. Gewargis Toma and Rev. Hurmizd Jarjeis as well as Sydney's Rev. Narsai Youkhanis and a great number of deacons from both cities.

Following the conclusion of the ordination, the Eucharistic Liturgy according to the Anaphora of Addai and Mari was consecrated by His Beatitude with more than 500 faithful partaking in the Qurbana Qaddisha.

In his sermon, His Beatitude discussed the ongoing suffering of Assyrians and other Christians in the Middle East. While many Assyrian Christians are facing direct attacks in Iraq, others bear the burden of poverty and economic hardship after fleeing Iraq to neighbouring countries including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Turkey.

The Assyrian Church of the East has and continues to encourage the Iraqi government and international community to do more to address the plight of Iraq's Christians and prevent heinous terrorist attacks upon them.

Through the encouraging work of the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation (ACERO) much has been done to alleviate the suffering of Assyrians and aid them in dire economic conditions. Recent efforts include the distribution of parcels containing necessary food-

stuffs as well as cooking equipment to refugees and others residing in Lebanon.

His Beatitude requested enhanced support for this charitable organisation from amongst all the faithful of the Holy Church.

During his Melbourne visit, His Beatitude also announced that the city's new church will be consecrated and dedicated by the grace of God to Mar Odisho, a venerable saint amongst many in the glorious history of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

The announcement, which was received with much adulation and joy, was made during a breakfast held in His Beatitude's honour at Ishtar Reception Center, Melbourne where the invocation was delivered by Rev. Narsai Youkhanis, also visiting from Sydney.

During the breakfast, Melbourne's faithful were updated on the progress of plans for the construction of the church and Sunday school/office facilities that will be built on the current site of Ishtar Reception Center.

New Church History Book in India

The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East – A Short History has been published by Mar Timotheus Metropolitan Memorial Fellowship, Thrissur, India, in honor of and in commemoration of the third pastoral visit of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV to the Church of the East in India.

The book was formally released by His Grace Mar Youkhana Yosip, Bishop of India and the UAE, on Sunday, 21 November, 2010 at a function held at M.T.M. Auditorium, East Fort, Thrissur, to observe the 9th memorial anniversary of His Grace Mar Timotheus Metropolitan.

His Grace Mar Yohannan presented the author, Prof. Ignatius, with the Fellowship's gold medal,

and Prof. (Dr.) Krishnan Nair, President of Thrissur Public Library, presented to him the Fellowship's Mar Timotheus Metropolitan Memorial Award 2010 for Church Literature.

Dr. Nair addressed the function with an eminently scholarly exposition of the book, while noting the importance of faith in the turbulent world of today. His speech also gave the audience a brilliant assessment of the book and concluded with hearty congratulations to Prof. Ignatius and the Fellowship.

The meeting was also addressed by Rev. Fr. M. A. Charlie; Mr. I. G. Joy, Chairman, the Board of Central Trustees; and Mr. E. T. Paulson, Headmaster of the Sunday School, selected for the third time as the best Sunday School. Dr. C. K. George read the messages of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, the Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East and His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of Indian Archdiocese.

Fire in Mar Zaia Church, Modesto, California on 9 January 2011

Faithful members of St Zaia's Parish in Modesto, California are continuing regular spiritual services in their church hall, following a damaging fire in the cathedral.

The fire occurred on 9 January, a special feast day where parishioners attended services of the Holy Eucharist and celebrated the commemoration of their church's patron, St Zaia.

Thankfully, the fire did not cause any injuries. However, the cathedral's baptismal room was partially burned down.

Emergency services were immediately called and the fire was quickly put to rest, with causes still to be examined.

Plans are already being made to rebuild and renovate the church, ensuring safety and preventing future damage from taking place.

In the meantime, spiritual services have been held in the church hall, including the offering of the Holy Eucharist by Reverend Narsai Youkhanis, a recently ordained young priest visiting from the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon.

The Holy Mass, which took place on 16 January, included the presence of His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of Western California, who offered words of encouragement to the faithful that brought tears to their eyes.

News

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch along with His Beatitude Mar Narsai of Kirkuk, Iraq (Metropolitan of the Ancient Church of the East) attended a dinner in Chicago in January 2011 celebrating 25 years of the establishment of the Assyrian National Council of Illinois.

Mar Aprem in Mar Bh'esho Church

Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated Holy Qurbana in Bhiesho Church on 16 January and dedicated the main door of the new Church being constructed on the mountain top at the estimate of 6 million rupees.

Unity Week

Mar Aprem was the main speaker at the Unity Oclave in Kuruvilangad near Kottayam on 22 January. It is where the famous five archdeacons of Pakalomattom family are buried. These archdeacons were ruling the church in India when the Portuguese converted the Syrian Christians under Portuguese rule.

Mar Aprem celebrates Holy Qurbana in Mar Dinkha Hall

On 23rd January 2011 the members residing around Mar Dinkha Hall in Chiyyaram within the Mar Mari Shleeha parish, Trichur accorded a warm reception to Mar Aprem Metropolitan as he celebrated Holy Qurbana in this Chapel. This Chapel was dedicated by H.H. Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch, in January 2000. The Metropolitan after Holy Qurbana expressed the hope that very soon

this area will be separated from the Mar Mari parish and raised to the status of a full parish with separate Vicar. At present Fr. Antony Koken, a senior priest, is conducting Holy Qurbana every Sunday. Fr. Thomas Thermadom, Vicar of Mar Mari parish was present.

Parish day at Mar Narsai parish

On Sunday 23rd January parish day was celebrated in Mar Narsai Parish. Mar Aprem presided over the evening public meeting.

Mar Pathrose Shleeha parish

The new church about to be constructed within the Mar Narsai Parish, Nadathara will be named Mar Pathrose Shleeha Church. In India as we have church in the name of Mar Poulouse, but not Mar Pathrose. The Memorial of Mar Pathrose and Mar Poulouse are on the same day, second Friday after Epiphany (January 6). At present we have churches in the name of Pathrose & Poulouse in Arizona, Sydney, Iraq etc.

Mar Yohannan in Mumbai

H.L. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa celebrated Holy Qurbana in Mar Gabriel Church, Mumbai on 23rd January. He was given reception as he was visiting Mumbai (Bombay) parish first time after becoming bishop. Fr. Jacks Chandy, Vicar of Mumbai parish assisted in the Holy Qurbana.

Visit of Joseph Haweil B.A. (Hons) of Melbourne

Joseph Haweil B.A.(Hons) a 22 year old young man of our Melbourne parish, spent nearly two weeks in Trichur, Kerala as a guest of Mar Aprem Metropolitan. Mar Aprem was a guest in his home in Melbourne in December 2008 when he visited Australia in connection with the consecration of Mar Meelis Metropolitan.

Joseph visited Mar Timotheus Orphanage and Mar Timotheus Charitable hospital etc and presented donations given to him by his relatives and friends. He also gave subscriptions for the Voice of the East from the subscribers in Melbourne.

CALENDAR 2011

January

- 6. Epiphany
- 7. Mar Zaia
- 7. Mar Yohannan Mamdhana
- 14. Pathrose & Poulouse
- 21. Four Evangelists
- 28. Mar Esthapanose Sahda

February

- 4. Greek & Syriac Malpans
- 13. Mar Yonan
- 14, 15, 16 *Ba'utha* of Ninavites
- 18. Mar Awa Catholicos
- 25. Forty Martyrs

March

- 3. Mar Geevarghese Memorial
- 4. Friday of *Anneedhe* (departed)
- 6. Lent Begins
- 16. Mar Benyamin Shimun, Martyr (1918)
- 25. Tidings to Mart Mariam from Angel Gabriel.
- 30. Mid Lent

April

- 10. Mar Michael
- 15. Friday of Lazar, Mar Shimun Bar Sabbae
- 17. Oshana
- 21. Pis'ha of our Lord (Maundy Thursday)
- 22. Good Friday
- 23. Holy Saturday
- 24. Easter. Memorial of Mar Geevarghese
- 29. Confessor's day

May

- 1. Memorial for Indian Prelates,
New Sunday,
Memorial of Mar Mushe.
- 9. Rabban Hormizd
- 20. Mar Sargis
- 22. Mar Addai Shleeha

June

- 2. *Sulaga* (Ascension)
- 3. Memorial of Mar Meelis
- 12. Pentecost
- 14. Mar Zaia Thuvana Memorial

- 15. First Holy Qurbana offered by Mar Yakob
- 17. Friday of gold

July

- 3. St. Thomas day
- 11. Mar Yosep Khananisho (d.1977)
- 15. Mar Kuriakose Sahda and his mother Yolethe
- 29. Memorial of the 72 disciples.
- 31. *Nusardeil* & Memorial of 12 Apostles

August

- 1. Beginning of 15 day fast
- 5. Mar Yakob of Nisibis
- 6. Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor
- 7. Mar Iyyob Hdayyavaya
- 10. Mar Shallitha & Mar Awgin
- 12. Mar Mari Shleeha
- 15. Death of Mart Mariam (*Shunaya*)

September

- 2. Shmonie & her children
- 8. Birth of Mart Mariam,
Memorial of Mar Shimun Br Sabbae
- 9. Mar Qardagh Sah'da.
- 13. Festival of the Cross
- 14. Mar Bhisho
- 18. Remembrance of Yonakhir and Hanna

October

- 7. Mar Elia Nwiya
- 12. The 300 saints of Shizar
- 16. Mar Moshe Nwiya,
Mar Yohannan evangelist,
Son of Zabadee.
- 17. Maran Mar Dinkha IV Patriarch's
Consecration (35 th. anniversary)
- 30. Hallowing of the Church
- 31. Mar Gewarghese Sahda

November

- 4. Mar Michael Memorial
- 6. Tithe festival
- 15. Memorial of all Saints
- 18. Mar Augin Thuvana
- 19. Mar Yakob M'paska
- 22. Memorial of 12000 Martyrs

December

- 1. *Subara* (Advent) begins
- 2. Mar Gabriel, Mar Abdisho
- 18. Mar Awa of Nineveh
- 25. Christmas
- 30. Mar Yakob Shleeha
- 30. Memorial of Mart Mariam



Mar Aprem parish is receiving the first Prize in the Choir meet held on December 25 at Mart Mariam Big Church, Trichur. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Yohannan Episcopa are in the middle.



Photo taken at the ceremony of 'P Thomas foundation Award' conducted at Metropolitan Palace ground. Left to Right: Arch Bishop Thoomkuzhy, Prof. George Menachery, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa and Mr. Chithran Namboothiripadu. Children of Fr. Michael Vallavanthara, Mercy & Philip are singing the prayer song.



H.H. Mar Dinkha Visits Mar Narsai Metropolitan at Ancient Church of the East's Chicago parish, St Odisho's Church.



Deacon Martin Nabeel ordained by Mar Gewargis Metropolitan in Baghdad on 19th December 2010.



Photo of Christian monastery in 600 A.D. in Abu Dhabi, UAE



Photo of Ordination of Allen Odisho in Sweden.



Photo of New Zealand immigration officials with Rev. Thoma Kanon

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