

صوت الشرق

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Nos 11 & 12



Inauguration of 44th anniversary celebration of consecration of Mar Aprem Metropolitan and the 60th birthday of Rev'd A.P. Varghese (Vicar) and Fr. Simon Emmatty (Assistant Vicar) at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Parish, East Fort on November 18, 2012. L to R: Mr. Shaji Vadakan, Dr. Rishi Emmatty, Mr. Babu Konikara, Fr. Simon Emmatty (Asst. Vicar), Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, Fr. A P Varghese (Vicar) & Mr. I G Joy, Chairman (Board of Central Trustees)

VOICE OF THE EAST

**Dr. J J Van Ginkel
presents church
history lecture in
Sydney on 19 October
2012**



Blessing of the newly established Holy Monastery of Mar Isaac of Nineveh, in Salida, California on 30 November 2012. Bishop Mar Awa Royel is pictured with Rev'd Genard Lazar and the new monks, Dayraya Emmanuel and Dayraya Awgin.

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation: www.theacero.org

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Voice of the East

Vol. 59

November - December 2012

Nos. 11 & 12

Editorial

Peace and Harmony

We are all looking for peace and yet we are surrounded by barriers to this elusive state. We prefer to hear the angelic message of peace and harmony and yet terror and chaos surround us.

We look for peace in the nations; the people of Palestine and Israel do not know whether they can live without war. The people of Syria and Egypt do not know what the coming days will hold. And the people of Iran too are faced with threats.

We look for peace in the Church; are we fulfilling the command of our Lord to care and share? While the Church is busy building churches, parsonages and shopping complexes, the needy surround us.

Let us make a combined effort to help the poor in our churches. Our focus should be on the poor, the forgotten and the destitute, not on beautiful cathedrals and huge concrete structures. Our Mar Timotheus Parish in Nellikunnu, Thrissur for example has effectively implemented a 'Care & Share Programme' collecting used newspapers, selling them and using the profits to fund dialysis treatment for patients with kidney disease.

Free medical programmes conducted in several of our parishes in India also provide relief for many patients and also increase awareness amongst church members. At the same time, our members co-operate with blood and eye donation programmes. The need is great and we should engage in more charitable activities for the glory of God.

As we bid farewell to 2012 let us do whatever possible to restore peace and harmony in our families, our churches, our communities and our world. Let us practice healthy living. Let our environment be eco-friendly. Let us look to the suffering and oppressed with Christian compassion and resolve to improve their lives. Let us abandon anger and enmity that we may truly be called the people of God. Perhaps in the years that come we may finally see what so many have long been looking for; true and lasting *peace*.

May the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be blessed upon all readers of this humble periodical, their families and their friends.

Mar Aprem

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CATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH OF THE HOLY
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✠ سَمِعْنَا وَنَسِيَ ذُنُوبَنَا
بِهَيْبَتِهِ الْبَلِيغَةِ وَجُودِهِ هَوَاتِنَا هَتَمَسْنَا
هَذِهِ لَسْمَعُ وَهَدِيْنَا وَنَهَقْنَا حَتِيْمًا
✠ مَارِ دِنْحَا الرَّابِعِ
بطريرك كنيסה المشرق الأثورية في العالم

Patriarchal epistle
For the Holy feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
For the year 2012

Our beloved brothers, noble prelates, our spiritual sons elected priests and pure deacons: sons and daughters of the Holy Church and Assyrian national group and all our Christian brothers and sisters.

Our Prayers and blessings receive

Today we, all the Christians are celebrating in joy and happiness the holy Feast of the Nativity of the king of Kings our Lord Jesus Christ. The Son, Jesus Christ is born. By His Nativity the true light has shone and enlightened the path of Salvation. Let us recall, there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2: 8-14)

The Nativity of Jesus Christ brought peace on earth, goodwill toward men. This is a great mystery, God the word is revealed in the flesh anointed by the Holy Spirit and born from the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Apostle Paul says: “*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*” (1 Timothy 2:5)

We pray the same glory of God that shone upon the Shepherds on the day of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ may enlighten the hearts and minds of all the Christians so that we all might be able to celebrate the feast of Nativity in joy and happiness. On this joyful occasion we are saying to all of you, Sons and daughters of the Holy Church and our Assyrian national group and to all fellow Christians:

The feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed to you all.

We pray, all of you, Sons and daughters of the Holy Church and our Assyrian national group and all fellow Christians that you will celebrate the feast of Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in joy, happiness and good health. As members, united to one mystical body of Christ is required of all to in peace and tranquility with one another because you have been called to experience such a peace in the Holy Church.

We have learned how precious the gift of the merciful God is, by the water and the Holy Spirit, He clothed us with the garment of the Holy Baptism, under the species of the bread, He nourished us with His precious body and by His life-giving blood, He sanctified us and He associated us with celestial beings.

Let us in love, honor and faithfulness be obedient to the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God. In order for us to become sons and daughters of our heavenly father there must be peace among us. Our Lord Jesus says: *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* (John 13:34-35)

We are pronouncing to all the sons and daughters of the Holy Church, both the clergy and the laity, we are all responsible to fulfill our obligation towards the progress of our Holy Church faithfully and in truthful obedience. Our Lord teaches us to be peace makers. He also says: *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16) The light of a Christian is his good deeds. We Christians possess such a kind of light only from the Lord and the source of the true light is Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ says: *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* (John 8:12) Let us believe in the life-giving words of God spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ and recorded in the Holy gospel. Jesus says to the Israelites: *“But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.”* (John 8:45) Again Jesus says: *“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life.”* (John 12:49-50)

We will hear and learn the life-giving words of our Lord Jesus Christ that are preached to us in the Holy Church. Our Lord has established the Holy Church on earth and sanctified it by the Holy Spirit in order to sanctify the faithful worshipers and hear their prayers. The Church on earth is a part of the Church in heaven. The Holy Spirit stays in and with the Church forever. The Holy Spirit also sanctifies the faithful Christians by the Mystery of the Divine grace so that they reach

eternal life in the Kingdom of heaven. The Holy Church possesses consecrated buildings where the sons and daughters of the Holy Church offer worship and glory to God. These consecrated buildings are called the house of God. God is present among the community of the Christian believers who pray unto him in a humble spirit to hear their prayers, accept their petitions and to forgive their sins.

We beseech our beloved sons and daughters of the Holy Church all parishes to bring your children to Sunday school, Youth Associations and church choir. All the sons and daughters of the Holy Church must attend the Bible Study and Messianic classes offered in their home parishes so that the edifice of their faith be decorated and strengthened by reading and hearing the life giving words of God.

We ask you all, sons and daughters of The Holy Church in the country in which you are a resident or citizens be faithful, and obedient to the constitution and by-laws of your country. So that you may be respected and loved by officials of the Country of your residency and you will live in joy and peace, etc.

As Christian sons and daughters of the Assyrian Church of the East, keep the Faith, liturgy, Sacraments and the Syndical decrees of the Holy Church with great care and without change. In the nation you may reside live a Christ-like life. Do not be embarrassed nor afraid that you are a Christian believer.

In conclusion we are again saying: **The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed to you all together with The New Year 2013.**

We pray that the New Year will be filled with blessings, peace, and tranquility in the four corners of world; especially in the Middle Eastern countries. We also pray for the unity and understanding of all Christians, offering prayers for the health and prosperity of all the sons and daughters of the Holy Church, and the Assyrian believing Community.

The grace and Mercies of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all forever and ever. Amen

+ K. Mardinkha 

Written: in our Patriarchal Cell
December 11, 2012
Morton Grove, Illinois

Khanania Mardinkha IV
By Grace Catholicos
Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic
Assyrian Church of the East

Church Ecclesiastical Calendar – 2013

January

2. Mar Zaia
4. Memorial of Mart Mariam
6. Epiphany
11. Mar Yohannan Mamdhana
18. Pathros & Poulose
18. Four Evangelists
- 21-23 Ba'utha of Ninevites
24. Kubalthaibutha
25. Greek & Syriac Malpans
27. Mar Yonan

February

1. Mar Esthapanose Sahda
8. Friday of Departed (Anneedhe)
10. Lent Begins
22. Mar Awa Catholicos

March

6. Mid Lent
8. 40 Martyrs crowned in Ghieda
16. Mar Benyamin Shimun, Martyr (1918)
17. Mar Michael, friend of Angels
22. Friday of Lazar
24. Oshana
28. Pis'ha of our Lord (Maundy Thursday)
29. Good Friday
30. Holy Saturday
31. Easter

April

1. Confessor's Day
7. New Sunday
7. Tidings to Mart Mariam from Angel Gabriel
15. Mar Shimun Bar Sabbae
15. Rabban Hormizd
24. Memorial of Mar Geevarghese
26. Mar Sargis, Mar Bachos
28. Mar Addai Shleeha

May

6. Shmonie & Children
9. Sulaqa (Ascension)
19. Pentecost
22. First Holy Qurbana by Mar Yakob
24. Friday of Gold

July

2. Mar B'hisho
3. St. Thomas Day

5. Memorial of 72 Disciples
7. Nusardail & Memorial of 12 Disciples
11. Mar Yosip Khananisho (d. 1977)
12. Mar Yakob of Nisibis
15. Mar Kuriakose & Mother
19. Mar Mari Shleeha
26. Mar Iyyob Hdayyavaya

August

1. Beginning Fifteen Day Fast
6. Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor
9. Shmonie & Her Children
15. Death of Mart Mariam (Shunaya)
16. Mar Shimun Bar Sabbae
23. Mar Qardagh Sahda

September

1. Rabban Hurmizd
8. Birth of Mart Mariam
13. Festival of Cross
13. The 300 Saints of Shizar
14. Mar Bhisho
18. Remembrance of Yonakhir & Hanna
19. Mar Shallitha

October

11. Mar Elia Prophet
13. Mar Moshe Nwiya
14. Mar Khananiya, who baptized St. Paul
17. Consecration of H.H. Mardinkha IV
25. Mar Pithyon

November

3. Hallowing of the Church
4. Mar Geevarghese Sahda
8. Mar Augin Thoovana
10. Tithe Festival
15. Memorial of All Saints
19. Mar Yakob M'paska

December

1. Subara (Advent) Begins
5. Memorial of 12000 Martyrs
6. Mar Gabriel, Mar Abdisho
22. Mar Awa of Nineveh
25. Christmas



Bishop Mar Awa Royel (Diocese of California & Secretary of the Holy Synod) and his secretary Rev. Fr. Genard Lazar visit China on October 3rd 2012



**Mar Aprem Metropolitan speaks at Charity Day held on 2nd Oct. 2012
L to R: Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mathew Mampilly (Convener of Charity Committee), I G Joy (Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees), Mar Awgin Episcopa, Fr. Sunny S Koola (Vice President of Charity committee) and George Emmatty (Vice Chairman of Board of Central Trustees)**



Mrs. N.V. George gave largest donation of Rs. 8 lakhs to the second stage of new building in Chaldean Syrian High School. Photo shows Mrs. Ramani Mooken hands over the donation to the Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. Oomman Chandy.



Key giving ceremony of Mr. Jose Chiriyankandath in connection with the second stage construction of Chaldean Syrian School's new block L to R: Jose C P, Mar Awgin Episcopa, Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. Oomman Chandy, Mar Aprem Metropolitan & Mar Yohannan Episcopa

**CHURCH OF THE EAST
IN INDIA
A BRIEF HISTORY
PART I**



**BY
EMMANUEL SHIMOUN**

Cover page of the newly published book 'Church of the East in India, A Brief History, Part 1' by the late Emmanuel Shimoun. This book was recently published from Sydney by the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon.



Dr. Surekha Kurian Poovathingal,
Associate Professor of
Biotechnology and Microbiology,
University of Cannore



Rev. Fr. Yohannan K P
has expired on 26 Dec. 2012
at Thrissur. He was 79 years old.



Bishop Mar Yohannan with the parish members after the Holy Qurbana in Muscat, Oman on Friday 21 December 2012 in the Mar Thoma Church hall.

Bishop Mar Awa Royel Visits China

Following up on to the previous visit in October of 2010, His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East, Diocese of California, and Secretary of the Holy Synod, accompanied by his secretary Rev. Fr. Genard Lazar and Deacon Allen Youssefi returned to Hong Kong, in response to an invitation from the *Jingjiao Fellowship* and its director Mr. David Tam.

Arriving at the Hong Kong airport on Tuesday October 3rd 2012, His Grace and the entourage were received by Mr. David Tam, Director of the *Jingjiao Fellowship* and the catalyst for the entire arrangements, along with Mr. Isaac Wong.

After arriving in Xian (Mainland China) on Wednesday October 24th, preparations were made for His Grace to visit the Xi'an Beilin (Stele) Museum, in particular the Forest of Steles section, containing the *Jingjiao* (Assyrian Church of the East) monument erected in 781AD, commemorating the mission of the Church of the East to that country in the era of the T'ang Dynasty. There His Grace was officially greeted and received by the representative of the curator of the museum who in turn introduced Will to assist with the tour of the Museum. A considerable time was spent at the *Jingjiao Stele* where His Grace closely examined the Assyrian inscriptions.

Following the visit to the Museum of Steles, and on the route to the *Jingjiao* site to visit the Daqin Pagoda, a stop off was made at our sister Jenny Bai's house who had requested for His Grace to visit her home and offer prayers of blessings to her and her parents.

On Saturday October 27th, the Holy Eucharist (in the Aramaic) language was celebrated by His Grace, assisted by Rev. Fr. Genard and Deacon Allen in one of the churches in the city. A number of invited parishioners attend the service and were spiritually uplifted after receiving the Holy Eucharist (Qurbana Qadisha).

Returning back to Hong Kong on Monday, October 29th His Grace presented a Lecture at the Chung Chi College Divinity School (Chinese University of Hong Kong) on 'The Sacraments of the Assyrian Church of the East.' An engaging Q&A session was provided for participants to ask questions, which saw quite a number of students expressing their intentions to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Assyrian Church of the East's (*Jingjiao*) faith, doctrine and sacraments. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by His Grace at the College chapel, and it is worth mentioning that the *Jingjiao Fellowship* membership increased from 200 to 500 prior to commencement, during and after the conclusion of the service. Following the Eucharistic service, dinner was hosted by the College.

On Tuesday October 30th, His Grace met with the officials of the Hong Kong Christian Council, discussing the process and prospects for the establishment of the Assyrian Church of the East in Hong Kong. On the same day, another lecture was presented by His Grace at the Lutheran Theological Seminary titled 'The Historical Development of the Rite of the Assyrian Church of the East: Origins to the First Six Centuries.' In the same afternoon a meeting was held at the Institution of Sino Christian Studies (ISCS) in which were present His Grace, Rev. Fr. Genard, Deacon Allen, Mr. Daniel Yeung (director of the Institution), Mr. Jason Lam and Ms. Liang Rong. During this meeting Mr. Yeung reported on the progress of the translation of the first volume of the project of a series of translations of the theological works of the Assyrian Church

of the East, which was the collection of the writings of Theodore of Mopsuestia in the Chinese language. The works of Theodore which are being translated are his *Commentary on the Nicene Creed, On Holy Baptism, On the Holy Eucharist* (Qurbana Qadisha) and the *On the Lord's Prayer*. Discussions were made on the works of St. Ephraim the Assyrian and various Church of the East fathers. Professor Zhu Donghua from the University of Tsinghua has been engaged as the translator of the writings. Following the meeting, a press interview was conducted with His Grace by the local Anglican archdiocese newspaper.

The final meeting prior to the date of departure for San Francisco, a meeting took place at the Anglican Church's All Saint's Cathedral in Hong Kong. His Grace was received by Rt. Rev. Paul Chan and the parish priests. During this meeting, His grace made a request on behalf of the *Jingjiao Fellowship* to be provided with a meeting place. Bishop Chan responded favorably and mentioned further assistance would be gladly provided by the Church.

Finally, His Grace also met with Dr. David Wilmschurst, Academic Editor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and author of the recently released book on the history of the Assyrian Church of the East titled *The Martyred Church: A History of the Church of the East* (Louvain, 2000).

It is hoped that further efforts will be made by the Church in order to engage the Chinese brethren and their search for the Church of their forefathers, the 'Jingjiao' Church of the East!

Source: www.news.assyrianchurch.org

Opening and Dedication of New Monastery of Mar Isaac of Nineveh in U.S.A.

History was joyously made after 125 years, on Friday November 30th at 9:00am, when His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East, Diocese of California conducted the Liturgy of the Blessing of Houses, in the new established Holy Monastery of St. Isaac of Nineveh, in Salida, California. The monastery came about after much prayer and the seeking of the Lord's will, in addition to the petition of some of the faithful, particularly those who wish to consecrate their lives to God by continue prayer, fasting and good works.

Accompanied His Grace were Archdeacon Nenos Michael (Mar Narsai Parish Priest), Chorbishop Auchana Kanoun (Mar Gewargis Parish Priest), Rev. Fr. Jameel Warda (Mar Addai Parish Priest), Rev. Fr. Genard Lazar (Secretary to the Bishop) and Rev. Fr. Shamlee Tamras (Mar Zaia Parish Priest), along with deacons who serve in the diocese.

On the same day, at 6:00pm, His Grace celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the Commemoration of Mar Rabban Bar 'Edta (on the Fourth Friday of the Hallowing of the Church—Qudash 'Edta) at Mar Zaia Cathedral. Following immediately after the homily, His Grace proceeded with the ancient rite of tonsuring and investiture of the first brothers of the monastic brotherhood of St. Isaac of Nineveh, according to the rites and usage of the Assyrian Church of the East. Deacon Emmanuel Benjamin and Mr. Evan Badine were formally received into the brotherhood, by His Grace at Mar Zaia Cathedral (Modesto). Both Dayraya Emmanuel and Dayraya Awgin have commenced the order of Novices and are residing at the Monastery.

A dinner banquet was hosted in the church hall, where His Grace expanded on the significance of this first historical event within the Assyrian Church of the East in the Diaspora. The attending faithful expressed their sincere praise and thanksgiving our Savior Jesus Christ the King and Lord of the Church, for this unspeakable gracious gifts bestowed upon her. Heartfelt gratitude were also extended to the Shepherd of the Church in the Diocese of California, His Grace Bishop Mar Awa, for his continued strive towards the preservation and strengthening of the spiritual life of the Church, bringing back her glory clothed by Christ and his blessed Apostles.

On Saturday December 1st 2012, at 9:00am, His Grace and the diocesan clergy concluded the liturgy of the 'Consecration of the Altar Without Oil' within the chapel of the Monastery, officially dedicating it for various hours of prayers and the celebration on the Holy Eucharist (Qurbana Qadisha) every Wednesday and Friday afternoons (3:00 pm) and Sunday mornings (6:30 am). The monastic brotherhood is also governed by a strict rule, following in line with the Synhodos and monastic canons of the Assyrian Church of the East.

It is meet to mention that the current premises for the Monastery have been provided by a number of the faithful of the Church until such time in the future and according to God's perfect timing and will, that the Church will be in a strong position to acquire land for construction of the monastery according to the rites of the Assyrian Church of the East. The Diocese offers its thanksgiving to all the faithful who have helped with the monastery and donated in various forms. May the Lord richly bless him.

We raise our voices together as one united body of Christ, and ascribe praise, glory, honor and worship to the glorious name of our heavenly Father for all his aids and graces towards his Holy Church which cannot be comprehended.

Editor's Note: Footage of the tonsuring and investiture of the two new monks, the address of H.G. Bishop Mar Awa Royel following the service and the blessing of the new monastery can be viewed online at the following links:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3H-Uq5g4Kcw>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXkgSKPOn40>
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5Um_x5RyZ4

Dr. J J Van Ginkel Presents Church History Lecture in Sydney

The Assyrian Church of the East, Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon has welcomed the noted Syriac Studies scholar, Dr J.J. van Ginkel, Fellow of the Faculty of Humanities, Leiden Institute for Area Studies at Leiden University (The Netherlands) to Sydney to present a lecture on the history of the Church of the East.

The lecture, held on Friday 19 October 2012 in the *H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assembly Hall* at Sydney's St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School was attended by a large number of faithful interested in learning more about the deep, glorious and complex history of the Church of the East.

Accompanying Dr van Ginkel during his visit to the Assyrian Church of the East was renowned Syriac scholar, Professor Rifaat Ebied of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Sydney.

Dr van Ginkel's impressive presentation explored the early beginnings of the Christian faith in the apostolic age and tracked the spread and expansion of the faith throughout the East and then further into the rest of the world.

Dr van Ginkel's lecture focused at length on the famous missionary enterprise of the Church of the East which had at its height spread from Mesopotamia to India, China, Japan throughout Central Asia and Tibet, and according to Dr van Ginkel, possibly even as far as Indonesia.

Editor's Note: A full video of the lecture can be viewed at the following link: <http://vimeo.com/51839638>

Ecumenical News

Pope accepts resignation of 85-year old Chaldean Patriarch

Vatican City, Dec 19, 2012 (CNA/EWTN News)

Pope Benedict XVI on Dec. 19 accepted the resignation of Cardinal Emmanuel III Delly, head of the Chaldean Catholic Church, and called the Chaldean bishops to Rome for a synod to elect his successor.

Cardinal Delly, the Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans, was elected the Chaldean patriarch on Dec. 3, 2003. Pope Benedict XVI made him a cardinal in November 2007. The 85-year-old resigned for age and health reasons, the Italian newspaper La Stampa reports.

The Chaldean bishops oversee a Church of more than 1.5 million members in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Australia, Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Chaldeans are the most numerous Christian group in Iraq, with eight dioceses, 100 parishes, and about 500,000 faithful, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association says.

However, Iraqi Chaldean numbers have fallen drastically since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Patriarch Emmanuel, whose see is based in Baghdad, led Chaldean Catholics at a time when Iraqi Christians suffered from bombings, kidnappings and murders due to a lack of security. Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho and three companions were abducted in February 2008 and subsequently murdered.

Pope Benedict in 2007 said his choice of Patriarch Emmanuel as a cardinal showed his "spiritual closeness and affection" for Iraq's Christians, Vatican Radio says.

The Chaldean bishops' synod will take place Jan. 28, 2013 under the leadership of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches.

On Dec. 14 Cardinal Sandri presided at the Mass that consecrated the restored Syro-Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Baghdad. The cathedral was the site of a deadly terrorist attack on October 31, 2010 that killed two priests and 50 other faithful.

He praised the "honorable sacrifices" that allowed the cathedral to reopen and said that God "encourages Eastern Christians, and especially those of Iraq, to communion and testimony."

Pope Benedict has appointed Archbishop Jacques Ishaq as administrator of the Chaldean Church until the next patriarch is elected.

The Chaldean Catholic Church has been in unbroken communion with the Roman Catholic Church since the early 19th century. It uses Syriac as a liturgical language.

Archbishop of Canterbury Steps Down

The 61-year-old Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams is stepping down from his post and taking charge as Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, England. Dr Williams will be succeeded by Justin Welby, the Bishop of Durham.

Coptic Patriarch Elected in Cairo

Amba Theodoros (Theodore) was elected the Patriarch of Alexandria. As the head of the Coptic Church the Patriarch will be called Pope. About 100 bishops and leaders took part in the election of the Patriarch. The bishops and other leaders voted to choose three persons out of the list of five proposed. In This process two monks were eliminated.

An altar boy is blind folded and asked to pick one of three names (two bishops and one monk). Thus 60 year old Bishop Theodoros was chosen. In the election Bishop Raphael had won more votes than Bishop Theodoros.

Six bishops from Ethiopia were present in the election. Ethiopia was a part of the Coptic Church until Emperor Hailee Selaria (a Christian) gave leadership to create a new patriarch separate from the Coptic Patriarch. At present the seat of the Ethiopian Patriarch Abuna Paulus is vacant following his sudden death.

The new patriarch Theodoros is the successor of Pope Schenuda III who had died on 17 March 2012.

Demise of Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch

Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch Ignatius IV Hazim died aged 92 in December 2012. His church has about one million followers largely based in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. He was formerly one of the Presidents of the World Council of Churches. Syria's state-run news agency has reported that John Yazigi has been elected to head the Damascus-based church.

Six New Cardinals

Pope Benedict XVI has nominated six new Cardinals. All are from outside Europe. This is the first time no body from Europe is included in the new list of Cardinals. Mor Clemis, aged 52, Major Archbishop of Syro Malankara Church is one of the six. As the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, Mar George Alenchery is already a Cardinal and now Kerala State has two Cardinals.

The number of Cardinals eligible to vote for the election of the Pope is now 120. The total number of Cardinals is 211. Those cardinals older than 80 cannot vote in the election of a new Pope. The Chaldean Patriarch Emmanuel III Delli cannot vote as he is older than 80. The new Maronite Patriarch Bashir Rai (aged 72) is one of the new six Cardinals.

Orthodoxia 2012-2013

This valuable directory is published from *Ostkirchliches Institute* in Regensburg, Germany. The Assyrian Church of the East is listed in page 43-45. The latest edition has listed all 15 prelates

including the most recently consecrated Assyrian bishop, Mar Paulus Benjamin who was consecrated on 27 May 2012 in Chicago.

Indian Archdiocese News

Mar Yohannan Yoseph Visits Muscat, Oman

Bishop Mar Yohannan celebrated Holy Qurbana in Muscat, Oman on Friday 21 December 2012 in the Mar Thoma Church hall. About 80 people were present. The congregation requested to arrange Holy Qurbana in Muscat at least once in 3 months. Fr. Sachin Timothy, Assistant Vicar of Mart Mariyam U.A.E. Parish assisted the Bishop.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan Visits Mission Parish in Goa

Mar Aprem Metropolitan assisted by Rev'd Cyril Antony celebrated the Holy Qurbana on Saturday 24 November 2012 in Goa. About 18 people attended the Holy Qurbana which was specially arranged at the *Kinis Hotel*. The faithful of the church in Goa have requested the Holy Qurbana at regular intervals. The following persons were elected as trustees of the Goa Mission Parish:

1. Mr. P.V. Joseph (Pullukaran)
2. Mr. P.A. Williams (Parapully)

Mr. M.I. Thomas, former trustee in Bangalore was elected as Advisor. Commander George Chalakal (Indian Navy – Retired) and his family, Vinod Joy Immatty, Bobby Davy Nellangara and others were present.

Dr. Surekha Kurian Poovathingal Visits USA

Associate Professor of Biotechnology and Microbiology, University of Cannore gave lectures in USA recently. University Professors in USA were happy to hear from Prof. Surekha about our Church in India. Prof. Surekha and her husband Dr. Kurian both hold PhDs from Thrissur.

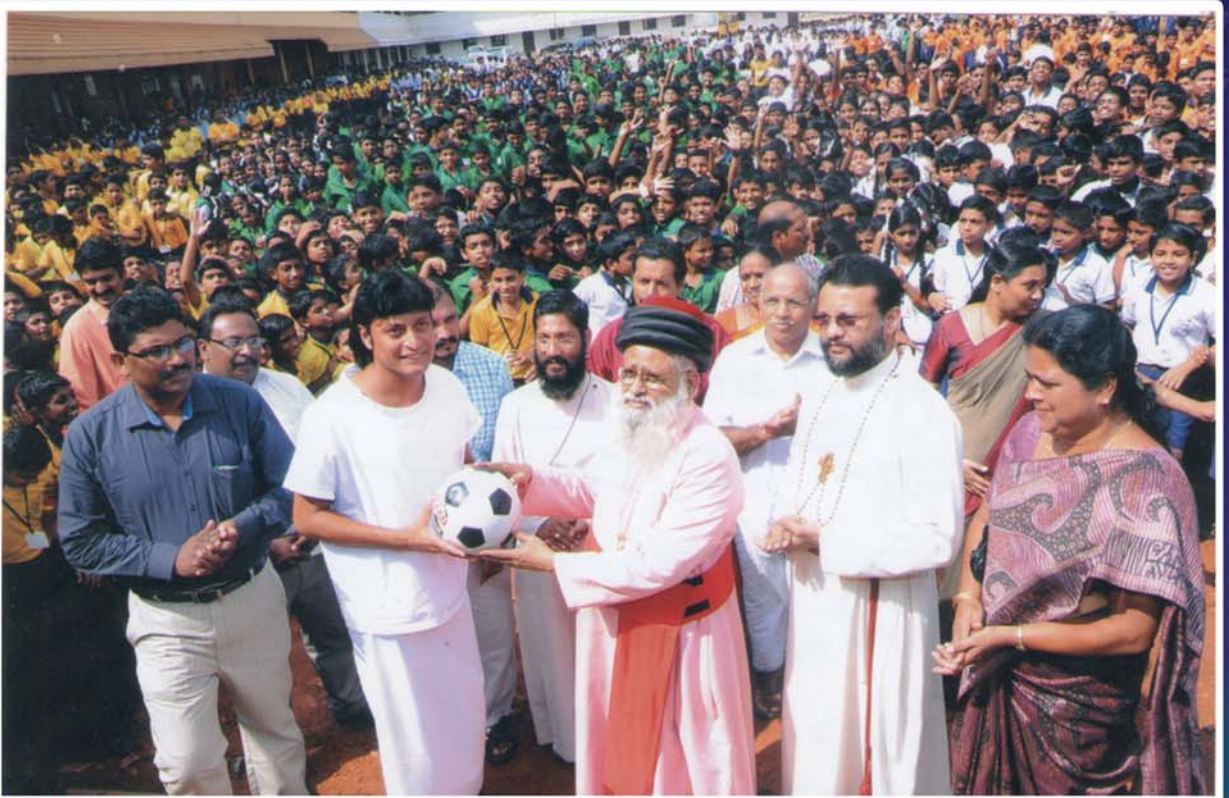
Election of Mahatma Gandhi's Great-Grandson

Dr. Shanti Gandhi, son of the late Kanti Lal, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, was elected to the State Assembly of Kansas State, USA. A cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon, he came to the US in 1976 and retired at the age of 70 in 2012. He defeated Ted Ensley, a Democrat.

Birthday and 44th Anniversary Celebration

Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Parish, East Fort, celebrated the 44th anniversary of the Metropolitan consecration of Mar Aprem, head of the Church of the East in India. Mar Aprem Metropolitan was the chief celebrant at the Holy Qurbana in the morning and also of the public meeting in the evening.

The 60th birthday of Rev'd A. P. Varghese (Vicar) and Rev'd Simon Emmatty (Assistant Vicar) were also celebrated on the occasion. The Vicar's 60th birth anniversary coincided with the 40th anniversary of his service to the Church. He was ordained on 2nd October 1972. Later he earned a B.A. and studied privately to obtain a B.C.S. degree from Serampore University. The latter degree is equivalent to a B.D.



Boby Chemmannur presenting the football signed by Diego Maradona to Mar Aprem Metropolitan in Trichur. Bishop Mar Yohannan Episcopa and Mar Awgin Episcopa are also seen.



Inauguration of Mar Aprem Sunday School Day by Smt. Chandan Chowdhary, I.P.S. (Asst. Commissioner of Police, Thrissur City) at 6 p.m. on 2nd December 2012. Metropolitan Mar Aprem along with two Bishops, Mr. I G Joy and Fr. B O Timothy (General Secretary of the Sunday Schools) are in the Photo

Merry Christmas & New Year



After Holy Qurbana arranged at the *Kinis Hotel* in Goa on 24 November 2012. Seated L to R: P A Williams, Fr. Cyril Antony, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, M I Thomas and P V Joseph with his grand daughter

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
2013

