# ليتي محمد المحمد ا

# Vol 60 November-December 2013 Nos 11&12



After the ordination of Shimshon Warda Yaqo as Deacon by His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Iraq, Jordan and Russia in the Church of Mar Odisho, Baghdad on 8 November 2013.

# **VOICE OF THE EAST**

His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Iraq, Jordan and Russia ordains Shimshon Warda Yaqo as Deacon in the Church of Mar Odisho, Baghdad on 8 November 2013.



His Grace Dr. Mar Awa Royel and Archdeacon Dr William Toma at Pro-Oriente's 4th Colloquium Syriacum of the Pro Oriente Foundation held in Vienna, Austria, from September 19-22, 2013.

## VOICE OF THE EAST

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly) (Private Circulation only) November - December 2013 Patron : **His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem** Metropolitan's Palace, Trichur - 680 001, Kerala, India Phone : 91487 - 2420978 Personal : 91487 - 2442166 Email : hgmaraprem@gmail.com

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## Editorial

## Welcome 2014

As we look to the dawn of another year, let us pray the year 2014 will be better than 2013. In the current year we faced crises both within India and abroad. Nobody expects that 2014 will lead us to a 'land of milk and honey'. There will be tsunamis, earthquakes, civil wars, cold wars, famine etc.

World war III or an Armageddon may not come in 2014. Anyhow, we should be prepared for any disasters, natural or man made. The evil one is always active not only in the national or international affairs, but also in small issues within a parish or in a home. The number of divorces happening in the Christian homes is an alarming signal. Repentance at all levels is necessary in order to avert the possible dangers that may fall on mankind in 2014.

Let us pray for peace in all parts of the world, especially Syria, Iran, Iraq etc. where members of our Assyrian Church are exposed to danger. Let us pray for our scattered Assyrians in Europe, Australia, New Zealand etc. Let us all pray for peace in 2014.

This year Voice of the East made a special effort to cover news from all over our churches. Unfortunately we did not hear much from some areas and so we could not write stories about their activities to share with the people of our Church. I am grateful to Joseph Haweil from Melbourne who helped us in getting more news about our church as well as editing the magazine issued once in two months. May I request once again our bishops to encourage somebody in your diocese to send news about your activities in your area. We cannot publish big articles, as our space is limited. Good photographs are also welcome. Remember, the news of your church will be known to all over the world through the Voice of the East six times a year. PLEASE send your news to hgmaraprem@gmail.com.

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mar Aprem



Patriarchal Epistle For the Holy feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ For the year 2013

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 are celebrating the holy Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. This blessed Feast is filled with joy, happiness and good hope of Salvation to all Christians. It is on this feast that God the father revealed His divine love and kindness towards mankind. It is our obligation to offer worship, honor and thanksgiving unto our Holy God for sending His only begotten Son to dwell in the human temple of the virginal womb and to be born of His blessed mother without human father. By His Nativity enlightened all creations and all the nations received joy and happiness. Let us believe in the truthful love of our heavenly father. The Apostle Paul says: "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." (1Timothy 2:5)

The messenger of peace was sent in His humanity and the Savior of the World in His divinity. The great Miracle was seen in Bethlehem on the day of the nativity of Jesus Christ.Nearby the place Lord was born, there were shepherdskeeping 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. Because today a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 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)

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 together may 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 brothers and sisters and members, united to one mystical body of Christ is required of all of you to be in peace and tranquility with one another because you have been called to experience such a peace in the Holy Church. 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, keeping the Canon laws of the Holy Synods, the rituals and the Sacraments of the Holy Church. The Lord of the Holy Church our Lord Jesus Christ requests of us to be humble, merciful, forgiving, pure in heart, faithful and obedient to one another, so that we will be able to labor in the vineyard entrusted to us. In order for us to make our Lord Jesus Christ happy, let us work with pure heart in His vineyard so that it will produce good and delicious.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instructs us saying: "and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:27-28) 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 our Lord Jesus Christ because He is the Lord and the source of the true light. 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)

We will find the light of life in the Holy Church because the life-giving words of our Lord Jesus Christ that are preached to us in the Holy Church. Our Lord established the Holy Church on earth and sanctified it by the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is in the Church and remains with it forever. The Holy Spiritby the Mystery of the Divine grace also sanctifies the faithful Christians so that they may reach eternal life in the Kingdom of heaven.

It is in the Holy church that we receive the Sacrament of the Holy Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We, who are part of the Church of Jesus Christ, are called Christians. As Christians, we are all born again from one spiritual mother the Holy Baptism. Therefore we are brothers and sisters of one another. As members of one Christian household we need to have unity, peace, love and honor among usand especially among the Christians who are residing in the Middle Eastern countries. As faithful Christians, regardless of our ecclesiastical differences we must work with one another in love and harmony as members of one Christian flock

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 and obedient to the governmental officials so that you may be respected and loved by officials of the Country of your residency and you will live in joy and peace.

As Christian sons and daughters of the Assyrian Church of the East, keep the Faith, liturgy, Sacraments and the decrees of the Holy Synod of Church with great care and without change. In the nation you may reside live a Christ-like life. Do not be ashamednor 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 2014.

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

Written: in our Patriarchal Cell Morton Grove, Illinois December 05, 2013 KhananiaMardinkha IV by Grace Catholicos Patriarch The Assyrian Church of the East

## Assyrian Church of the East Delegation Participates in Pro Oriente's 4th Colloquium Syriacum

The 'Fourth Colloquium Syriacum' of the Pro Oriente Foundation was held in Vienna, Austria, from September 19-22, 2013, at the guest-house of the Pallotine Fathers ('Pallottihaus'). The various Syriac-speaking Churches of the Middle East and India were represented at the Colloquium, along with many expert scholars and invited guests who also attended. The Assyrian Church of the East was represented by His Grace Dr Mar Awa Royel, the Bishop of California, Secretary of the Holy Synod and President of CIRED (Commission on Inter-Church Relations and Educational Development) and the Very Reverend Father Dr William Toma, Parish Priest of Mar Sargis Parish (Chicago) and Archdeacon of the Holy Synod. In addition to the Assyrian Church of the East, other Churches represented were the: Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church, Malankara Catholic Church, Maronite Catholic Church of Antioch, Chaldean Catholic Church, Syrian Catholic Church of Antioch and the Ancient Church of the East. The experts included scholars from Jerusalem, Oxford, Washington D.C., Salzburg and representatives from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (Vatican City).

This year's biennial gathering was centered on the theme: 'Towards a Culture of Co-Existence in Pluralistic Societies in the Middle East and in India.' For the four-day duration of the colloquium, prelates and scholars discussed in detail the plight of the Syriac-speaking Christian communities of the Middle East and India, taking note of the general unstable atmosphere of the region. After the reading of official letters of felicitations for the gathering by various ecclesiastics, the President of the Pro Oriente Foundation, Dr. Johann Marte, greeted the guests present to the city of Vienna in general and to the colloquium in particular. Then, the general schedule of the week was given to the delegates with much detail.

The members of the Colloquium began to discuss the historic background of cultural and religious exchanges in the Middle East, specifically between Christianity and Islam, as they existed in the historic periods of the seventh century and during the Ottoman period. Later, the issues of religious fundamentalism in India and the Middle East were also discussed in various papers. Finally, an indepth look at religious freedom and the understanding of citizenship and full participation of the religiously-diverse citizenry of these countries of the Middle East in the public life of these same countries. At the end of the Colloquium, papers were given with full discussion on the possibilities and attempts to build a 'Culture of Collaboration' and of peace-building in a religiously-diverse India and Middle East. At the end of the Fourth Colloquium of the Pro Oriente Foundation, a final statement or communiqué was drafted which will be released shortly, along with a more brief Press Release that addresses all interested parties who desire to learn about the magnanimous work of Pro Oriente. These shall be released and made available as soon as the texts are finalized.

## Eastern USA Diocese Hosts Christian Texts of Turfan Lecture

The Diocese of Eastern USA has hosted a public lecture entitled 'The Christian Texts of Turfan' in Illinois, USA on 15 November 2013.

The lecture, held at and co-sponsored by the Assyrian National Council of Illinois in Skokie, was given by Dr Erica C.D. Hunter of the Department for the Study of Religions, School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

The Christian Library from Turfan Project aims to catalogue some 1092 manuscript fragments in the Syriac, Christian Soghdian and Uigher (Christian Old Turkic) scripts, as well as Pahlavi Persian, that were found in the opening decade of the twentieth century at a monastery site near Bulayiq, Turfan. The texts, dating from the early medieval period (9th – 12th centuries), encompass liturgical texts, lectionaries, hymns and psalters, as well as ascetical texts.

The manuscripts are currently held at the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Staatsbibliothek, Potsdamer Strasse, Berlin and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst at Dahlem, Berlin.

The project addresses various issues, including the transmission of texts between different languages (Syriac, Soghdian and Old Turkic), the usage of liturgical and vernacular languages at Turfan and the links that were maintained with the Mesopotamian homeland of the Church of the East whose patriarchate was at Baghdad.

Dr. Hunter is Principal Investigator for the project. Other project members include Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams FBA, Professor Peter Zieme, Dr Chip Coakley, Dr Jonathan Loopstra and Dr Mark Dickens (Clare Hall, Cambridge), and His Grace Mar Awa Royel as liturgical/ Syriac consultant. Dr Dickens assisted Dr Hunter in the lecture. It is noteworthy that the public lecture was delivered in conjunction with the workshop of the Turfan Research Project group, which was held from 14 to 15 November 2013, at the premises of St. Andrew's Church, Assyrian Church of the East in the suburb of Glenview, Illinois.

In attendance at the lecture were His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod, and His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern USA, along with a large number of priests and members of the Illinois Assyrian community.

The students of St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School, Sydney mark the Barnabas Fund Day of Prayer at the 'H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assembly Hall' on 1 November 2013.

Barnabas Fund

For

Persecuted

ST HURMIZD ASSYRIAN

CHURCH & SCHOOL

BARNABAS FUND



The students of St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College, Sydney gathered for the commemoration of the October 2010 terrorist attack upon Our Lady of Salvation Syriac Catholic Church in Baghdad, Iraq on 5 November 2013. Mar Arrem sur Sunday Sc L. Day

Fr. B. O. Thimothy, the General Secretary leading the procession of 108th Anniversary Celebration of Mar Aprem Sunday School on December 1st 2013 from Mar Yohannan Mamdana Church, East Fort.



The Public Meeting inauguration of Mar Aprem Sunday School's 108th Anniversary Celebration by Smt. Saleena V G Nair, First Class Judicial Magistrate, Trichur on December 1st 2013 at 6.30 p.m at Mart Mariyam Big Church, Trichur

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His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East, Diocese of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod represents the Church at the academic function in response to an official invitation from the Rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome for the opening of the 2013/2014 academic year.



His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of the Diocese of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod and Rev'd Fr. Genard Lazar, his secretary and Mar Zaia Cathedral parish priest in Modesto pictured with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA – 18th Congressional District) at her Palo Alto, California office on November 6, 2013.

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His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod, and His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern USA pictaured with a large number of priests and members of the Illinois Assyrian community in connection with the "Christian Texts of Turfan" in Illinois, USA on 15 November 2013.

> Colombo Theological Seminary GRADUATION 2013

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan (Seated in the middle) pictured at the Colombo Theological Seminary Graduation 2013 in Sri Lanka.

## Church in Auckland

The Assyrian community in Auckland, New Zealand has purchased a new property to be the centre of the church community in the future. H.B. Mar MeelisZaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon visited in September 2013 and blessed the first stage of the project with the opening of a refurbished church/community hall. Construction and refurbishment works for the new Church of the Virgin Mary have already commenced. The Rev'd Fr Toma K. Toma is parish priest ministering to the Assyrian communities in both Auckland and Wellington.

## Assyrian Church of the East Represented at 10th World Council of Churches Assembly in Busan, Korea

Commissioned by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, Rev'd Cor-bishop George Toma, parish priest of St Andrew's Church in Glenview, Illinois has represented the Assyrian Church of the East at the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches. Under the theme 'God of life, lead us to justice and peace', more than 2000 delegates of world churches convened in Busan, Republic of Korea between 30 October – 8 November 2013. The Assembly of the World Council of Churches is a unique moment when the fellowship of member churches unites in prayer, celebration and sets the future agenda for the WCC.

## Bishop of California Calls on US Congress woman Anna Eshoo

On the afternoon of Wednesday, November 6, 2013 His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of the Diocese of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod visited Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA–18th Congressional District) at her Palo Alto, California office. His Grace was accompanied by Rev'd Fr Genard Lazar, his secretary and Mar Zaia Cathedral parish priest in Modesto. In a most cordial and warm colloquium, His Grace and the Congresswoman discussed matters pertaining to the plight of Assyrian Christians in the Middle East, in particular Iraq and Syria. The bishop briefed the Congresswoman in detail concerning the many hardships.

# Metropolitan of Iraq Ordains Deacon in Baghdad

On the occasion of the Commemoration of Mar Awgin the Blessed and the first week of the Hallowing of the Church, His Beatitude **Mar Gewargis Sliwa**, Metropolitan of Iraq, Jordan

and Russia has ordained **Shimshon Warda Yaqo** to the holy diaconate in the Church of **Mar Odisho**, Baghdad on 8 November 2013. The service took place prior to the consecration of the Holy Qurbana. The newly-ordained deacon is to serve the Mission congregation of the Assyrian Church of the East in Damascus, Syria. The Metropolitan was assisted in the service by Baghdad parish priests, Rev'd Fr Yosip Gewargis.

## Sydney Assyrian School Students Hold Assembly Marking the Barnabas Fund 'Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

The students of St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School of the Assyrian Church of the East in Sydney, Australia have participated in the Barnabas Fund Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. On 1 November 2013 the students gathered at the 'H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assembly Hall' to remember and pray for suffering Christians throughout the world. During the program they also recited the Lord's Prayer in the Assyrian language. The Rev'd Fr. Ninos Elya, school chaplain noted during the program, "It's good to pray for Christians but it takes greater strength to pray for your enemies".

## Sydney College Students Commemorate 2010 Baghdad Church Massacre Anniversary

On 5 November 2013, the students of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College of the Assyrian Church of the East in Sydney, Australia gathered to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the October 2010 terrorist attack upon Our Lady of Salvation Syriac Catholic Church in Baghdad, Iraq. During the heinous terrorist incident 58 Christians, many of whom were women and children lost their lives following a lengthy siege of the church. Addressing the assembled students, Jacob Awraham, Assyrian language coordinator at the College discussed the sacrifices and suffering of the Christians of Iraq following the commencement of the Iraq War in 2003.

## **Bishop of California Attends Academic** Year Opening in Rome

In response to an official invitation from the Rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome for the opening of the 2013/2014 academic year, His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East, Diocese of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod was commissioned by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch to officially represent the Church at the academic function.

Arriving in Rome on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, His Grace accompanied by his secretary and Mar Zaia Cathedral parish priest Rev'd Fr Genard Lazar, were received at the Pontifical Russian College in Rome, where accommodations were prepared by the rector of the same college, with

the aid of Fr Claudio Ciubotariu SJ. Distinct arrangements for His Grace to participate at the General Papal Audience on Wednesday, October 23, 2013, with designated seating in the 'Sagrato' section prepared by the offices of Bishop Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. His Grace was personally greeted by His Holiness Pope Francis, and met the President of the Senate of the Dominican Republic along with his consort at the completion of the program. At this moment His Grace conveyed a brief message of fraternal greetings from His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV to the His Holiness Pope Francis, who gladly received the kind and humbling gestures.

On Thursday, October 24, 2013, Rev'd Fr Tyari Awishalem and Rev'd Fr Ephram Khoury, priests of the Assyrian Church of the East currently studying in Rome, cordially met with His Grace apprising him of the progress of their higher theological studies.

After the conclusion of the conference talks, a number of students, priests and laity approached His Grace for further consultation on his topic matter. Both Rev'd Fr Tyari and Rev'd Fr Ephrem were present during the entire duration of the presentations. At the end of the academic program, a vote of thanks was offered by the dean of studies for all of the presenters.

## Indian Archdiocese News

## 14th Holy Synod & Sir Baniyas Monastery

The following is the Foreword of Bosco Puthur, Curia Bishop and Secretary of the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church to the new book of Mar Aprem '14th Holy Synod & Sir Baniyas Monastery'.

Most Rev. Dr. Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of the Church of the East is a master story teller. His already published books bear witness to it. I consider it a great privilege to be invited to write a Foreword to his seventy fourth book, 14th Holy Synod & Sir Baniyas Monastery. The book is a personal narrative of his participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> Holy Synod of the Church and his visit to the ancient Christian archeological site of Sir Baniyas Monastery in a small island of the Arabian Gulf. The book also introduces us to one of the greatest events of the Assyrian Church of the East in India, the 13<sup>th</sup> Holy Synod in 2010, the only one held in India.

Mar Aprem is a true ecumenist as can be seen in the following narrative from the book: "There is some anti Catholic feeling among the Assyrians and some Indians who say that the signing of the Common Christological Declaration signed on 11 November 1994 in Vatican between our Catholicos Patriarch and the late Pope John Paul II should be cancelled. But I feel that we should understand the spirit of ecumenism found in all churches".

As a good pastor Mar Aprem is sorry about the situation of the migrant communities of the Church. It is a serious problem that the Assyrians are scattered in the USA. "I wished they could live closer to one another. Although there are nineteen Assyrian churches in USA, there are several Assyrians and Indians who have not seen a single Assyrian Church there".

Mar Aprem can look at social problems with a pinch of humor: "I sometimes think that Nobel Prize should be given to those who invent short courses to practice medicine. If one does not have to spend so much money for many years to study medicine, the cost of treatment will go down. The patients today lose patience when they hear about the cost of treatment".

Here is an interesting story regarding the security check in the USA: "Once in Washington D.C. a security officer asked me to take off my shoes, I told her I do not wear shoes. That sounded funny to her. She called her colleague and told her 'Look, there is a passenger here without shoes'. I was happy at that time because she did not ask me to go and buy shoes before you come to security check".

Visit of Mar Aprem Metropolitan to the Sir Bani Yas Island monastery on 21 June 2012 is an important event narrated in the book. This Monastery in Sir Bani Yas Island is believed to be the major Christian monastery in the Gulf region in the period from 600 to 750 A. D. Mar Aprem, the Church historian, thinks that the recent excavation in this island is an exciting discovery for the history of Christianity in the middle East. The book also gives statistical data about the population of United Arab Emirates. It is very informative to read the titles of the 74 books of Mar Aprem and the list of travels he made and the names of Air Lines in which he travelled.

Mar Aprem is one who deeply loves his Church and its people as members of his own family. He shows his unparalleled personal knack of taking the reader as a travel companion and as a well-versed tourist guide who explains to us all the details of the important sites, events and personalities on the way. The author confesses his limitations: "Lack of a good publisher or editor is my serious problem. Lack of my patience to send the first proof for one or two outsiders before it goes to the press. I cannot wait for a long time to publish a travelogue". In spite of that, Mar Aprem's breathtaking narrative style brings the stories live on the pages. As in other books of Mar Aprem, in this travelogue too readers are brought straight to the events and persons.

I take the occasion to congratulate Metropolitan Mar Aprem for his unique achievement as a writer. With deep gratitude I cherish the friendship of this loving friend, venerable religious leader, wise pastor and master story teller.

7 November 2013

+Bosco Puthur, Curia Bishop and Secretary of the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church.

## Mar Aprem Sunday School Day - 2013

Mar Aprem Sunday School Celebrated its 108<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. The Day began with the flag hosting by H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan after the Holy Qurbana in the Mart Mariam Big Church. The flag was handed over to Fr. B. O. Thimothy, the General Secretary by H.L. Mar Yohannan Yoseph in the evening to start the procession from Mar Yohannan Mamdana Church, East Fort. The tableaus based on Old and New Testament and Biblical characters were picturized in the procession. The procession reached at the Metropolitan Palace, Mar Timotheus High Road, and H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan received the flag from General Secretary and distributed sweets to those who participated in the procession.

The public meeting was inaugurated by Smt. Saleena V G Nair, First Class Judicial Magistrate, Trichur at 6.30 p.m. The prelates and the Chief Guest were welcomed by the Syriac Song *Slothaah Avoon'* by the seminary clergy. The meeting started with the prayer song sung by the Sunday School students, Sneha Mariya and Rosemary. The General Secretary welcomed the hosts. The Presidential address was delivered by Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and the benedictory note was given by Mar Yohannan Episcopa. Sri I G Joy, Chairman, Board of Central Trustees gave the felicitations and the vote of thanks by Sri E T Paul, Asst. Secretary.

## Mar Awgin Kuriakose

Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, one of the two auxiliary Bishops residing in Trichur was in New Zealand in November and December has returned to India on 11th December. He conducted Holy Qurbana in both Auckland and Wellington. He met his Professors in the University of Auckland where he was doing Ph.D. studies in Bible.

## Mar Yohannan Yoseph

Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph who is in charge of the Muscat Mission Parish and Mart Mariyam U.A.E. Parish visited both Muscat and Sharjah doing Holy Qurbana in the pre-Christmas Season. He is expected to be in Trichur on 21st December.

## Church Calendar – 2014

### January

- 1. Mar Zaia
- 3. Memorial of Mart Mariam
- 6. Epiphany
- 10. Mar Yohannan Mamdhana
- 17. Pathros & Poulose
- 24 Four Evangelists
- 31. Mar Esthapanose Sahda

#### February

- 7. Greek Malpans 10-12 Ba'utha of Ninevites
- Kubalthaibutha 13.
- Syriac Malpans 14.
- 16. Mar Yonan
- 21 Mar Awa Catholicos
- 28. Friday of Departed (Anneedhe)

#### March

- 2. 6. Lent Begins
- Mar Michael, friend of Angels
- 7. 40 Martyrs crowned in Ghieda
- Mar Benyamin Shimun. 16
- Martyr (1918)
- Mid Lent 26.

#### April

- 5. 7. Confessor's Day
- Tidings to Mart Mariam from
- Angel Gabriel 11. Friday of Lazar
- 13. Oshana
- Mar Shimun Bar Sabbae 15. 17. Pis'ha of our Lord (Maundy
- Thursday)
- 18. Good Friday
- 19. Holy Saturday
- 20. Easter
- 24. Memorial of Mar Geevarghese
- 26. Mar Sargis, Mar Bachos
- 27. New Sunday

## May

- 5. Rabban Hormizd
- 18. Mar Addai Shleeha
- 27. Shmonie & Children
- 29. Sulaqa (Ascension)

### June

- 8. Pentecost First Holy Qurbana 11
- by Mar Yakob
- 13. Friday of Gold

#### July

2. Mar B'hisho

- 3. St. Thomas Day
- 11. Mar Yosip Khananisho (d. 1977)
- 15. Mar Kuriakose & Mother Yolethe
- 25. Memorial of 72 Disciples
- 27 Nusardail & Memorial of 12 Disciples

#### August

- **Beginning Fifteen Dav Fast** 1.
- 1. Mar Yakob of Nisibis
- Transfiguration of Jesus on 6. Mount Tabor
- Mar Mari Shleeha 8.
- 15 Death of Mart Mariam (Shunaya)
- Mar Iyyob Hdayyavaya 15
- Shmonie & her children 29.

#### September

- 1. Rabban Hurmizd
- 5. Mar Shimun Bar Sabbae
- 8 Birth of Mart Mariam
- 12. Mar Qardagh Sahda
- Festival of Cross 13
- 14. Mar Bhisho
- Remembrance of Yonakhir 18. & Hanna, Mother of Mart Mariyam
- 19. Mar Shallitha

#### October

- 1 Mar Khananiya, who baptized St. Paul
- 3. Mar Elia Prophet
- The 300 Saints of Shigar 12.
- 15. Mar Pithyon
- 17. Consecration of H.H. Mardinkha IV
- 26. Mar Moshe Nwiya

#### November

- 2. Hallowing of the Church
- 3. Mar Geevarghese Sahda
- 7. Mar Augin Thoovana
- 9. **Tithe Festival**
- 15. Memorial of All Saints
- 19. Mar Yakob M'paska

#### December

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



Assyrian Church of the East Delegates His Grace **Dr Mar Awa Royel**, the Bishop of California, Secretary of the Holy Synod and President of CIRED (Commission on Inter-Church Relations and Educational Development) and the Very Reverend Father **Dr William Toma**, Parish Priest of Mar Sargis Parish (Chicago) and Archdeacon of the Holy Synod participates in Pro Oriente's 4th Colloquium Syriacum held in Vienna, Austria, from September 19-22, 2013



More than 2000 delegates of world churches attending the Assembly of WCC in Busan, Republic of Korea between 30 October – 8 November 2013.

Dr Mar Aprem Metropolitan delivers the Presidential Address on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Mar Joseph Kurilose, Metropolitan of Thozhiyoor on 1 December 2013

יסוסונם בצמריסו גיש ישוחים עורה ערג הישורשם ומתואים

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