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Vol 58

March - April 2011

Nos 3 & 4



Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrating the Holy Qurbana in the renovated altar of Mar Timotheus Church, Bangalore on 27 February 2011. Deacon Cyril Antony, Fr. Binu Joseph and Deacon P.J. David are assisting.

## VOICE OF THE EAST



Visit of Mar Meelis Metropolitan to UAE Mart Mariam parish in February 2011.  
Left to Right. Blesson Antony, Mar Meelis Metropolitan,  
Fr.Sachin Timothy, Chacko Konikara.



The WCC fellowship in Geneva from 8-24 February 2011 on Iraq.  
Metropolitan Mar Gewargis Sliwa of the Assyrian Church in Iraq speaks.

## VOICE OF THE EAST

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**March - April 2011**

### Websites :

India	:	<a href="http://www.churchoftheeastindia.org">www.churchoftheeastindia.org</a>
Australia	:	<a href="http://www.Assyrianchurch.com.au">www.Assyrianchurch.com.au</a> <a href="http://Assyrianchurchnews.com">Assyrianchurchnews.com</a> <a href="http://Churchdiscussion.com">Churchdiscussion.com</a>
Russia	:	<a href="http://www.Assyrianchurch.narod.ru">www.Assyrianchurch.narod.ru</a>
Iran	:	<a href="http://www.margivargis.012.webpages.com">www.margivargis.012.webpages.com</a>
Los Angeles	:	<a href="http://www.stmaryassyrianchurch.com">www.stmaryassyrianchurch.com</a>
Unofficial site	:	<a href="http://www.nestorian.org">www.nestorian.org</a>

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*There are three things life brings us:*

*Tears, Smiles and Memories.*

*1. Tears gets wipe away,*

*2. Smile fades away,*

*3. But memories last a lifetime!*

# Voice of the East

Vol. 58

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## Editorial

### “God of Life, Lead Us to Justice and Peace”

After several hours of what Moderator Walter Altmann called “Intense dialogue,” the World Council of Churches Central Committee decided on 22 February on a theme for the WCC’s 10th Assembly: “God of Life, Lead Us to Justice and Peace.”

#### **The theme - very clear and contextual**

Isaac Mar Philoxenos

“During the discussion on the theme at WCC Central Committee, there was a long discussion, most of them favouring to combine both themes “God of life-Lead Us to Justice and Peace” and “In God’s World, Called to be One”, to make the “Unity” aspect more visible. In the decision making session there came up about 5 new suggestions with change of words to combine the two.”

The theme of 10th assembly of the W.C.C. to be held in South Korea in 2013 is very relevant. All our Churches should study this theme and discuss at length the implication and relevance of these themes. Many Churches and youth groups around the world discuss the same theme from now on so that at the W.C.C. assembly in South Korea some learned discussions can take place and conclusions needed.

Our Church should appoint a capable representative to prepare the relevant studies and participate meaningfully in the assembly. During the last assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2005 W.C.C. did not elect anybody from our Church to the Central Committee. In the previous assembly at Zimbabwe in 1998 also nobody was elected to the Central committee. In the previous assembly in Australia I do not know whether any of our delegates was elected to the Central Committee.

Since our strength is small we are ignored. But let us pray that we are not ignored in the next assembly in 2013.

MAR APREM

✠ K. MARDINKHA IV  
CATHOLICOS PATRIARCH OF THE HOLY  
APOSTOLIC CATHOLIC ASSYRIAN  
CHURCH OF THE EAST

8008 BIRCH AVENUE  
MORTON GROVE, IL, 60089  
U.S.A.



✠ سبحة ايماننا  
مجدلنا قديسنا وروحنا معسنا  
مخلصنا وهدونا وناقنا وناجنا  
✠ مار نسا الرابع  
بطريك كنيسة المشرق الاثورية في العالم

**Patriarchal Epistle  
The Holy Feast of the Resurrection of  
our Lord Jesus Christ – 2011**

Our Beloved Brothers The Prelates, our Spiritual Sons the Pure Priests, The Honorable Deacons, all the Sons and Daughters of The Holy Church, the Assyrian Nation and all Christians of the world:

**Prayers and Blessings receive:**

Today the Holy Church is celebrating the Great Feast of the Holy Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from among the dead and conveys the good news of the Salvation to her spiritual Sons and daughters all over the world. By His Resurrection He, Jesus gave us the Hope of redemption. He enlightened the world which was taking the dark path of error, prepared by Satan in order to cause Mankind fall in the sea of Sin. Our Lord the good shepherd laid down His life and saved the Mankind from the death of sin. He enlightened the path of truth which leads to life eternal. Jesus says: "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" (John 8:12)

Christ is risen from among the dead. He will not die again and death will have no power over Him. By His resurrection from among the dead, He demolished the authority of sin and has released the curse laid upon human race. The Lord provided freedom to the captives of sin. Our Lord by His death on the Cross slaughtered the sin of Adam, rejoiced those who were saddened, gathered those who were scattered and brought back those who were walking on the dark path of sin onto the bright path of truth. Our Lord Jesus says: "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*" (John 14:6)

On the Sunday of the Holy Resurrection our Lord Jesus Christ shattered the gates of sheol. The Feast of the Holy Resurrection marks the beginning of the Salvation of Mankind. Because of our Salvation, He Jesus for three days went down into sheol and stood upon the sea of mortality. As a fisherman of men He cast down His net, filled it with saved people and pulled it out. He is the first who rose from among the dead and commanded death to preserve the dead bodies of human race until the second coming of the Lord who will come and liberate them.

We are bound to accept the physical death. It is a decree of God that all human race should test death. Thus man can die with many different causes. Jesus has given us the hope of the resurrection from among the dead. Jesus is risen from among the dead and

lives forever. All the Christians must celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord with joy and happiness. It is a great feast and the fame of all other feasts. On this day a great joy is given to the Church. This is the reason we say to you all, O Sons and Daughters of The Holy Church, the Assyrian Nation and all Christians of the world:

### **The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed unto you all:**

Let us rejoice by the Resurrection of our Lord, the good shepherd. By His Resurrection the new and eternal life was given to us. The Church received the great joy from the love of God The father by sending His only begotten Son for the Salvation of the human race. By His Holy Resurrection, He shone the Sun of righteousness and enlightened the wrong thoughts of mankind. By His blood He wrote and sealed the covenant of freedom from death and gave it to mankind. It is written: *"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"* (Romans 6:3)

Baptism is the second birth from water and the Holy Spirit. Our Lord said to Nicodemus: *"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again"* *"How can someone be born when they are old?"* Nicodemus asked. *"Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"* Jesus answered, *"Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You<sup>scj</sup> must be born again.'"* (John 3:3-7) After the Holy Baptism the sons and daughters are nurtured with the spiritual nourishment of the Body and Blood of the Lord for the remission of sins, the great hope of the Resurrection from among the dead and the eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

As food is essential for the nourishment of the physical bodies so is the spiritual nourishment of the Body and Blood of our Lord is essential for the nourishment of the baptized people. Our Lord says: *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."* Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, *"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"* Jesus said to them, *"Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.<sup>55</sup> For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.<sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."* (John 6:51-58)

The fathers of the Holy Church have likened the Church unto a boat that carries the faithful believers of Jesus Christ to the port of peace. We request all sons and daughters

of the Assyrian Church of the east to faithfully participate in the Church. The boat of the Holy Church is lead by the wise captain our lord Jesus Christ who will safely guide her towards the Kingdom of Heaven. Our Lord prays to the father saying: *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world".* (John 17:24).

You have learned how much love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has for us. When our Lord Jesus Christ comes for the second time, He will raise all the dead. He will judge all and will separate those who are good from those who are wicked. He will take the good unto heaven where He Himself is so that they experience the glory that has been given to the Lord by His heavenly father.

When we are talking about the Church, we are talking about the great assembly of the faithful believers. All the members of the Holy Church are united together in one mystical body the Church. The head and the Lord of the body of the Church is our Lord Jesus Christ. He died in His humanity and was brought to life for the Salvation of the Church. Therefore it is important that we, the faithful believers should love Him, honor Him and maintain His Commandments so that the edifice of our faith be strong and pure.

When a faithful believer is truthful in his faith and Messianic teaching and has good deeds will receive the grace of God. *"Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."* (James 2:21-26)

Saint Paul the Apostle writes: *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."* (Rom.10:17). You should not be exhausted of hearing the life giving words of God that will keep you from falling into the snares of the wicked one. Jesus Christ says to His disciples: *"Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work."* (John 14:10)

We are learning from the Sacred Scriptures that the words spoken by Jesus Christ are from God Himself. These words are likened to a good seed planted in a rich field and producing good and delicious fruits. Such a field is praised and blessed by God. However the field that brings forth thorns is disgraced and cursed by God. We hope that all the Sons and daughters of the Holy Church will consider becoming the rich field

that produces good and delicious fruits to the Lord of the field our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. People as such will receive praise and blessings from God. Our Lord has called us into His Church in order to work together faithfully and in obedience as members of one household.

Every member of the Holy Church must build the edifice of his faith upon Jesus Christ because He Jesus is the rock of the foundation of the Church. Thus the edifice of a Christian individual that is build upon Jesus Christ it will stay strong and will never fall. However whoever builds the edifice of his faith upon certain individuals, his faith will be considered a manmade faith not Christian. Since individuals are mortals therefore the faith that is build on them will become mortal as well. Our Lord Jesus Christ is eternally alive; He is our God, our Lord, our King, our Savior and the forgiver of our lives. Our Lord said to His disciples: *"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,"* (Matthew 20:26)

We the Prelates, Priests and the Deacons who have been chosen and called by our Lord and has given us a spiritual authority to labor in His Church are the mediators between our Lord and you. We are commissioned by the Lord to deliver to you His words and His commandments. Since His life-giving words are the rock of the foundation of your faith, you are bound to receive them, be obedient to them and keep them. The edifice of your faith should be also decorated by fasting, prayers, purity, humbleness, mercifulness, love and peace. Our Lord Jesus Christ has set a good example for us. He observed fasting in order to teach us to fast. He forgave and taught us to forgive, He humbled Himself and taught us to be humble, He loved us and taught us to love one another. Therefore if we want to live in this temporal world in joy and happiness we must keep the Commandments of our Lord.

We expect the Prelates and the Priests of our Holy Church to establish the following ministries within their parishes and diocese: 1- Sunday school where the children are taught prayers and Messianic teachings of our Holy Church. 2- The youth association where the youth are taught prayers, Messianic teaching, Aramaic language, Assyrian Language, History of our Holy Church, Liturgy and the Sacraments of our Holy Church. 3- In each parish there must be Bible study once a week for adults. 4- Teaching programs must be offered for the youth and other members of the Holy Church who are interested in learning the Assyrian and Aramaic language in order to join the choir.

In each parish some faithful members should be chosen and elected in order to work as active members of the church councils and sub-committees under the spiritual guidance and supervision of the diocesan bishop. These members of the councils and sub-committees are assistants to the parish Priest. Those sons and daughters of the Holy Church who have faith and love to work in the parishes must be official members of the Assyrian Church of the east. They must also have good reputation within the parish.



They must be faithful and obedient to the Synodical canons of our Church and the commandments of God.

O, spiritual Sons and Daughters of our Holy Church, where ever you reside, do not forget that you are members of The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East. We instruct the faithful believers to be devoted, obedient, and truthful to the Church and actively involved in The Church ministries. With all diligence keep the holy faith, her worship liturgy, Holy Sacraments, and the Apostolic Traditions which you have received; together with, the Synodical Decrees of The Church.

We ask of you all, as faithful believers, in the nation where you reside, be faithful to the rules and leaders of the land who have been set over you. Once again, be diligent; and, take care to abide in faithful obedience to the laws of the land. We direct all the faithful believers to honor, be in love, peace, and respect to your neighbors; they will likewise respect you. It is written: "*love your neighbors as yourselves.*" (Luke 10:27)

In conclusion, once again, we write to you all, rejoicing and declaring: May the Feast of the Resurrection be richly blessed unto you all! We beseech our worshipful Lord and God to keep you all in His love, blessed with good health and joy. We hope and pray O beloved Sons and Daughters of the Holy Church that you will celebrate this holy feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in all peace and joy. Where ever you dwell, together with the all of our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the whole world. We pray for peace and tranquility in all politically disturbed Countries in general and in the Republic of Iraq in particular. Amen

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, forever and ever: Amen**

+ *K. Mardinkha*  
Khanania Mardinkha IV  
By Grace  
Catholicos Patriarch of the  
Assyrian Church of the East



Written in our Patriarchal Cell  
Morton Grove, Illinois  
The Feast of the Resurrection – 2011



### **Paul Paul the Drummer**

We are glad to announce that Paul Paul, son of Babu and Reena Chiriyakandath has been selected for scholarship in Berklee College of Music, Boston, USA. Paul Paul's family has been active in our Church in India. His mother Reena is the grand daughter of Athleta O.T. Inasu. His father Babu is the younger son of C.J. Palu, who was Central Trustee of our Church for many years. We hope and pray that his vision to start a school in India for young artists to improve their talents in the field of music. He explains his vision,

"I have been learning drumming since I was in 5th standard. Now I got into the Berklee College of Music, Boston, USA on scholarship. I will be doing a dual degree in "Music Business" and "Performance Category: Drumming". The Berklee College of Music is the best contemporary and popular music school in the world today.

There was an audition and interview process involved for obtaining scholarship & admission in this college. I had gone to Malaysia for the same on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The scholarships were handed off purely on the basis of talent and worth a candidate showcased during the interview and audition. The entire procedure was recorded on both audio and video, and sent to the respective faculties of various colleges for the final judgment.

The procedure consisted of 5-6 rounds of audition followed by an interview. The first round required each candidate to play a prepared piece of 3-5 min duration. I took inspiration from the legend drummer Max Roach to compose my solo. This round was then followed by sight reading and improvisation.

Till the day all my aspirations get fulfilled, "my work is still in progress" and Berklee is going to be a fresh start for this novel journey. With God's blessings with me, I am sure nothing can stop me."

**70th Birth Anniversary of Geevarghese Emmatty(Charlie, Cheru)  
Bergenfield, New Jersey, U.S.A.**



**Children**

1. Mini
2. Mickey
3. Munna
4. Milini

**In-laws**

- Hanz  
Dr. Nisha  
Reshma  
Sibi Sam

**Grand Children**

- Kajal, Ittikutton & Cherukuttan  
Alyssa  
Sena, Nikhil

*"I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith".  
(2 Timothy 4:7)*

**DR. N.V. GEORGE, M.R.C.P.**  
Nallangara House  
Rugby, England

Born: 26 Feb. 1933  
Died: 14 Feb. 2011

Thavoos Lane  
Mission Quarters  
Thrissur - 1

Phone: 0487 2441549  
Mob: 9387446600



**Children**

1. Honey Gray
2. Dr. Sheena F.R.C.S.
3. Varkey George
4. Ms. Teresa George
5. Maya George

**In-laws**

1. Gari Gray
2. Dr. Simon Abraham, Ph.D.
3. Adv. Franklin  
.....
4. George Jacob

**Grand Children**

1. Paul Gray
2. Serena Abraham
3. Joel George & Amelia George  
.....
4. Kristina Jacob & George Jacob

**Dr. George Family**

1. Late Mariam & Joseph Neelangavil
2. Late John & Annama Nallengara
3. Late Davis Nallengara
4. Late Martha & Issac Padavan
5. Late Annama Nallengara
6. Late Theresia Nallengara
7. Late Inasu Nallengara
8. Mary & Late Paul Emmatty, Thrissur
9. Sara & Thomas Vaidyan, Bangalore
10. Late George & Suseela Nallengara, U.K.
11. Sunny & Shantha Nallengara, Canada

**Susheela Family**

1. Jose Mookan, U.S.A.
2. Mrs. Leela Alex, U.S.A.
3. Prof. Andrews Mookan, Cochin
4. Most Rev. Dr. Mar Aprem, Trichur
5. Abimelek Davis, Ernakulam
6. Mrs. Susheela George, England
7. Windsor Mookan, Trichur
8. Addison Mookan, California, U.S.A.
9. Mrs. Prabha Cherian, Kalamassery, Cochin
10. Prakash Mookan, Nilambur, Kerala

## **Dr. N.V. George, Rugby & Thrissur**

Compiled by Dr. Saje Alex, Indiana, USA

*Even as the Great Physician sees the suffering of man,  
under the light of the Infinite,  
so also did He know the burden carried by the healer's heart  
whether in the foggy rain of a Rugby day or the still of black night  
whether for family beloved or his many friends of old  
or merely for strangers yet unknown,  
his oath did surely bind him tight,  
and swiftly would he hearken to his Masters call  
for it is His face in all of these that he perceived  
and with intelligence and diligence, and compassion for all  
he did strive to set his patients free  
his hands were in the service of the Physician  
and it was through him that He bestowed compassion on the ill  
even as He did search out the hidden recesses  
of the healer's heart and bid him do His will  
formed of East and West , a mingling of much of their best  
at once 'nadan' Malayalee and British gentleman  
intertwined was rambling boy with aged wise man  
with a dwelling in the Midlands and a 'tharavadu' in Thrissur  
in their different rhythms of life, he did delight to be sure  
possessor of a keen intellect  
observant, probing , inquisitive and acquisitive  
generous, helpful, confident, and competitive  
to Life, he gave a vigorous salute and a passionate embrace  
suffused with pride and a certain gladness  
borne of early hardship redeemed by later success  
even as Fortitude, justified by her children, can do no less  
as for his friends, they were many yet measured  
his friendships thus lifelong were much treasured  
engaging and challenging, forever faithful to each other  
for some in particular he was very much like a brother  
and to his family, he was ever constant and fiercely true  
his source of love and living Santhosam, which he did adore  
made manifest in the setting of table for Five and more  
where the breaking of bread together now brings sustaining solace  
and for his wife beloved, therein lies tomorrow's enduring promise  
to be human is to be not without regret  
yet more than this, to be human is to forgive if not forget  
so he rests now, having run the good race and fought the good fight  
with firm conviction, unshakeable resolve and a joyous wonder.*

## Mayor Saves Historic Assyrian Church

5 Feb 2011

Forwarded by Joseph Haweil, Melbourne

Turlock, California — Turlock's earliest Assyrian church, set for demolition, was saved this week by the efforts of Turlock Mayor John Lazar.

"I couldn't see it being torn down," Lazar said. "It was part of Turlock's history."

The church, initially built in 1923 for Assyrians of all denominations, became the site of Crane Elementary School when sold to the Turlock Unified School District in the 1950s. For years, the building was used as the school cafeteria.

Even as Crane Elementary School's mission changed in recent years, shifting from a traditional elementary to a kindergarten-only facility and then into the site of TUSD's Head Start preschool program, the building remained a campus fixture. But the newest plan — to repurpose the campus as the eCademy charter school beginning in fall 2011 — calls for the demolition of the old cafeteria as part of a \$2.65 million makeover,



approved by the TUSD Board Trustees on Aug. 24, 2010. As Lazar attended that school board meeting, he remembered the building's roots as an Assyrian church."

I had recalled my father had told me that was the church he had attended when he was young, and my grandparents too," Lazar said, who remembered watching home movies showing the church in the building.

Lazar, along with Turlock Mike Warda, decided to call the TUSD and ask for a temporary reprieve for the building, so that he might be able to move the building to a new home. The district agreed, and on Wednesday the movers came in.

On Thursday, the building was wheeled, ever so slowly, to St. Addai Assyrian Church of the East on Monte Vista Avenue. The new church agreed to house the old church on their land, plunking it down in a parcel initially reserved for the pastor's home.

The permanent site could yet move, Lazar said, depending on the church's space needs. But Lazar has high hopes for the former church, which still appears to feature the original wooden roof and floor.

Lazar hopes to turn the building into a museum for Turlock's Assyrian churches, uniting members of the various Assyrian faiths to create a lasting monument open to all Turlockers.

"Whether or not you're Assyrian, you're going to appreciate the building," Lazar said.

There's much work still to be done. First, while Lazar and Warda paid most of the moving costs, some yet remain. Then it's the hard work of organizing volunteers and refurbishing the old church house. But, for Lazar, the hard work will be worth it.

"I'm very sentimental. I love history, and I love Turlock history and this means a lot to me," Lazar said.

By Alex Cantatore, [www.turlockjournal.com](http://www.turlockjournal.com)

## Assyrian Church of the East Websites

Jurisdiction Name/Details Location Website  
URL, Official International

**Website**, Official News Website Greenfield  
Park, New South Wales,

Australia : [www.assyrianchurchnews.com](http://www.assyrianchurchnews.com)

### Archdiocese of Iraq, Iran and Russia

St. George Parish, Tehran, Iran  
[www.margivargis.012webpages.com](http://www.margivargis.012webpages.com)

St. Mary Parish Moscow, Russia  
[www.assyrianchurch.ru](http://www.assyrianchurch.ru)

St. Thomas Church and Mission, Armenia and  
Ukraine, [www.assyrianchurcheast.com](http://www.assyrianchurcheast.com)

### Archdiocese of India and the United Arab Emirates

Archdiocesan Website Thrissur, Kerala, India,  
[www.churchoftheeastindia.org](http://www.churchoftheeastindia.org)

Hooyada Matrimonials Thrissur, Kerala, India,  
[www.hooyadha.churchoftheeastindia.org](http://www.hooyadha.churchoftheeastindia.org)

Mar Timotheus Memorial Orphanage (Swedish  
Language) Kalathode, Trichur Kerala, India,  
[www.mtm-indien.com](http://www.mtm-indien.com)

St. Qardagh Parish Chennai, India,  
[www.surayi.com/MarQardagSahada.aspx](http://www.surayi.com/MarQardagSahada.aspx)

Mar Timotheus Church. Gaddalahalli,  
Bangalore, [www.edtha.com](http://www.edtha.com)

### Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon

Archdiocesan Website Greenfield Park, New  
South Wales, Australia

[www.assyrianchurch.org.au](http://www.assyrianchurch.org.au)

St. Mary Parish Auckland, New Zealand  
[www.assyrianchurchnz.com](http://www.assyrianchurchnz.com)

St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School,  
Greenfield Park, N. S.W, Australia,  
[www.shaps.nsw.edu.au](http://www.shaps.nsw.edu.au)

Mar Narsai Assyrian College, Greenfield Park,  
New South Wales, Australia,  
[www.mnac.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mnac.nsw.edu.au)

### Diocese of Eastern USA

St. Andrew Parish, Glenview, Illinois, USA,  
[www.standrewsassyrianchurch.com](http://www.standrewsassyrianchurch.com)

St. Mar Shimun Bar-Sabbai Parish, Flint,  
Michigan, USA, [www.churchoftheeastflint.org](http://www.churchoftheeastflint.org)

St. Mari Parish, Yonkers, New York, USA,  
[www.marmariparish.org](http://www.marmariparish.org)

St. Mary Parish Warren, Michigan, USA,  
[www.saintmarysdetroit.org](http://www.saintmarysdetroit.org)

St. Sargis Parish, Chicago, Illinois, USA,  
[www.marsargis.assyriancafe.com](http://www.marsargis.assyriancafe.com)

### Diocese of Europe

Diocesan Website Stockholm, Sweden,  
[www.assyrianchurch-europe.org](http://www.assyrianchurch-europe.org)

Mission Vienna, Austria, [www.assyrianchurch-vienna.at](http://www.assyrianchurch-vienna.at)

St. Mar Benyamin Shimun Parish, The  
Netherlands, [www.marbenyamin.nl](http://www.marbenyamin.nl)

St. Mary Parish Youth Association, Jönköping,  
Sweden, [www.ljuset-ungdom.se](http://www.ljuset-ungdom.se)

### Diocese of California

Diocesan Website Modesto, California, USA,  
[www.acoecalifornia.com](http://www.acoecalifornia.com)

Debt Reduction and Development Campaign,  
Turlock, California, USA,  
[www.acoefundraising.com](http://www.acoefundraising.com)

St. Addai Parish Turlock, California, USA,  
[www.maraddaiparish.com](http://www.maraddaiparish.com)

Youth Ministry California, USA,  
[www.acoeyouth.org](http://www.acoeyouth.org)

### Diocese of Western USA

Mission Houston, Texas, USA,  
[www.houstonassyrians.com](http://www.houstonassyrians.com)

St. Mar Benyamin Shimun, Parish, Las Vegas,  
Nevada, USA, [www.hirmiz.com/Mychurch.html](http://www.hirmiz.com/Mychurch.html)

St. Mar Yousip Khnanisho Parish, Chandler,  
Arizona, USA [www.mar-yousip.com](http://www.mar-yousip.com)

St. Mary Parish, Los Angeles, California, USA  
[www.stmaryassyrianchurch.com](http://www.stmaryassyrianchurch.com)

St. Peter Parish, Glendale, Arizona, USA,  
[www.stpeterassyrianchurch.com](http://www.stpeterassyrianchurch.com)

St. Paul Parish, Anaheim, California, USA,  
[www.stpaulassyrianchurch.com](http://www.stpaulassyrianchurch.com)

St. Rabban Hurmizd Parish, San Diego,  
California, [www.strabbanhormizd.com](http://www.strabbanhormizd.com)

## News

### Earthquake in New Zealand

65 people were killed in earth quake in Christchurch, New Zealand on Tuesday 22 February. This is the second largest quake in New Zealand. The first one was in 1931. The famous Blessed Sacrament Cathedral totally destroyed. Many five star hotels also were destroyed. People from Australia are also co-operating in rescue work. About 200 people are under debris. The total death may rise to 200 or 300.

Christchurch is the second largest town in New Zealand. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose of India who is in Auckland telephoned to India to inform that he is safe. Most of the Assyrians and Indians of our Church are in Auckland and Wellington. Bishop Mar Awgin said over the telephone that members of the Church had fasted and conducted *Ba'ootha* prayer on Wednesday 16 February in Auckland.

### New Cor-episcopa in Chicago

On Sunday, March 20, 2011 (Third Sunday of Sawma), per the directive (puqdana) of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Bishop Mar Awa Rouvel of California and secretary of the holy Synod ordained Qasha Paulus Benjamin as Cor-bishop for the Patriarchal Diocese of Eastern USA, at Mar Gewargis Cathedral in Chicago.

The new cor-episcopa Paulus Benjamin is from Iran and after his studies in Rome for many years is working as the parish priest of the Mar Gewargis Patriarchal Cathedral in Chicago. This makes two cor-episcopas in Chicago, the other being Dr. George Toma, parish priest of St. Andrews Church.

The ordination liturgy began at 9am, on 20 March, and was well attended by hundreds of parishioners from all over Chicago.

At the same service, a young faithful named Esam Youkhanna was ordained as sub-deacon.

Chor Bishop Polos was ordained priest on 13 September, 2001 by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, at Mar Gewargis Cathedral in Chicago.

### Release of Directory in Ernakulam, India

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated Holy Qurbana in St. Thomas Church, Ernakulam, Cochin, Kerala on Sunday 20 March. During the meeting held afterwards the Metropolitan released the combined Parish Directory of two parishes namely St. Thomas Church in Ernakulam and Mar Slewa Church, Cochin by presenting it to the oldest priest in our Church in India Fr.M.I.David who will be completing 91 years of age in April this year.

The members of the Board of Central Trustees headed by Mr. I. G. Joy, Chairman were given a reception. Metropolitan thanked Fr. K. R. Inasu, Vicar and the Youth Association members who worked hard in producing such a parish Directory with colour photos.

### Mar Timotheus Church, Bangalore

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan officiated at the celebrations of the Mar Timotheus Church in Bangalore in Karnataka state on Sunday 27 February 2011. After the dedication of the renovated altar he celebrated Holy Qurbana and released the Parish Directory. He presided over the evening public meeting. Mr. K.J. George MLA and former Minister inaugurated the function.



Metropolitan explained his long association with the Bangalore parish ever since he came to Bangalore as an M.Th.student in 1964. Sister Dr. Jincy was felicitated at this function for her obtaining Ph.D, at the Mahatma Gandhi University.

There were variety entertainments and a professional orchestra.

## **Future of Iraq**

For the first time ever, Christian leaders have formally demanded the creation of a province in the Ninawa Plain, east of Mosul.

No one can predict whether their demand will be met.

Some people are in favour, because it will encourage Christians to stay in the country, while others say that creating such a province will only isolate Christians from other Iraqis.

The demand came three weeks after the bloody attack on the “Our Lady of Deliverance” Church in Baghdad on 31 October 2010.

Others have chosen to leave Iraq and seek shelter elsewhere.

The Niñeva Plain, with an area of more than five thousand square kilometers, equal to both the regions of al-Muthanna and al-Qadisiyah in southern Iraq, is inhabited by more than half a million people.

The area consists of three districts: al-Hamdaniya, Sheekhan and Tallkeef. It is inhabited by a Christian majority, but there are also other ethnicities and followers of other religions such as the Yazidis, the Shabak and some Shiites, Turkmen and Arabs.

## **Election to NSW Parliament on 26 March 2011**

Of four Assyrians running for election to the NSW State Parliament in Australia, Mr. Andrew Rohan, Liberal candidate for Smithfield

and member of the Assyrian Church of the East was elected. Other Assyrian candidates in the election were Mr. Ninos Khoshaba (Labor), Mr. Charbel Saliba (Liberal) and Ms. Eileen Nasr (Christian Democrats).

A record swing of 21% Mr Rohan into power as the first Assyrian Liberal to be elected to parliament. Andrew Rohan became the first Liberal candidate to win the seat of Smithfield after 100 years of Labor dominating the area.

## **Death of Dr.N. V. George, Rugby, England**

Dr. N.V. George of Trichur, brother –in-law of Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan died of heart attack in Rugby on 14 February. He was 77. After working in India as a doctor he came to London in 1962 to do MRCP. He was the host of Mar Aprem in England whenever he visited England during the past nearly 50 years. Dr. George and his children attended the consecration of the present Patriarch H.H. Mar Dinkha IV in 1976 in Ealing, London. The dead body was taken to Trichur and Mar Aprem Metropolitan conducted the funeral. Dr. George was Senior Specialist in the Department of General Medicine and Geriatrics in St. Cross Hospital in Rugby.

The link to see the funeral of Dr. N. V. George on YOUTUBE is:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoxosURu9M8>

## **Death of Dr. Donny George Youkhanna**

Many of us have only known the late Dr. Donny George in the last eight years or so. Dr. Donny was not only the academic Professor who became famous after the American invasion in 2003. Dr. Donny was also a fine musician; he formed a band in the late sixties in Dora, Iraq. The band was called “ Los Bravos “, which

means in Latin, I think “ The Brothers “. He played drums, in the band and was also a singer. He sang many of The Beatles songs.

Dr. Donny was also a fine sports man. He did body building, and he was very successful at it. Donny was always a stand out. He opted for Archeology. Doctor Donny was a total package, a true gentleman, a fine human being. God chose Donny to deliver a message to Assyrians. Donny meant knowledge and education, Donny meant love and humbleness, and Donny meant sacrifice, Donny meant being good.

We should consider ourselves very lucky to have had Dr. Donny George in America for the last seven years or so. His contribution to our cause can not be measured.

### **RIP... Lina Yakubova**

Today, march 21, 2010 our nation lost another great hero. I am deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of our dear Lina Yakubova, a documentary filmmaker from Armenia born of an Assyrian mother and Armenian father. According to the latest news she was diagnosed with stage-four Liver Cancer and unfortunately she was not aware of it. Shocking news, losing a talented young lady at the prime of her career.

When Mar Aprem Metropolitan met Lina Yakubova in Melbourne, Australia in December 2008 she was making a film on Assyrians. She expressed a desire to go to India to produce a film on the Church of the East in India. May her soul rest in peace.

### **Cardinal Vithayathil**

The Church and political leaders have mourned the death of Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, head of the Syro-Malabar Church.

The Redemptorist prelate, who led the Oriental Catholic Church for the past 12 years, was suffering from heart ailments for some time.

He fell unconscious while celebrating Mass around noon on April 1 and was rushed to nearby Lisie Hospital in Kochi, where he died around 2:30 pm. He was 84.

### **H.H.Mar Dinkha IV congratulates MARONITE Patriarch Mar Bishara**

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, has sent a letter to the new Patriarch of the Maronite Syriac Church in Lebanon, Mar Bishara Butros al Rai, congratulating him on his consecration.

His Holiness Mar Dinkha expressed his warmest wishes towards His Holiness Mar Bishara, who was elected on 15 March 2011.

The letter was passed on to His Holiness Mar Bishara during an official visit by:

- Archdeacon Ammanuel Betyou, representative of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East in Lebanon.
- His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon of the Assyrian Church of the East. His Beatitude also sent a congratulatory card and flowers to His Holiness Mar Bishara.
- Accompanying Archdeacon Ammanuel was Archdeacon Qardagh Hakim, Reverend Yatron Gilyana Aram and many deacons and committee members.

#### **List of Renewing Subscribers of Voice of the East Magazine in Australia**

Remina Sarmo, Joseph Haweil, Marlin Haweil, Monier Kina, David Rasho, Philimon Darmo and Adina Yako

#### **New Subscribers**

Dr. Nardin Yaghoubi, John H. Haddad, Rev. Antawan Mikhail, Dean Kalimniou, Art Badal, Ilen Isaac, Sheena Sarkhosh.



*Lina Yakubova, a documentary filmmaker from Armenia  
Died on March 21, 2010*

Lina Yakubova with Mar Aprem  
Photo taken at Melbourne in December 2008



Bangalore Meeting: Fr. Binu Joseph (Vicar of Bangalore Parish),  
Mr. K.J. George (Ex. Minister), Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Sister Dr. Jincy & Orthodox  
Priest. Deacon Cyril Antony (standing) is the assistant Vicar of Bangalore Parish



**His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch leads the prayers of Ba'utha of Ninavites on 14, 15, 16 February 2011 in Chicago, USA.**



**Central Youths Association 2009 - 2011, Trichur  
Fr. Davis Thalokaran, President is seated left of Mar Aprem  
and Mr. Shaji B Vadakan, Secretary is seated right of Mar Aprem**