

صوت المشرق

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His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch Meets With
His Holiness Kirill I, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia in
Moscow on 28 July 2014

VOICE OF THE EAST



Metropolitan of Iraq Meets Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk in Moscow



Russian and Assyrian Patriarchs Meet in Moscow

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Voice of the East

Vol. 61

May - June 2014

Nos. 5 & 6

Editorial

Church in Russia

The visit of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East between May and June 2014 has given new hope for the scattered Assyrians in Russia. The unveiling of a bust of His Holiness the late Mar Benyamin Shimun –Catholicos-Patriarch (martyred in 1918) was erected on the exterior south side of St Mary's Church in Moscow in the presence of the Ambassadors of Syria and Iraq on 8 June 2014. This unveiling commemorates the 100 years of history between our Catholicos-Patriarch and the Russian Patriarch dating back to 1914.

This important official visit to the Russian Orthodox Church created unsubstantiated rumours that the Assyrian Church of the East would merge with the Russian Orthodox Church. Nothing like this happened. During the First World War the Russian Revolution took place and Russian soldiers fighting in Turkey returned to Russia and the Assyrian soldiers accepted the help of the British to continue the fight against the Turkey hoping that the British would help them achieve the goal of an independent state called Assyria. This too, did not come to fruition.

The Assyrian Church of the East has a beautiful parish in Moscow called Mart Mariam Church. Mr Slava Illusion, President of the Church Committee has contributed much to organizing the Assyrians in Russia and building the first Assyrian church in Moscow. During the visit, the Catholicos-Patriarch consecrated the St George Church in Krasnodar where Rev'd Fr Pathrose is the parish priest. The Patriarch also laid the foundation stone for a church in Rostov-on-Don in the name of St John the Baptist. These are the three major congregations but there are also small congregations in Kremse and Vladimir. We need priests and church buildings in these areas. The desire of the Assyrians in Russia is for the appointment of a bishop to reside in Russia and organize our scattered Assyrians.

During this visit the Patriarch Kirill I of Moscow and Russia agreed to train our seminarians in Russian educational institutions. Usually the Russian Orthodox Church does not promote other churches. Since 988 AD the Russian Orthodox Church is the only church in Russia. In the year 1988 there was a grand celebration of 1000 years of the establishment of Christianity in Russia. Many church leaders were invited and our Catholicos-Patriarch was a visible personality. Our late Bishop of India, Paulose Mar Paulose was an invited guest as he was the President of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) based in Geneva.

We pray that this important visit of our Catholicos-Patriarch to Russia will open up a new historical chapter in the history and strength of sisterly relations between the venerable Assyrian and Russian churches.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

International News

Catholicos-Patriarch Meets with Russian Orthodox Hierarch Metropolitan Hilarion in Moscow

Courtesy – Department of External Relations, Russian Orthodox Church

On May 27, 2014, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, met with the Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, Mar Dinkha IV, who is on a visit to Russia at the invitation of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

During a warm talk, His Eminence Hilarion told the high guest about the recent celebrations marking the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus' and the changes which have taken place in the Russian Orthodox Church since the previous millennial celebrations which Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV attended. The Primate of the Assyrian Church expressed deep satisfaction at the successes of church renewal in the historical Rus', noting that Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church constitute a spiritual and moral guideline for many traditional Christian communities in the world. He wished the Russian Orthodox Church further thriving in its service of its millions-strong flock. Special attention was given to the situation of Christians in the Middle East.

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV expressed heartfelt gratitude to Russia and personally President Vladimir Putin for his efforts to help Christians in the Middle East. He said that the stand taken by Russia was decisive in preventing the bombing of Syria and remains a key-position in defending Christians in the Middle East, which befits the historical role of the Russian State.

His Holiness also recalled the genocide of Christian peoples in the Ottoman Empire in 1914-1918 and the losses suffered by the Assyrian people at that time. Those events became a pretext for the mass resettlement of the Assyrians to the Russian Empire, the centennial of which is marked this year.

The Assyrian Patriarch also spoke about the irreparable damage inflicted on Christians in the Middle East today as a result of the destabilization of the political situation in the region and engagement of radical Islamist forces in politics. Thus, in recent years in Iraq, a great number of Christian churches have been destroyed and thousands of Christians were killed for their faith in Christ.

Metropolitan Hilarion expressed profound compassion on the Assyrian Church of the East for the losses it has suffered in recent years in Iraq and Syria and assured his guest that Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church will continue giving all possible support to Christians suffering in the East.

The need was pointed out for the Russian and Assyrian Churches to be more active in informing the international public of the scale on which Christians in the Middle East are subjected to continued persecution and to join efforts in this task.

They also discussed prospects for further interaction between the two Churches, including in developing development of joint academic and theological projects and students' exchange.

Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV also thanked the Russian Orthodox Church for its consideration of the needs of the Assyrian community in Russia, especially for its help in obtaining a plot of land for building a church for the Assyrian community in Rostov-on-Don.

In conclusion Metropolitan Hilarion presented the high guest with tokens of the meeting, among which was the Russian version of his book on St. Isaac the Syrian, a fruit of His eminence's study of the spiritual legacy of this great saint venerated both in the Orthodox and the Assyrian Churches.

US Bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East Visit New Syriac Orthodox Patriarch

With the blessing of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, the bishops of the Diocese of California and the Diocese of Eastern USA paid a cordial visit to Patriarch-Elect of the Syriac Orthodox Church, His Holiness Mor Ignatius Ephrem II Karim. The cordial encounter took place on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at St. Mark's Syriac Orthodox Cathedral in Teaneck, New Jersey. The Patriarch-Elect was attended by Rev. Dayraya Augeen Alkass, the Rev. Malfono Dr. George Kiraz, President and Founder of Beth Mardutho. His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod, and His Grace Mar Paulus Benyamin the Bishop of Chicago and Eastern USA were accompanied by Rev. Addai Francis, priest of Mar Mari Parish of the Assyrian Church of the East in Yonkers, New York, and Mr. Zia Givargizade. The same Mar Mari parish committee (motwa) had kindly hosted the bishops for the whole duration of their stay.

During the visit of the Bishops of the Assyrian Church to the Patriarch-Elect, the official letter of felicitation and greeting by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV was handed to the new patriarch. In this letter, His Holiness also expressed his keen desire to open a formal dialogue with the Syriac Orthodox brethren, and to work on bringing our two communities closer together. The Patriarch-Elect rejoiced at the warm spirit of the letter of the Assyrian patriarch, and expressed his desire to work ardently for the rapprochement of these two ancient Churches—the Assyrian Church of the East and the Syriac Orthodox Church. He reiterated that he would do all that is possible to bring down the walls of division between us and to do away with the obstacles that still divide us. During the course of the audience, the matter of the plight of the Christian communities in the Middle East, particularly in Syria and Iraq, were discussed. Also, a detailed exchange of information on the various steps taken by the Christian communities in the diaspora to remedy the situation and to seek practical solutions to the mass migrations and forced displacement of the indigenous peoples of these countries was engaged in.

At the end of the audience, the Patriarch-Elect asked the bishops to extend his greetings and sincere best wishes to His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, and he gave the bishops a book of Syriac Orthodox Church history as a memento of the occasion. Afterwards, a warm luncheon was offered by the Patriarch-Elect to the bishops and other clergy and lay well-wishers who had come to greet the Patriarch. The Assyrian bishops were then given a tour of the new diocesan

headquarters of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Paramus which is presently under renovation and construction.

The following day, Friday, May 16, 2014, a warm invitation was extended by Malfono George Kiraz to the Assyrian bishops to attend the Hugoye Symposium III, which was presented by the joint collaboration of the Beth Mardutho Research Library and the Rutgers University Libraries, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The one-day symposium, titled 'Colophons in the Syriac Tradition,' was held at the Alexander Library. Scholars from across the US and Europe were in attendance, among which were: Sebastian P. Brock, Kathleen McVey, George Kiraz, Alexei Muraviev, as well as others. Other speakers included Nicholas Al-Jeloo, Adam McCollum, and Assyrian attendees from Pittsburgh.

Grand Opening and Consecration of St Abdisho's Church in Victoria, Australia

In a weekend of joy and adulation, the Assyrian Church of the East in Victoria, Australia has celebrated the grand opening and consecration of St Abdisho's Church in the suburb of Coolaroo. Both events, on 3 and 4 May 2014 respectively, saw thousands of Assyrians and faithful of sister churches join the festivities for the long-awaited milestone in the life of Victoria's Assyrian community.

On Saturday 3 May faithful braved wet weather for the grand opening of the church. The event, commencing at 5 pm, was presided over by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon. Despite the weather conditions a procession made its way from the adjacent Ishtar Reception Centre to the church. Led by His Beatitude to the sound of church hymns and praise, the procession included the church choir, deacons, priests and guests of honour. Upon entering the new church, the Metropolitan cut a ceremonial ribbon declaring St Abdisho's Church open in the name of the Triune God.

In addition to His Beatitude and 7 parish priests of the Holy Church from Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand, the event was attended by a large number of ecumenical guests from sister churches. These included priests from the Syrian Orthodox Church, Syrian Catholic Church, Chaldean Catholic Church, Maronite Catholic Church, Indian Orthodox Church and the Ancient Church of the East.

The event was also well-attended by representatives of local, state and federal government and the wider community. Representatives of the three-tiers of government included Mrs Maria Vamvakinou MP (Federal Member for Calwell), Mr Frank McGuire MP (State Member for Broadmeadows), Ms Bronwyn Halfpenny MP (State Member for Thomastown), Ms Jenny Mikakos MP (State Member for Northern Metropolitan Region), Cr Geoff Porter (Hume City Council), Cr Drew Jessop (Hume City Council) and Cr Chandra Bamunusinghe (Hume City Council). Also present was Leading Senior Constable Albert Fatileh of Victoria Police and Mr Sam Afra JP, Deputy Chairperson of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria.

In opening the event programme, the Master of Ceremonies recounted the history of the Assyrian Church of the East in Victoria commencing with its origins in the late 1970s. The growth in the size of the parish was noted with the number of faithful having increased exponentially since the formation of the parish. In the late 1970s the community was comprised of only a dozen families. It today has nearly 2000 registered members, not including children (1000 families).

The inaugural parish priest was the late Archdeacon Younan Tawana of blessed memory who served from 1976 -1981, followed by Corepiscopa Gewargis T. Haroon who served from 1981 – 1996. The current parish priest, Rev'd Fr Korkis Toma has served from 1994 along with Rev'd Fr Hurmizd Mar Behnam serving from 2008 to current and Rev'd Fr Antawan Mikhail serving from 2011 to the current time.

Following the welcome and introduction, the programme proceeded with hymns performed by the church choir, addresses from the distinguished guests and presentations from parish priests.

The keynote address of the evening was given by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM. In his remarks the Metropolitan recounted the history of the construction project, offering his thanks to those involved in bringing the construction of the new church to fruition. It is noteworthy that construction work for the new church commenced on 8 December 2011. He continued, paying particular attention to the devout and faithful members of the church in Victoria and expressing his pride in their dedication and generosity. His Beatitude also discussed the future plans for the remainder of the site currently occupied by the two Ishtar Reception Centre buildings confirming that a Sunday school building and church hall would be constructed in the future.

The evening was concluded in the adjacent church hall where the faithful joined His Beatitude and guests of honour in light refreshments and fellowship.

On Sunday 4 May the consecration of the holy altar of St Abdisho's Church commenced at 8am with the participation of the priests and deacons of the Archdiocese. The consecration of the Holy Qurbana followed with faithful partaking of the holy Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In his sermon, His Beatitude spoke at length exhorting the faithful to embrace the blessed Gospel, living life in the fullness found in Jesus Christ. Discussing the history of St Abdisho and his historical life and times, the Metropolitan noted the affinity with which many Christians from Iraq and Iran hold the blessed St Abdisho given that he is the patron saint of a number of villages and regions in the ancestral Assyrian homeland. His Beatitude imparted his blessings upon the faithful of the Holy Church in Victoria, praying that their new church would be a place for solemn worship and fraternal communion.

The parish priests and church council of the Assyrian Church of the East in Victoria along with the organising committee for the opening of St Abdisho's Church express their immense gratitude to all those who contributed to this monumental achievement in the life of Victoria's Assyrian community. It is prayed that St Abdisho's Church may be a house of solemn prayer, a refuge for the burdened and an edifice for the glory of Almighty God.



Mar Aprem with Indians after the Holy Qurbana in St. Mary's Assyrian Church of the East in Ealing, London on 22 June 2014.



Mar Aprem Pictured with Rev'd Fr Tony Malham and Archdeacon Yonan Yonan in London on 22 June 2014



The Newly Consecrated St Mary's Church in Auckland, New Zealand



Church Choir of St Mary's Church, Auckland Pictured with Clergy



Mar Aprem celebrating his 75th Birthday with U.A.E.
parish on 13 June 2014



Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Yohannan Episcopa Pictured with Church
of the East Students of CMC, Vellore after Holy Qurbana on 6 July 2014



Jerusalem Pilgrimage
for the Metropolitan See of Sydney

New Church Consecrated in Auckland, New Zealand

Courtesy – Manukau Courier

A new church is helping forge cultural roots for a small community.

The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East opened its doors in Manurewa on Saturday.

Father Toma K Toma, who came to New Zealand from Iran in 1992, acknowledges the church has come a long way from its early beginnings and is happy to see it thrive in South Auckland – “it’s a dream come true”, he says.

People in the neighbourhood are very impressed with the new building and ask many questions, and he’s proud to share his religion and culture, he says.

When he first arrived in the country only 10 families attended his services which he would run using Anglican Church facilities. Now he has a congregation of more than 200 families.

The Church of the East began during the early Christian missionary activity in the middle of the first century. It established itself through the regions of Mesopotamia which included areas of modern-day Iraq and Syria.

The Assyrian people are the major ethnic community within the church but Father Toma says its doors are open to everyone. He hopes its facilities will be available for community events and weddings.

Committee president Glen Mouchi says having the new church is a great source of pride. He arrived from Iraq in 1995 and is thankful to be living in New Zealand.

Many Assyrians have arrived as refugees and some have faced persecution because of their beliefs, he says.

More than \$1 million was spent renovating the premises on Maich Rd, which includes a community hall, and most of the money came from donations.

Mouchi, who works as an engineer, was in charge of designing the new premises.

“I’m very happy. I’ve worked on many buildings in Auckland but this project has a special meaning.”

Volunteers put in their free time to help with the renovations which only took six months to complete since they started in November last year.

“In all the details, from the exterior to the interior, we put a lot of thought and feeling into it,” Mouchi says.

“It is a link to our historical heritage and the patterns we used are the same used 6000 years ago.”

Committee member Jessie Youkhana says the church has become her “life” since arriving in New Zealand with no family nearly 20 years ago.

Now she also helps run church classes every Saturday to teach children the Assyrian language and its culture.

More than 80 children between the ages of 3 and 15 attend.

Father Toma hopes the new building will give Assyrians a place to settle.

“When there’s no church many will try to move to Australia – now they’ve got their own building to express their faith.

Summary Itinerary of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV’s Sojourn in Russia

26 May 2014

- 15.30: Arrival of the Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East in Moscow.
- 16.00: Official welcoming ceremony at the Domodedovo Airport VIP Lounge.
- “Bread and Salt” Ceremony.
- 17.00: Check in Mart Maryam Church.
- Check in at the “Danilovskaya” Hotel of Moscow’s Patriarchate.

27 May 2014

- Meeting with the Chairman of the Department of External Church Relations Metropolitan of Volokolamsk Hillarion.
- Meeting with the representatives of the Assyrian community organizations.

28 May 2014

- Meeting with His Holiness Kirill I the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.
- Meeting with the government representatives of the Russian Federation.

29 May 2014

- 10.00: Holy Qurbana of the Ascension of Our Lord.
- Meeting with the Moscow City Government representatives.
- Visits to churches and monasteries of the Russian Orthodox Church.

30 May 2014

- Departure of the Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East to Krasnodar.
- Meeting with the representatives of the Krasnodar Regional Government.

31 May 2014

- Meeting with the representatives of Archdiocese of Ekaterinodar.
- Joint trip to the City of Krymsk – meeting with the city’s Assyrian community and flower ceremony at the 2012 Flood Victims’ Memorial.

01 June 2014

- 10.00: Blessing of the St George Church of the Assyrian Church of the East in Krasnodar.

02 June 2014

- Departure of the Patriarch to the city of Rostov-on-Don.
- Meeting with the representatives of the Regional Government of the Rostov District.
- Meeting with the representatives of Archdiocese of Rostov.

03 June 2014

- 13.00: Blessing of the foundation stone of the future St John the Baptist Church of the Assyrian Church of the East in the city of Rostov-on-Don.

04 June 2014

- Departure from Rostov-on-Don back to Moscow.

05 June 2014

- Photography Exhibition: “Assyrians – 100 Years in Russia” at the Moscow House of Nationalities.

06 June 2014

- Visit to the Trinity Lavra of St Sergious Monastery.

07 June 2014

- Youth Conference: “100 Year Anniversary of Establishing Russian-Assyrian Relations”.

08 June 2014

- 10.30: Holy Trinity Sunday Holy Qurbana led by the Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East at Mart Maryam Church in Moscow.
- 13.00: The unveiling of the monument to the Patriarch and Martyr Mar Benjamin Shimun.

09 June 2014

17.15: Departure from Moscow to London and after two days to Chicago.

Holy Qurbana in England

Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated Holy Qurbana in St. Mary's Assyrian Church of the East in Ealing, London on 22 June 2014. Rev'd Fr Tony Malham, Parish Priest of the Assyrian parish in England arranged to project the English translation of the service on a screen so that the Indian families could understand what the Indian Metropolitan was reciting in Aramaic, the language of Jesus. Mar Aprem expressed his happiness in being with the Assyrian community in London after previous visit in October 2011 on his way to Rome and Assisi.

It was in 1962 as a young deacon of 22 years that he conducted *Ramsha* prayers in St Barnabas Church Ealing, assisted by Rabi Aprim Kelaita. Looking at the congregation he said that he could not see anybody present in that Assyrian service 52 years ago. In 1962 there was no Assyrian parish or priest in England. He was happy to see Deacon Bawai d'Matran whom he met in Ealing in 1966 when he was going to study in America. He expressed his happiness in meeting Archdeacon Yonan Y. Yonan whom he had met in 1962; not in England but in Basra, Iraq where he was the parish priest.

In the breakfast held in the church hall upstairs many of his old friends were there like Deacon Havel Michael, Deacon Colin, and others. Many Assyrians in England know him and respect him.

Mrs Eshaya Chemmani was happy to see Mar Aprem as he was the guest of the late Eshaya Chemmani in Ealing and his father Archdeacon Isaac Enwiya Chemmani was present with Mar Aprem during his consecration as Metropolitan in September 1968 at Baghdad.

The Indian families of Mr Blesson Joy, Dr Dany Baby Paul and Mr Timi Pallipurathukaran were present for the Holy Qurbana. The family of the Metropolitan's sister Mrs Susheela George was there with her son Verghese George and Dr Sheena George. The blessing of the renovated house of Verghese George in Stanmore, London was the cause of the Metropolitan's visit to London this time. The Metropolitan also expresses his gratitude to his nephew for sponsoring this trip to Russia and the U.K.

Gratitude is also extended to His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch and Bishop Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of Europe with headquarters in Sweden, who granted permission for the Metropolitan to conduct Holy Qurbana in the Assyrian Church in Ealing, London. His Holiness had conducted Holy Qurbana in the same church on his way to Russia a month ago.

Lady Bishops in England

The Church of England has decided to permit the consecration of female bishops. They already have lady priests. This move comes 500 years after the formation of the Church of England. In America, Australia and other places the Anglican Church already has lady bishops. This decision is expected to be approved by the British Parliament and Queen Elizabeth II who is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Dr Madeline Davis' New Assyrian Language Website

Dear all,

I am very pleased to inform you that my new website called Learn Assyrian is now available, where I introduce my books and the videos I have prepared for some of them.

At present eight videos are ready for the Reading Course, which you may follow at your own pace and in the comfort of your homes. Once you complete this course you will be able to read any text in Assyrian.

There are also two videos available for children. I have read the two Itwa Litwa story books: In Search of Lost Letters and Igra. Your children may watch and listen as I read these two books.

Dr. Madeleine Davis, California, USA.

Inaugural Jerusalem Pilgrimage for the Metropolitan See of Sydney

On the 30th June 2014, 180 Sydney and Melbourne parishioners departed Sydney's Kingsford Smith International Airport and travelled to the Holy Land of Jerusalem, accompanied by Rev'd Fr Narsai Youkhanis and Rev'd Fr Ninos Elya and numerous deacons.

The ten-day tour began with a free day on Tuesday the 1st July – allowing time for check-in to the hotel, relaxing and unwinding after a 30 or so hour flight from Sydney via Bangkok, Thailand.

Because of the high demand, the Church will be organizing another pilgrimage for the following year – if it pleases the Lord.

Indian Archdiocese News

Dr Mar Aprem Visits UAE Parish

Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated Holy Qurbana at Emirates National School in Sharjah on Friday 13th June 2014. It is the first time the Metropolitan is celebrating Holy Qurbana in this parish on his birthday. This was his eleventh visit to this UAE parish which he founded more than nine years ago in April 2005.

The UAE Mart Mariam parish celebrated his 75th birthday where his 75th book **Muscat and Sri Lanka** was released. The congregation arranged a dinner at Eat & Drink restaurant in Dubai.

Mr Ward Zaia and his wife attended the dinner representing the Assyrian community. This is the tenth year after Mar Aprem organized an Indian congregation in the Gulf area. The first Qurbana was in the Mar Thoma Church in Jabal Ali in Dubai. Then the parish shifted to Sharjah where more Indians are staying.

Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital

If readers of *Voice of the East* wish to support the work of Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital (MTCH), please send cheques made out to **Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital**. Please forward cheques to Dr Mar Aprem Metropolitan who will hand them to the MTCH administrators. Please **do not** send cheques in the name of Dr Mar Aprem Metropolitan or other bishops.

Note: Only Indian donors may use the MTCH receipt for an income tax deduction as the hospital has approval for this purpose in India. Foreign taxation authorities may not accept the receipt for their tax purposes. In the case where you wish to receive a tax deductible receipt in your tax jurisdiction, please contact the church council or priest in your local area and donate the money through the parish to be sent to India.

Holy Qurbana at CMC Vellore

Holy Qurbana was conducted by Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Yohannan Episcopa in Christian Medical College Chapel, Vellore on Sunday 6 July, 2014. 31 individuals were present including the medical and para-medical students sponsored by our church.

International Youth Conference 3-7 September 2014 – Thrissur, Kerala, India.

Preparations for the International Youth Conference of the Assyrian Church of the East in India are in progress. The nearest airport to Thrissur is at Nedumbassery, Cochin (one hour's car journey). Please send your names to Rev'd Fr Jos Vengassery, Sr Dr Jincy Othottil or Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose. We are expecting 100 delegates from abroad and 200 delegates from India. This conference will coincide with the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Mart Mariam Cathedral in Thrissur.

His Lordship Dr Mar Awa Royel, Secretary of the Holy Synod and Bishop of California is a confirmed participant at the Youth Conference.

World Syriac Conference – SEERI

The World Syriac Conference arranged by St Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam will be held in Kottayam from 9th September to 13th. Kottayam is only 3 hours drive from Thrissur. Those interested to attend this world famous conference can write to the Director of SEERI, Fr Jacob Thekeparambil. Patriarch Younan III of the Syrian Catholic Church, Bishop Mar Awa Royel of the Assyrian Church of the East and many scholars will be in attendance.

Congratulations

To E.K. Johnson of Thrissur for his new position as Deputy General Manager P&SB at the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. He is the first person from our church in India to be posted to a high position in a State Bank outside Kerala, India. He was the treasurer of our UAE Mart Mariam Parish in the early years of its formation.



The grand opening and consecration of St Abdisho's Church in Victoria, Australia on 3 May 2014 by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon.



His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand with clergy and laity in Melbourne



Ambassador of Iraq with Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV

41st Day of Demise
19-07-2014



Prof. ANDREWS MOOKEN

(Brother of Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan)

"Goodwill"
Poovath Road
Fort Kochi.

