

ܡܠܝܚܐ ܕܡܪܢ ܕܝܢܟܗ ܕܡܪܝܚܐ

Vol 62

March - April 2015

Nos.3 & 4



*Birth: 15 September 1935
Episcopa: 11 February 1962
Patriarch: 17 October 1976*

Tribute to Maran Mar Dinkha IV

VOICE OF THE EAST



**Khanania Mar Dinkha IV with
his parents (1940)**



**Mar Dinkha IV with his Grandfather
Kashisha Benniyamin**



Mar Dinkha IV with Assyrian prelates

L. to R. Sitting: Mar Yohannan Philipose, Mar Yosip Hnaneesho
Metropolitan, Mar Timotheus Metropolitan.
L. to R. Standing: Mar Aprem Khamis, Mar Narsai Debaz, H.H. Mar
Dinkha IV, Mar Andreyos Yavalaha

VOICE OF THE EAST

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

March - April 2015

Patron : **His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem**

Metropolitan's Palace,

Trichur - 680 001, Kerala, India

Phone : 91487 - 2420978

Personal : 91487 - 2442166

Email : hgmaraprem@gmail.com

Website Links

Official: www.news.assyrianchurch.org

Archdiocese of India & UAE: www.churchoftheeastindia.org

Archdiocese of Australia & New Zealand: www.assyrianchurch.org.au

Diocese of California: www.acoecalifornia.org

Diocese of Europe: www.assyrianchurch-europe.org

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

Unofficial: www.nestorian.org

Contents

1. Editorial (His Holiness the late Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch)

International News

2. Official Decree from the Council of Bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East
3. Condolence from the U N Secretary General
4. Condolence from His Holiness Pope Francis
5. Meeting of Prelates
6. Cor-Bishop in Moscow, Russia
7. Call to Unity
8. Condolence from Hilarion, Metropolitan of Volokolamsk, Moscow

Indian Church News

09. His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent
10. Condolence from George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro Malabar Church
11. Condolence from Alexios Mar Eusebius Metropolitan, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
12. Memorial Day Feast on 1 May 2015
13. Mar Aprem Metropolitan of India, Locum Tenens of the Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East
14. Condolence from Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

Voice of the East

Vol. 62

March - April 2015

Nos. 3 & 4

Editorial

His Holiness the late Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch

September 1935 – March 2015

The Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, His Holiness Khanania Mar Dinkha IV passed into eternal life on 25 March 2015 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, United States of America. His body was brought to Chicago and was buried in Montrose Cemetery where His Beatitude the late Mar Narsai De Baz Metropolitan had been buried in February 2010. The viewing service was held at St Andrews Church and the final burial service was held in the St George Cathedral in Chicago. The late Catholicos-Patriarch was living in Morton Grove in the suburb of Chicago for the past 35 years.

The late Catholicos-Patriarch was born in Darbandoki near Harrir in North Iraq (above Erbil), the city of our forefathers since the early centuries. His Holiness was looking forward to go to Erbil and reside there where a Patriarchal Headquarters was built by the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraqi Kurdistan. A representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government spoke at the condolence meeting after the burial service. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago was present at the service and he read out the condolence message of His Holiness Pope Francis personally and presented it to His Beatitude Mar Aprem Metropolitan, the Patriarchal Vicar who is the temporary head of the Church until a new Catholicos-Patriarch is elected and consecrated.

Other notable guests included: an Archbishop of the Chaldean Catholic Church based in Baghdad, an Archbishop of the Syriac Orthodox Church representing Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II of Damascus, His Beatitude Mar Toma Gewargis of Mosul and His Grace Mar Gewargis Younan of the Ancient Church of the East (Old Calendar) amongst others. Priests from the Indian Orthodox Syrian Church were also present. At the same time, condolence messages were received from the Russian Orthodox Church and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. All Bishops and Archbishops of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East were present except for His Grace Mar Afram Athneil, Bishop of Syria, who could not leave the Khabur region in north-eastern Syria where armed terrorist groups are presently waging a campaign of persecution against Christians and others in the region.

May Almighty God bring peace and harmony to the Assyrian Christians who have been subjected to persecution for centuries.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan
Patriarchal Vicar

His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem

B.D., M.Th., S.T.M., D.Th., Ph. D.
Senior Metropolitan
Holy Apostolic Catholic
Assyrian Church of the East



Metropolitan's Palace
High Road, Thrissur 680 001,
Kerala, India
E-mail : hgmaraprem@gmail.com
Phone : 91 487 2420978
Mob : 9446621511

Official Decree from the Council of Bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East

The Council of Bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East met on the morning of Thursday, April 9, 2015, at the premises of St. Andrew's church, Glenview, Illinois. Subsequent to the liturgy of burial and committal of the late His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, of blessed memory, and in accord with their synodical and canonical obligation, the prelates of the Church convened under our presidency as the *Locum Tenens* of the holy Patriarchal See of Seleucia-Ctesiphon of the Assyrian Church of the East, and decreed in this council the following acts which the holy Council announces to all the faithful of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East:-

1. The fortieth-day memorial of the late His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, of blessed memory, shall be observed by all the dioceses and parishes of the Assyrian Church of the East worldwide on the Sunday After Ascension, i.e. May 17, 2015.
2. The holy Council of Bishops of the Church shall convene, in accord with the synodical canons, forty days after the burial of the late Patriarch to elect the new supreme father and shepherd of the Church, i.e. the Catholicos-Patriarch, on June 2, 2015 in Iraq, in the city of Erbil.

In conclusion, the holy Council of Bishops imparts its prayers and blessings to all of the faithful sons and daughters of the Holy Church who aided and took part in the fulfilling of the liturgy of burial and the rites of committal of the late and bereaved Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, particularly those who joined us from various countries and cities, and from various dioceses of the Church around the world. The Council of Bishops also requests the prayers of all the faithful that a worthy Father of Fathers and successor to the apostolic throne of Seleucia-Ctesiphon might be elected by the Holy Spirit through our frailty.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all; Amen.

By Grace,



† Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Locum Tenens of the Holy See of the Catholicos-Patriarch,
Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

Given at Morton Grove, Illinois (USA); on the 11th day of April, 2015.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 April 2015

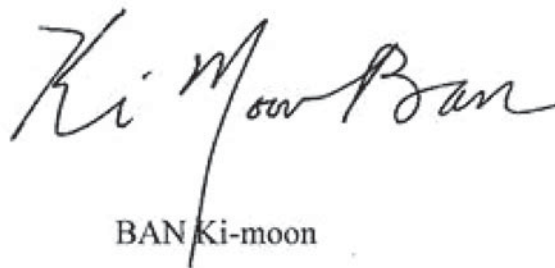
Your Beatitude,

I write to convey my sincere condolences on the passing of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, Apostolic See of Seluecia-Ctesiphon and Supreme Head of the Assyrian Church of the East. Unfailingly gracious and always measured in his response both to crisis and to tragedy, his loss will be deeply felt.

As head of the Holy Synod of the Church of the East, His Holiness led a multi-ethnic Church of Assyrian, as well as Indian dioceses, often during difficult times. He will be remembered in particular by the many who have recently suffered the loss of their loved ones, their homes and places of observance, for his support and warm words of comfort.

I should like to convey my sympathies to the Assyrian Church of the East and to all others touched by the loss of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV.

Please accept, Your Beatitude, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

His Beatitude Mar Aprem
Locum Tenens of the Catholicos-Patriarch
of the Assyrian Church of the East
Salida



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
IN INDIA

**His Holiness Pope Francis's Letter to
Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan**

50-C, NITI MARG, CHANAKYAPURI
NEW DELHI - 110 021

New Delhi, 28 March 2015

Prot. N^o 7795/15

Your Beatitude,

I hasten to forward to Your Beatitude the Condolence Message from His Holiness Pope Francis following the demise of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East:

***"To His Beatitude Mar Aprem
Locum Tenens of the Assyrian Church of the East***

Having learned with sadness of the death of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to Your Beatitude, to the Bishops, clergy and all the faithful and to assure you of the spiritual closeness of all Catholics at this time. The Christian world has lost an important spiritual leader, a courageous and wise pastor who faithfully served his community in extremely challenging times. His Holiness Mar Dinkha suffered greatly because of the tragic situation in the Middle East, especially in Iraq and in Syria, resolutely calling attention to the plight of our Christian brothers and sisters and other religious minorities suffering daily persecution. I recall how we spoke of this at length during the recent visit of his Holiness to Rome. I give heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for the enduring commitment of His Holiness to improving relations among Christians and in particular between the Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East. May the Lord receive him into his kingdom and grant him eternal rest, and may the memory of his long and devoted service to the Church live on as a challenge and inspiration to us all.

FRANCISCUS PP."

May I join Pope Francis in expressing to Your Beatitude my sincere condolences, while assuring my prayers for the eternal bliss of the soul of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV.

Yours fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Salvatore Pennacchio".

Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio
Apostolic Nuncio to India

Meeting of Prelates

Mar Aprem Metropolitan, senior Metropolitan of the Assyrian Church of the East presided over a meeting of the Council of Bishops and made temporary arrangements for the future functioning of the Church. A meeting of all prelates has been summoned to meet in Erbil, Iraq on 2 June 2015 to elect the new Catholicos-Patriarch.

It is understood that the consecration of the new Patriarch will not take place in June. A final decision on the date of consecration will be made when the prelates meet in June to elect the Patriarch.

Editor's Note: For those intending to attend the consecration, please do not come in June 2015. The dates and arrangements for the consecration will be announced after the meeting of the Council of Bishops in June. The consecration may be held as late as September.

Cor-Bishop in Moscow, Russia

It is glad news that His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Iraq and Russia have raised The Rev'd Fr Samano, the priest of St Mary's Church Moscow to the rank of Cor-episcopa (Cor-bishop) in Russia. As there is no resident bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East in Russia the people requested that they may have a Cor-episcopa when His Holiness the late Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch visited Russia in May - June 2014. The Rev'd Fr Samano had come from Iraq and married and settled down in Moscow. His mother-in-law, Ludmila Khoshaba is a noted Assyrian singer who had created professional recordings of Assyrian songs.

Call to Unity

In January 1964 Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimon sent an order of suspension on Mar Thoma Dharmo, Metropolitan of India who was carrying a campaign against hereditary succession in Episcopal families. This led to the establishment of a rival Patriarchate in September 1968 in Baghdad.

In 1973 Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimon resigned. Legal cases and discussions continued. Soon after the suspension in 1964 Patriarch Mar Shimon adopted Gregorian Calendar. The Church in the Middle East and India was split.

When Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimon was shot dead on 6 November 1975 attempts were made to reunite our Church. In October 1976 when a new Patriarch was to be elected some bishops had already expected to have a combined Synod of bishops from both groups. Others said that let us elect a successor to Late Mar Eshai Shimon and they worked for peace and unity.

In 1984 Patriarch Mar Dinkha and Patriarch Mar Addai met in Chicago and made proposals for merger. But it did not succeed. In 1990 the Synods of both group meeting in Baghdad proposed a committee of 4 Metropolitans (two each) to make proposals for merger. Meanwhile the Iraq – Kuwait problem started in October 1990 and communication became difficult. In January 1991 H. H. Mar Dinkha IV was invited to India. The Unity talks did not reach any conclusion.

As the Unity was delayed the Indian Church decided to unite to avoid money being wasted in civil courts. In 1995 Mar Aprem came to meet H. H. Mar Dinkha IV to bring unity in the Indian Church. As a result unity came on November 13, 1995 in India.

Now is the opportune time for unity for the rest of the world.



Mar Dinkha IV and the Assyrian prelates visiting Pope Francis along with Catholic Bishops from the Assyrian Vatican Dialogue Committee on 2nd, October 2014 at Vatican.



The ceremony of the Episcopal consecration of two bishops in India in connection with the Holy Synod of 2010



The funeral procession of H. H. Mar Dinkha IV starting from St. Gevarghese Cathedral, Chicago.



The funeral procession of H. H. Mar Dinkha IV moving to the Montrose cemetery, Chicago under the leadership of Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Patriarchal Vicar



‘Silent procession’ in connection with the passing away of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV in India



**Blessing of foundation stone by Mar Aprem Metropolitan for
H. H. Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent in
Kalathode, Thrissur on 26 April 2015**



**Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan (Patriarchal Vicar of the Assyrian Church of the
East) blessing the cooked rice at the 'Memorial Day Feast' of Late H. H. Mar
Dinkha IV and the other Late Prelates in India on May 1st 2015**

**The Holy Synod of the
Assyrian Church of the East**

Your Eminences and Your Graces,

Please accept my sincere and deep condolences over the demise of His Holiness Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV. The death of one of the oldest Primates is a great loss to the whole Christendom.

His Holiness devoted his entire life to serving God and his people, being their true spiritual leader. His Holiness Patriarch Mar Dinkha shared the unhappy lot of life in exile in a foreign land, which befell thousands of Assyrians, forced to leave their homeland in different years.

Today, when a hundred years have passed since the horrible events of the genocide of Christian population in the Ottoman Empire, the Assyrian people are again facing severe persecution for their faith. The sorrow and suffering have come to the biblical land of Mesopotamia, affecting every Assyrian family. The tragedy which befell Assyrians in their historical homeland, Iraq and Syria, caused acute pain to the soul of His Holiness Mar Dinkha. In the moments of hard ordeals he strengthened his people by his own courage and Christian patience. Everyone who ever met with the late First Hierarch remembers his kindness, magnanimity, ardent loving heart and truly biblical wisdom. His Holiness' earthly life was marked by many afflictions, but he never lost his good spirits and remarkable diligence, taking an active part in the life of his flock. Thanks to his efforts, new communities were established, churches were built and Sunday schools were opened in the Assyrian dioceses all over the world.

In his Primatial ministry, His Holiness Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV harmoniously combined faithfulness to his spiritual tradition and openness to inter-Christian dialogue. The late Primate visited the Russian Orthodox Church on several occasions and was her welcome guest.

Lifting up my prayers for the repose of his soul in the heavenly dwellings, I believe that he will become a zealous intercessor before God for his flock suffering severe

persecutions and for the whole land of ancient Mesopotamia. May the Lord make his memory blessed and eternal!

Dear brothers, in these dark days I wholeheartedly wish spiritual strength to you and peace, wellbeing and prosperity to the long-suffering Assyrian people.

With love in the Lord,

/+Hilarion/
Metropolitan of Volokolamsk
Chairman
Department for External Church Relations
Moscow Patriarchate

India Church News

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent

An Assyrian convent for the nuns of our Church in India was a dream of late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV. During the Patriarchal Council in Chicago in 1996 His Holiness asked Mar Aprem Metropolitan to start a convent for sisters (nuns) in the Church, as Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Iraq and Russia had just started at the time in Baghdad. In 1997 Jincy Othottil a young Sunday school teacher from Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish, Marottichal came forward to dedicate her life for this noble cause.

We had no place for the new sister to stay and continue her study. Mahila Samajam General Secretary K.D. Mariyam offered a place for her to live and continue her study. Fortunately after 2 years of her Master's in Commerce (M.Com.) she was admitted to the St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute in Kottayam where she spent two years for a Master's Degree in Syriac and 4 years for Ph.D. degree with the same institution.

After the search for a suitable place for the convent a piece of land close to our Mar Timotheus Orphanage was earmarked. For many reasons, progress was delayed. However, finally we are able to start the construction of the building. This two storied convent will cost 6 million Indian Rupees (around one lakh US Dollar, as one dollar is equivalent to 60 or 61 Indian Rupees).

Anybody willing to donate to this building named after H.H. Mar Dinkha IV can write to hgmaraprem@gmail.com. You can donate to this convent through our churches in USA to get tax benefits. The church can then transfer the fund to Central Trustees, Church of the East, India. The name and photos of the donors will be displayed on the walls of this convent building. Those living in Australia and wishing to donate to the Convent project can also write to Joseph Haweil at joseph_haweil@yahoo.com.au.

Silent Funeral Procession

I am glad to hear the comments of the Assyrian friends who watched on YouTube the Silent Funeral Procession held in Thrissur. Although all three Indian prelates were in Chicago, the priests and Trustees of the Church in India organized this orderly procession. Even the Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Mar Raphael Thattil walked in front of this procession. The people marched wearing white clothes and holding placards with photo of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV. The late Catholicos-Patriarch loved the Indian Church and the Indian Church loved him.



GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Prot. No. 0583/2015

March 29, 2015

**His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem
Metropolitan Church of the East
& Vicar Patriarch
Metropolitan's Palace
High Road, Thrissur- 680 001**

Your Grace Mar Aprem,

I am saddened to hear the sudden demise of His Beatitude Khanania Dinkha IV who breathed his last on March 26, 2015. As an Individual Church of the Syrian Oriental Tradition we, the Syro-Malabar Church, feel very much close to the Assyrian Church of the East and express our deep sadness over the passing of His Beatitude Khanania Dinkha IV, the Catholicos-Patriarch.

It is remarkable that being the 111th Patriarch of the Church of the East, His Beatitude Dinkha IV, served the Church as its Father and Head over a period of 39 years, the tenth longest tenure in the history of your Church. He is credited with the rebuilding of the Church, which was near to destruction after the assassination of his predecessor, Patriarch Eshai Shimun. His spiritual leadership brought stability and peace to a Church in turmoil. His life and legacy symbolize the values of faith, love, humility and integrity.

Your Grace, it gives me at the same time joy to know that you have been elected to serve the Church as acting Patriarch in the interim period. I consider it a great recognition to your person and the Assyrian Church in India. We also pray that a new Patriarch be elected soon in accordance with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I extend to you, the clergy, the religious and lay faithful of the entire Assyrian Church of the East my sincere condolences on the departure of the head of the Church. In joining you and all who mourn him, including his family members, I commend his priestly soul to the infinite mercy of God our loving Father. May God grant him the Heavenly Reward!

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan



Urshlem
3101 Hopkins Road,
Beasley, TX 77417, USA
Office: (281) 403-0670
Fax: (281) 459-0814
website: www.ds-wa.org
email: mareusebius@ds-wa.org

March 30, 2015

His Beatitude Mar Aprem
Locum Tenens of the Assyrian Church of the East,
Chicago

Your Beatitude,

Upon hearing the sad news of the demise of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to Your Beatitude, to the Bishops, clergy and the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East. I remember with great fondness my visit to the Patriarchate in Chicago in 2013, and the warm welcome His Holiness gave to me. I could see in my visit that he was a shepherd of great love for his flock, and lived to preserve the faith and traditions of the Assyrian people. During that visit we spoke about our churches having a common heritage with St. Thomas as the apostle who evangelized our homelands and Syriac as our liturgical tradition. We also spoke how we can work together as Christians to continue to witness our Christian heritage in North America. Mar Dinkha IV also spoke of the persecution his Church and people have endured in recent years, and this has intensified in the last few months, and I will continue to pray for peace for the Assyrian Church and all others sufferings in the Middle East. I also pray that the Lord will receive this faithful shepherd into his Kingdom and grant him rest, and may his memory be eternal.

Yours in His Ministry,

Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

"Let your deeds glorify your Father in heaven" - Matthew 5:16

‘Memorial Day Feast’ on 1 May 2015

Fifteen thousand members participated in the Memorial Lunch in memory of the late bishops of India as well as the Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV. The venue was the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School ground where H.H. Mar Dinkha IV conducted the consecration of two Indian bishops in January 2010. This was on 1st May 2015 as done every year. Mar Aprem Metropolitan spoke about these prelates who had worked hard for the Indian Church.

المجمع السونهادوسي المقدس
لكنيسته المشرق الآشورية



ܡܠܝܟܬܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ
ܡܠܝܟܬܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ

❖ *The Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East* ❖

OFFICE OF THE LOCUM TENENS OF THE PATRIARCHAL SEE

In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit; One God forever, Amen.

On Thursday morning at 10:04 am, March 26 2015, His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of the apostolic see of Selucia-Ctesiphon and supreme head of the Assyrian Church of the East fell asleep in the hope of the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life in our Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Apostolic Assyrian Catholic Church of the East prays for the eternal repose of the Patriarch that led her for almost 39 years as a good shepherd and heavenly example of the Christian virtues of humility and Christ-like compassion. Among the Holy Synod he was truly the Peter of our time, the Paul of our era, and the Timothy of our age, the chosen of the Apostles.

Born Khananya d'Bet Mardinkha in Darbandokeh, Harir, Iraq on September 15, 1935, he was formed and educated by the venerated Mar Yosip Khnanisho, the Metropolitan of Shamizden and Patriarchal Vicar. Ordained to the diaconate by Mar Yosip Khnanisho in 1947, His Holiness served as priest since July 15, 1957, later being consecrated bishop in Iran on February 12, 1962 by the late His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos-Patriarch. He served as bishop for 14 years, until his election as Catholicos-Patriarch October 17, 1976. As head of the Holy Synod of the Church of the East, His Holiness lead a multi-ethnic Church of Assyrian as well as Indian dioceses as one united Church of the peoples of the East. As the leader and first voice of the Assyrian People, he led and blessed this nation by preserving the fountain of our heritage in the most trying of times.

The viewing of the body of the late Patriarch will take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at St. Andrew's church in Glenview, Illinois, beginning at 9:00 am. The funeral liturgy and rite of burial for the Chief Shepherd of the Church of the East will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 10:00 at the cathedral church of St. George the Great Martyr in Chicago, Illinois (USA).

We fraternally ask your solicitude and prayers during these last weeks of Holy and Great Lent in remembering the head of the heads of Christ's Church in the East, and praying for the repose in Christ's promise for His Holiness Maran Mar Dinkha IV. We further request your prayers for the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East as we gather to assume the awesome task of prayer, fasting, and deliberation so that the Holy Spirit may raise up a worthy successor to the throne of the Catholicos-Patriarch of Selucia-Ctesiphon and Patriarch of All the East.

By Grace,



✠ Mar Aprem

Metropolitan of India,

Locum Tenens of the Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Given this 26th day of March, 2015 at Chicago, Illinois (USA).

MALANKARA MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH

Apostolic See of St. Thomas

**DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA
METROPOLITAN**

POOLATHEEN
TIRUVALLA 689 101
KERALA, INDIA



Phone: 0469-2630313, 2601210

Fax: 0469-2602626

Mobile: 9447370700

9961963090

E-mail: metropolitan@marthoma.in

30.03.2015

His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan,
Church of the East,
Metropolitan's Palace,
High Road,
Thrissur 680 001

My Dear Thirumeni,

I am very happy and delighted to hear that you are elevated to the position of Patriarchal Vicar of the Chaldean Syrian Church of the East and at the same time I express my hearty condolence on the sad demise of the Patriarch who suffered illness for a long time.

Moreover, I express my solidarity to the people who are suffering because of their commitment to the Church and Christian faith. I join with the multitude who thank God for their courageous faith affirmation and express my solidarity in their suffering. May the Lord bless them and also by thy Grace transform the minds of those who are exercising cruelty and terrorism.

May the Lord give you strength and courage to lead the flock all over the world.

Our Valiya Metropolitan was in the hospital, now he is discharged. God was gracious to him in the restoration of his health.

Yours Sincerely,


DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN.





Mar Timotheus Metropolitan consecrating Mar Dinkha IV as the 120th Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East on 17 October 1976.



The first Indian visit of Late H.H. Mar Dinkha IV (January 1991) after his Patriarchal consecration in October 1976.

L to R: Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Timotheus Metropolitan, Patriarch H. H. Mar Dinkha IV, Mar Meelis Zaia Episcopa and Bishop Dr. Paulose Mar Paulose.



Patriarch H. H. Mar Dinkha IV and Pope John Paul II signing the Common Christological Declaration at Vatican on November 11, 1994.



ഭാരത സഭയുടെ ഐക്യ പ്രഖ്യാപന ചടങ്ങ് (1995)

പാത്യയർക്കീസ് ബാവയുടെ സ്വപ്നം യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമായപ്പോൾ
ഡോ. പൗലോസ് മാർ പൗലോസ്, മാർ നർസൈ ഡിബാസ് (ലെബനൻ),
മാർ തിമോതേയസ്, മാർ അപ്രേം, മാർ മീലിസ് (ഓസ്ട്രേലിയ) എന്നിവർ
ചേർന്ന ഐക്യപ്രഖ്യാപനം.

**Declaration of Unity of Assyrian Church of the East in India (1995).
L to R: Bishop Dr. Paulose Mar Paulose, Mar Narsai Metropolitan (Lebanon), Mar Timotheus Metropolitan and Mar Meelis Zaia Episcopa (Australia).**