

# صوت الشرق

Vol 64

January - February 2017

Nos.1 & 2



H. H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch at a Celebration of Deacons in Baghdad in February 2017

## VOICE OF THE EAST





The blessing ceremony of the new H.H. MARDINKHA IV ASSYRIAN CONVENT, Kalathodu, Thrissur by H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan along with H.L. Mar YohannanYoseph Episcopa and H. L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa on Sunday 19 February 2017



The Newly Constructed H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent  
Inaugurated on 19 February 2017 at Kalathodu, Thrissur

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

January - February 2017

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**Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation: [www.theacero.org](http://www.theacero.org)**

**Unofficial: [www.nestorian.org](http://www.nestorian.org)**

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# Voice of the East

Vol. 64

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## Editorial

### Archdiocese of Australia Welcomes New Bishop and Priests

His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Archbishop of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon is full of youthful enthusiasm in his outlook and activities. In addition to the churches he built in Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand and the establishment of the St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School and St Narsai Assyrian Christian College in Sydney are seminal achievements in the modern history of the Assyrian Church of the East. His vision for a Church of the East theological college will train many theological scholars for the future of our Holy Church and grant academic recognition to the Assyrian community globally.

On Sunday 26 2017, the Metropolitan celebrated the beginning of Great Lent in the church's liturgical calendar at St Hurmizd's Cathedral, Greenfield Park, Sydney, Australia. The Metropolitan discussed the decision taken by the last Holy Synod that a Bishop would be consecrated for Melbourne and New Zealand on 15 July 2017 and that a Cor-bishop with responsibility for the youth affairs of the church universal based in Sydney would be ordained.

The Reverend Father Ninos Elya of Sydney will be elevated to the ranking of Archdeacon for the Holy Church in preparation for his consecration as bishop on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> July in St Abdisho's Church, Melbourne as elected by the Holy Synod. The Church will be anticipating the attendance of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa Catholicos-Patriarch accompanied by a number of esteemed prelates.

The Reverend Father Narsai Youkhanis of Sydney will be elevated to the ranking of Cor-bishop for the Holy Church, in commencing his international youth ministry as elected by the Holy Synod.

In other news relating to the clerical composition of the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon, Archbishop Mar Meelis Zaia has also announced that:

- Deacon Sami Shamuel will be elevated to the priesthood taking on the responsibility of chaplaincy for Saint Narsai Assyrian Christian College. At the same time, Deacon Sami will be given the responsibility of biblical and religious education in Sydney.
- Deacon Neil Makko will be elevated to the priesthood taking on the responsibility of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Cecil Park, Sydney. Deacon Neil will relieve Rev'd Fr Ninos as he commences his episcopal duties for Melbourne in July 2017. At the same time, Deacon Neil will be given the responsibility of chaplaincy for Saint Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School.

**Voice of the East** from Thrissur, India expresses its best wishes to the two priests and two deacons who are going to be raised to higher ranks and prays for Almighty God's blessings upon the Archdiocese of Australia and New Zealand administered at the worthy hands of its Archbishop Mar Meelis Zaia AM.

**Mar Aprem Metropolitan**



## **ACERO Sponsors Celebration in Baghdad, Iraq Honouring Church Deacons**

ACERO was honoured to recently support a celebration in Baghdad, Iraq on the occasion of the Commemoration of St Stephen the Protomartyr. The function, held at St Odisho's Church in Baghdad was attended by His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East along with Baghdad parish priests, Rev'd Fr Awgin, Rev'd Fr Dr. Aphrem and Rev'd Fr Behnam. A large number of church faithful were also present.

The function was hosted in the parish hall following the Holy Qurbana. With the support of #ACERO, presentations were made in honour of all deacons. His Holiness the Catholicos-Patriarch spoke thanking all the Deacons for their devoted service to the Holy Church and then cut a celebratory cake.

Parish Priest, The Rev'd Fr Dr. Aphrem also spoke about #ACERO and its goals and thanked the humanitarian organisation for its ongoing support of the Assyrian community of Baghdad.

In closing the function, His Holiness invoked the Lord's blessings upon all faithful and blessed the following Deacons for their service to the Holy Church and community of God:

### **St Mari Church, Alameen**

1. Deacon Zia 2. Deacon Jameel 3. Deacon Ramzi

### **St Odisho Church, Al-Sinnaa**

Deacon Johnny

### **St Mary Church, Al-Naaeriya**

1. Deacon Dr Edmon 2. Deacon Marogy

### **St George Church, Al-Dora**

1. Deacon Ashur 2. Deacon Sargon 3. Deacon Ewan

## **Consecration in Erbil, North Iraq**

The consecration of The Rev'd Fr Tyari Jonsen of Iraq as Bishop of Erbil is fixed for 7 May 2017 this year. The consecration will be officiated by H.H. Mar Gewargis IIISliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch at St John the Baptist Cathedral, Erbil. Some Prelates from other countries are expected to participate.

## Letter from Mar Narsai Benjamin, Bishop of Iran

His Beatitude Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Greetings -barekh mar;

I hope Your Grace is doing well.

I am writing some details about this photo.

After the last meeting of the Holy Synod in Erbil, by permission of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, I went to Diana to visit our people and beloved members of our church. I was accompanied by Revd. Yatron, priest of Mar Gewargis church and some Assyrians of the parish.

This photo was taken after I celebrated Holy Mass at the Mar Gewargis church.

We visited the village of Bidial (Beth Eil) on the mountain near Diana. I visited this village and our people in that village.

After that we went to Hovdian village and visited Mar Oraha church in that village and many of our members were there to meet us.

Thank you so much our Metropolitan - barekh mar.

mkhilaNarsaiBenjamin  
Tehran  
1.3.2017

**Editor's Note:** We appreciate such letters from our bishops all over the world. We want to have some details of the activities of our beloved church especially in countries like Iran, Iraq, Syria etc.

**Voice of the East** is the only magazine in English which gives information about our Church to all our churches scattered in different corners of the world. Please co-operate. If bishops are busy, please ask a layman or clergyman to be a reporter or contact person for this magazine.

In Australia we have a young man Mr. Joseph Haweil, an elected corporation Councilor in Melbourne, who is working as a well-wisher of the **Voice of the East** magazine as well as of the Indian Church. We pray that we get such well-wishers in all our dioceses. Then I am sure that the quality and contents of the **Voice of the East** will improve. Even if he is busy, Mr. Joseph Haweil corrects the proof before printing each issue once every two months. I personally appreciate such help.

Similarly Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis of Arizona writes to me appreciating the **Voice of the East**. Such support encourages the Indian Church to continue publishing this magazine without fail.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

*Indian Archdiocese News***Aortic Valve Implantation**

On January 7 2017, Christian Medical College Vellore became a center capable of performing TAVI (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation). A patient with severe aortic stenosis (a condition where the aortic valve is narrowed) who was not fit for surgery was successfully implanted with the latest generation of percutaneous Transcatheter heart valve. The patient became symptom free after the procedure and was discharged in a week. This procedure known as TAVI (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation) was performed for the first time at CMC Hospital Vellore. TAVI is a non-surgical procedure done through an artery in the leg. This procedure was done in CMC Hospital Vellore by Dr. John Jose a member of our Ernakulam St. Thomas Church and son of Eruvungaren Jose and Mary.

Dr. John Jos was sponsored by our Church for his first Medical degree known in India as MBBS. After obtaining his MBBS degree he served for two years in our Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital, Kunnathumkara, Thrissur, which is **a service obligation** for sponsored students. In India the sponsored students in the Christian Medical College Vellore pay a very low tuition fee, as Dr. Ida Scudder, an American Missionary had started it as a mission institution to equip doctors for missionary service. For many years CMC Vellore is a prestigious Medical College and hospital in India.

Dr. John Jos later earned M.D. and also D.M. degrees. Last year he had training in Germany on a fellowship. He is the first member of our Church to become an Associate Professor in CMC Vellore. He works in the Cardiology Department. Since last year we have one more Associate Professor in the Christian Medical College, Vellore. He works in Department of Gastroenterology.

This year we have ten students in five years of MBBS course. We have some para-medical students also. It was exactly 40 years ago that our Church was granted membership in CMC and Hospital Council and Executive Committee. I thank God and the leaders of different denominations who were kind enough to support my request for membership in the CMC.

**Historic Blessing of New Assyrian Church of the East  
Convent in India**

On Sunday 19th February 2017, the Indian Archdiocese of the Assyrian Church of the East celebrated a momentous milestone in its history with the opening and blessing of the “H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent” in Kalathode, Thrissur, Kerala.

The blessing was conducted by His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India, H.G. Mar Yohannan Yoseph and H.G. Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Bishops of India in the presence of many clergy and a large congregation of faithful.

During the ceremony, the Metropolitan of India noted that this is the first house for the sisters in India in recent centuries.

The current order of sisters was formed in 1998 with the blessings of the late Catholicos-Patriarch, His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV of blessed memory. The first sister who offered her life to the service of the church was Jincy Othottil on 15th August 1998. The dedication

ceremony was conducted by His Beatitude the late Mar Timotheus II, Patriarchal Delegate and His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India. Sr. Jincy's permanent vow was taken in the presence of H.H. the late Mar Dinkha IV during his historic visit to India in January 2000. Sister Jincy holds the following tertiary qualifications and is currently the Principal of a school of the Assyrian Church of the East in India: M.Com., M.A.(Syriac) and Ph.D.(Syriac).

The second two sisters of the Order, Sr. Susy and Sr. Annie, came into the congregation in May 2003. They continue to serve the Mar Timotheus Orphanage in Kalathode. The Convent is constructed very close to the Orphanage.

Construction of the Convent commenced 4 years ago during the Patriarchate of His Holiness the late Mar Dinkha IV. After his repose, it was decided that the Convent would be blessed as the "HH Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent" in his honour.

The total cost of the project to date is 5.6 million Indian rupees (equivalent to \$90,000 USD) with the major contribution of the cost coming from the Archdiocese of Australia under the leadership of His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon. The total final cost of the project will be almost \$100,000 USD. 3/4 of the project is now completed and the Church of the East in India hopes to complete the rest with the support of faithful members of the Church in India and abroad.

May this new house for the Sisters of the Church of the East in India be blessed by Almighty God and may it bring forth new pious women who wish to dedicate their lives to the service of the Lord and His Holy Church.

During the last 14 years no sister came forward to become a nun. A lack of a formal residence for these nuns was mentioned as an excuse. Now that this defect is rectified, the Indian Archdiocese encourages dedicated women of our church to come forward to serve the people of India. Since our church is a universal church I hope that more of our church from different corners of the world will come and join this convent.

## **Nestorian Fathers Publication**

A few copies of the book *Nestorian Fathers* written by Mar Aprem Metropolitan more than four decades ago are available at Mar Narsai Press. Those who want to buy please email [hgmaraprem@gmail.com](mailto:hgmaraprem@gmail.com)

The Souvenir of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Mart Mariam Cathedral in Thrissur is also expected to be ready soon.





Seventh Anniversary of the Episcopal Consecration of Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph and Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose Celebrated on 17 January 2017 at the Metropolitan Palace, Trichur



Father Ninos Elya



Father Narsai Youkhanis

**Future Ordinands of the Assyrian Church of the East for  
Melbourne and Sydney, Australia**



Deacon Neil Makko



Deacon Sami Shmuel





**The Fund of Fourth Term of Dialysis, hand over to Dr. Vinod P. B. head of District Co-operative Hospital, Thrissur.**

H.L. Mar Yohannan Yoseph handing over the fourth term fund for dialysis patient to Dr. Vinod P. B., Head of District Co-operative Hospital, Thrissur. The funds were collected from Mar Addai Sleeha Parish members, Paravattani, Thrissur



Asst. Vicar of Mar Narsai Church, Nadathara Deacon Chakkunny Vitheyathil handing over a cheque for Rs.10,000/- on behalf of Mar Narsai Church members to the Mar Thimotheus Charitable Hospital Secretary Mr. P. K. Kochanthony for the dialysis of kidney patients on 12 February 2017





L to R: Dr. John Jos, Dn. Chakkunny Vitheyathil and Fr. Jacks Chandy with the CMC students & staff from the Church of the East in India after the Holy Qurbana conducted at CMC, Vellore



Church of the East members gathered after the Anneedha Qurbana in the Mar Yohannan Mamdhana cemetery for prayers for the departed. In sight: Mar Aprem Metropolitan conducting the prayer along with the priests





Dr. P. P. Lizzymol, Ph.D. Receiving the Rs.2 Lakh Award  
from the Central Minister in New Delhi



Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran Visiting the Villagers of Bidyal (Beth Eil) on the  
Mountain near the Assyrian Village of Diana, Northern Iraq



## Council of Ephesus 431 AD Publication

A reprint of Mar Aprem Metropolitan's above titled M.Th.(Master of Theology)thesis written in 1966 is being re-printed at the Mar Narsai Press, Thrissur. Friends abroad can place their orders by e-mail tohgmaraprem@gmail.com. If the book stores of our Assyrian parishes want to stock 10 copies or so, please write to us before the stock is finished.

## 76<sup>th</sup> Book to be Released

The 76<sup>th</sup> book written by Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan entitled *In Russia and England via UAE* is to be released soon. This is a travelogue about the last visit the Metropolitan made along with Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV to Russia. The book has a lot of information about the Assyrians in Russia. There are some good colour photographs. Those who are interested to purchase a copy please write to hgmaraprem@gmail.com. The cost is only \$10 plus airmail postage charge. Our church bookstalls abroad are encouraged to stock at least 10 copies so that people outside our church also will come to know about our church in Russia, England and UAE.

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Church Schools

The Chaldean Syrian Church Schools started by the late Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan in Thrissur, India in 1927 celebrated 90 years of existence. In a concluding ceremony held in Chaldean Syrian School Auditorium on Saturday 25 February 2017 Advocate V.S. Sunilkumar, Honourable Minister of Agriculture of the Government of Kerala, appreciated the 90 years of service to the people in Thrissur by our ancient church.

He sanctioned a gift of nine computers and a Projector as a 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift to the Primary section of our School. The Minister stated that our church schools are doing excellent service for ordinary and poor people. The Honourable Minister inaugurated the concluding ceremony of the 90-years celebration. Dr Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Patron of our Church Schools presided over the function. The Metropolitan graduated from our High School 62 years ago when he was only 15 years old.

Dr. Aby Paul, the principal of the Higher Secondary School announced that one of the graduates of the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School was accepted by the University of Stanford, California for Ph.D. studies. This year another graduate of our institution passed the prestigious IAS (Indian Administrative Service), the only one from Trichur District this year.

The function also honoured all the old students who had completed 80 years of age including one lady who was two years old when the school started 90 years ago. There were no students from the first batch. But the wife of the first student Mr. C.T. Chakunny came to receive a memento from the Metropolitan. She was probably from the 5<sup>th</sup> batch.

Mrs. Celine Kakassery, former Municipal Chairman of Trichur who was a student in this Primary school about 80 years ago, came forward to receive a memento from the Metropolitan. Mr. Padavan Johnson, representing the 80 Plus Old Students thanked the organizers of the School for this honour.

## Ph.D. Thesis of Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph

A public defense of the Ph.D. thesis submitted by Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph of India has been arranged at the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for 9 March 2017.

### Information on the Thesis:

#### Aim

The aim of this thesis is to edit, translate, and analyze the apocryphal work '*Gelyanad'toovanaPouloseSleeha*' ('The Revelation of Paul the Blessed Apostle') attributed to St. Paul the Apostle written in the year of the blessed Greeks 1987. (i.e. 1676 A.D.) in East Syriac. This work is about the vision that God showed to Paul. God was seeking to reveal himself and His will to the people through the apostle who was taken into the third heaven'. He foresees what happens to the soul of a man after his death. That is why the author of this book explains everything through the eyes of Apostle Paul. Through this work the writer is revealing the hidden secrets to present a particular interpretation of the times and persuading the hearers or readers to think and to act or live in a certain way.

#### Source of Study

There exists four mss that contain '*Gelyanad'toovanaPouloseSleeha*'. They are- Vatican Syriac. Ms. 180, Ms. C (a manuscript at Archbishop's House at Baghdad), Ms. D (another manuscript from Iraq) and Tcr. Ms. 83. The basic text I have used for making critical edition and translation is Tcr. Ms. 83.

There already exist different translations of this text '*Gelyanad'toovanaPouloseSleeha*' from a Greek text, (Tischendorf's Greek text was based on two mss, the earlier of which is at Munich and is of the thirteenth century. This version has already been translated in the Ante-Nicene Library, Vol.xvi.) and a Latin text (A translation of the Vision of Paul was made from the text of a Latin version, edited by Mr. M. R James in the *Cambridge Texts and Studies*, ii., 3, p. 11ff-from a ms. of the eighth century now in the Bibliotheque national at Paris) and from another Syriac manuscript (A translation into English from a Syriac version (date unknown) was published by the Rev. J. Perkins, D.D., in the *Journal of Sacred Literature*, N. S., vol. vi, 1865. In my translation of the work I have pointed out these differences found in these translations structure of the Thesis.

This thesis has six chapters except Part I. This is a general introduction part. Chapter I deal with the apocalyptic work in general.

Chapter II deals with descriptions of Sy. Mss A. B. C and D.

In the IIIrd Chapter I undertake a comparison of the Thrissur Syriac Manuscript with other three Sy. MSS, I ) Vatican Syriac Ms 180 = A 14<sup>th</sup> cent, text.

2) A Manuscript at Archbishop's House at Baghdad – Iraq, Ms. C, 20<sup>th</sup> cent, 1932; [i.e. in the Greek year 2243 i.e. 1932 of our Lord].

3. Another Manuscript from Iraq Ms. D, 20<sup>th</sup> Century 1928 [i.e. in the 2239 blessed Greek year i.e. 1928 of our Lord]. The differences are shown in the footnotes.

The IVth Chapter Contains the English translation of the Revelation of Paul the Apostle. In this chapter I have indicated the similarities and the differences found in my English translation of Tcr 83 mss and Rev. J Perkins' English translation. I have also pointed out the difference found in K. V. Tischendorf's English translation from Greek text and in M.R. James's English translation of Latin versions.

Chapter V shows the influence of the Apocalypse of Peter on the vision of Paul, and the Summary and main difference of the English translations of Greek and Latin versions. Apocalypse of Peter is an older one than the Apocalypse of Paul. Its origin is in the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Most of the ideas, terminologies, judgments, punishments and the same angels are seen in the Apocalypse of Paul. The description of heaven and hell, the states of the souls of the righteous and the sinner and so on..... So there could be an influence of Apocalypse of Peter on Apocalypse of Paul.

Chapter VI contains the textual analysis of the Vision of Paul. This highlights the themes like Apology, Ecology, Eschatology, Angelology, Repentance etc..... This work is based on the assertion in the second letter to the Corinthians that Paul was taken into the third heaven. From the internal evidence it is clear that this work could not have been written by St. Paul. The author's main intention is to introduce the judgment to the readers the life after death so that they may lead a good life in this world.

## **Introduction of New Book “Russia To England Via UAE” A Travelogue in English**

I planned to publish this 76<sup>th</sup> book immediately after the trip in June 2014. But as usual many delays happened when I started to write it. My plan was to publish this book before 13 June 2015 which was my 76<sup>th</sup> birthday, which means 75<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.

Sad demise of Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV in USA occurred on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and I had the charge of the universal Assyrian Church for six months. Then I planned to conclude this book before my 77<sup>th</sup> birthday on 13 June 2016, I did not achieve that target too. Anyhow I started writing my 77<sup>th</sup> book captioned **Four Trips in 2015**.

I hope that I will succeed in bringing out my 77<sup>th</sup> book before we enter the year 2017. I do not know the answer to the question in my mind, “Will I write my 100<sup>th</sup> book?” Nobody knows the answer. Perhaps, I should not struggle to have a minimum of 100 pages for all my books. I can write small books of 60 pages each.

Now people are demanding shorter sermons from the pulpit. Ten minutes sermons will be sufficient to convince or convert your listeners on a Sunday morning. Preachers with long

sermons from the pulpit are not appreciated by the majority of our parishioners. I have told my priests that if God is going to convert my listeners, He will do it in the first fifteen minutes.

This travelogue is about three countries, namely Russia, UAE, and England. If I wanted to record most important events of this trip it would take more than 100 pages. But I am not attempting it. I should not attempt to record everything by myself. Let others make some efforts to record the current history of the Assyrians in the Diaspora which I have attempted through my travelogues.

I am glad that Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and the Secretary of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church brought out an account of this Russian visit in the Assyrian language with some important photographs. Bishop's booklet does not have many pages. Still it is a good effort to let the Assyrian people in America, Australia etc to know about their distant cousins who went to Russia a century ago. He is the only Assyrian bishop born in America. America has more Assyrians today than the number of Assyrians still living in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Lebanon.

Many Assyrians in Iraq, Syria etc are waiting for a visa outside the Middle East to escape the threats of the Islamic State (ISIS). How much have these people suffered? It is not easy to make a list of the names of the Assyrians murdered or martyred,

There is no much of a religious consideration today. Whether one is an Orthodox or Protestant or Catholic Assyrian or Chaldean he is a target of the fanatics, How long will this sad situation continue? Nobody knows.

I hear constant complaints from the lay people of most of the churches that the lay people are not informed of the happenings of the Church in high places. Although it is not possible to publish all details of the ecumenical travels and dialogues of the Church leaders some simple details of what is happening at the higher levels that may affect the whole Church must be published. The present writer has always tried his best to write travelogues giving some accurate information of the affairs of the Church.

My colleagues have expressed their strong opinion against my liberal approach. They feel that all such details are not for public consumption.. For example, when we meet in Holy Synods the minutes of the sessions are not published. Only the decrees and decisions are reported to the public at large. Some privacy is needed. .

It is my strong feeling that my writings help same people to know some things about our church to the present generation. Some of my writings will be helpful for future generations also. I was happy when I saw on Assyrian TV channels people like Dr. Sargon Dadeesho sitting with the biography of Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV which I wrote and reading several paragraphs from that book while announcing the sad news of the demise of our beloved Patriarch. I am sure that if that book was not available many of the dates of the events in the life of Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV would have been wrongly quoted. The events in the life of the patriarch from the years 2006 to 2015 are not yet published.



Added on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## **Visit to Mahatma Gandhi University**

On Thursday March 9, 2017 The Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam witnessed a large gathering of academic and non academic people who were invited to the School of Letters. The Metropolitan of the Church of the East Dr. Mar Aprem metropolitan with several priests, Sisters and lay people were present to witness the public Defence and Viva Voce of Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph. After a successful defence of this Ph.D. dissertation Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, who was the first Ph.D.in Syriac from this University in 2002, expressed his happiness considering the fact that out of the 8 persons who defended dissertation successfully so far during the past fifteen years 3 are from our Church. The third Ph.D. in Syriac was Dr. Sister Jincy. Now the 8<sup>th</sup> one is Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph. He expressed a desire that more from our small Church will write Ph.D. thesis in future.

Considering the fact that our archives in the Metropolitan palace in Thrissur has a valuable collection of Syriac Manuscripts, it is proper that more from our Church should make academic achievements in the study of Syriac language, since it is language spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ. So far five persons from our church passed M.A. degree in Syriac studies in SEERI (St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute, Kottayam).

It is true that we do not make an effort to speak Syriac. It is not our mother tongue. At the same time since our Hudra, Takhsa and other books are written in Syriac we should not neglect this language. We have translated all these prayer books except Hudra into our mother tongue Malayalam. Hence some of the clergy of the present generation do not show same interest which we had done in our generation. Still I hope that we will not neglect our prayer books written in Syriac.

The Director of SEERI Fr. Jacob Thekeparampil, who was Research guide for the Bishop, explained that it was a good thesis. The Chief examiner Fr. Jos Kochuparambil appreciated the good research done by Bishop Mar Yohannan (JOJU ANTO). Dean of the School of Letters He also read out the reports sent by the external examiners Prof. Sebastian Brock of Oxford University and Prof. Herman Tuele of Louvain, Belgium.

The Dean of the Department of languages of the Mahatma Gandhi University, who is a Professor of Malayalam language suggested that this study should be translated into Malayalam and published in Kerala for the benefit of the people who will be benefitted by such study.

The authorship of this book does not go back to the I<sup>st</sup> century when St. Paul lived, but to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century. We do not know who was the real author. But the real author wanted more respect by using the name of St. Paul.

Thrissur, Kerala

علم

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥





Mar Aprem Metropolitan in the procession of Bon Natale along with Kerala State Ministers and Catholic Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath, conducted by the Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church and the public in Trichur in connection with Christmas 2016



Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, parish priest Fr. Charly Antony and Deacon Freddy Don with the members of Mar Joseph Church Kunnamkulam gathered after the Holy Qurbana on 12.02.2017





Agriculture Minister V. S. Sunilkumar inaugurates the 90th Anniversary of Chaldean Syrian L.P. School on 25 February 2017. L-to-R: Head Mistress Princy Leons, Corporate Manager Rev. Fr. David K. John, Minister V. S. Sunilkumar, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Thomas Mapranam (Chairman Board of Central Trustees), Dr. Abi Paul (Principal of C.S.H.S.S.)



## Convocation at UTC, Bangalore

Rev'd Fr. Lijo Raphael receives Award of M.Th. Degree in Bangalore from United Theological College