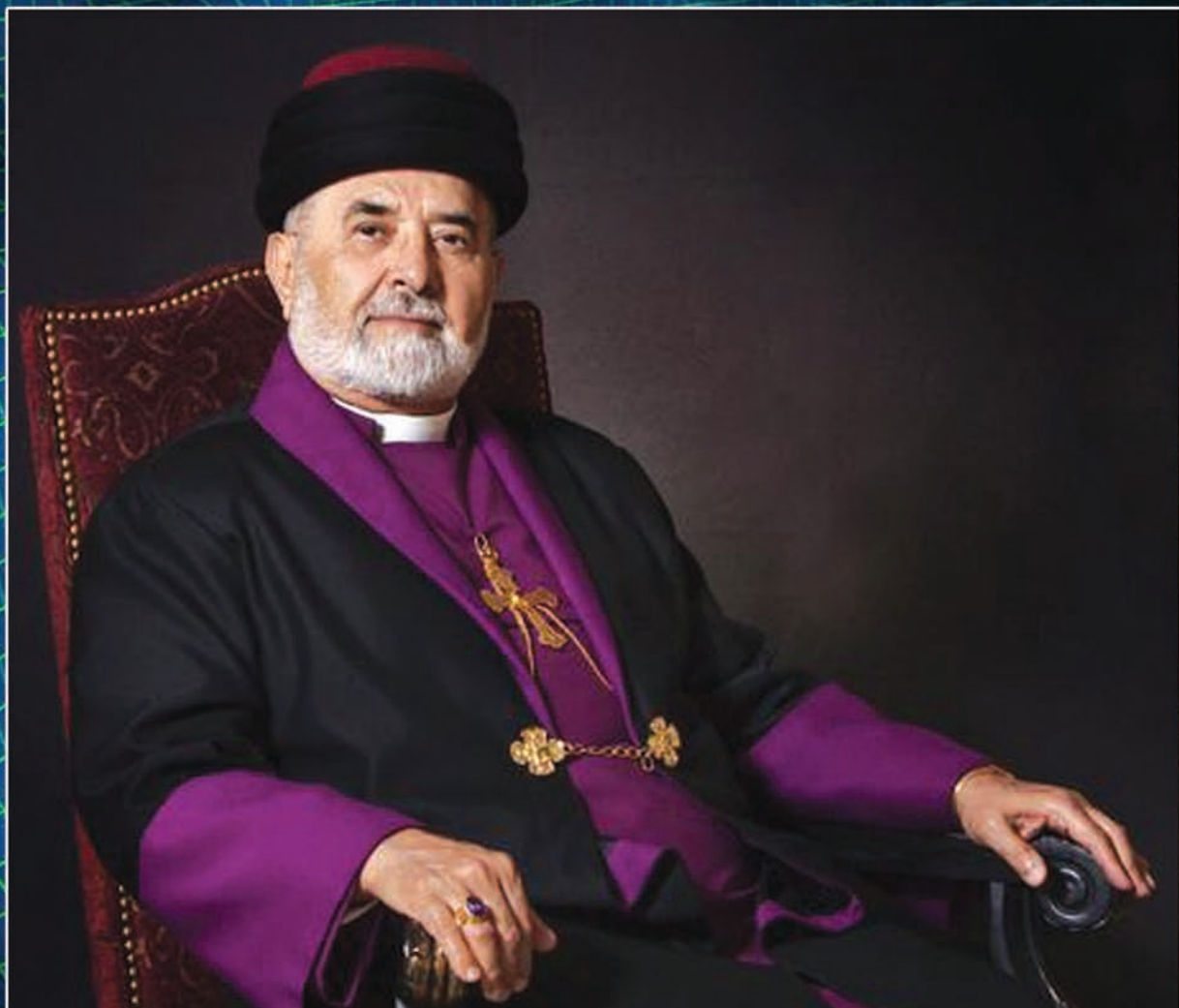


# ܡܠܚܡܐ ܕܡܕܢܚܐ

Vol 64

March - April 2017

Nos.3 & 4



2nd Death Anniversary of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV  
on 26 March 2017

## VOICE OF THE EAST





His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan and clergy along with the five newly ordained and elevated priests of the Assyrian Church of the East in Australia - 26 March 2017



5 Newly Ordained Deacons with Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa and Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa at Mar Aprem Church Chelakottukara, Thrissur on 29 April 2017. L-to-R: Deacon Alex T Tony, Deacon Ronaldo Babu, Deacon Aby Antony, Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, Deacon Dijin Davis and Deacon Abin Babu.

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

March - April 2017

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](http://www.news.assyrianchurch.org)**

**Archdiocese of India & UAE: [www.churchoftheeastindia.org](http://www.churchoftheeastindia.org)**

**Archdiocese of Australia & New Zealand: [www.assyrianchurch.org.au](http://www.assyrianchurch.org.au)**

**Diocese of California: [www.acoecalifornia.org](http://www.acoecalifornia.org)**

**Diocese of Europe: [www.assyrianchurch-europe.org](http://www.assyrianchurch-europe.org)**

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

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

***Contents***

1. Editorial (*Foreign Donations*)
2. Patriarchal Easter Message 2017

***International Church News***

3. Assyrian Church of the East Youth Conference 2017 in Sydney
4. Five Clerical Ordinations in Australia
5. Deacon and Sub-Deacon Ordinations in Illinois

***Indian Archdiocese News***

6. General Transfer list of Clergy 2017
7. Dates of 2017 Bishops' Consecrations
8. Ph.D. for Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph
9. Ordination of Five Deacons
10. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir of Muscat
11. 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Philipose Mar Chrysostom Metropolitan
12. Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa in Muscat and Sharjah
13. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa Elected Secretary of Kerala Inter-Church Council
14. Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish, Marotichal
15. Thanks & Regrets
16. Visit to Australia
17. Fr. Antony Kaitharan to Rome
18. 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mar Addai Shleeha Parish, Paravattani, Trichur
19. Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Allahabad, U.P. India (*To be continued in next issue.....*)

# Voice of the East

**Vol. 64**

**March - April 2017**

**Nos. 3 & 4**

**Editorial**

## *Foreign Donations*

The Government of India has restricted foreign donations to India. This is to avoid money coming to India for terrorist activities. It is right and proper to restrict foreign money entering India. Regrettably, there is already a lot of black money in circulation in this country.

The *Foreign Contribution Regulatory Act* rules were formed to control foreign money coming to non-governmental charitable institutions. Funds coming through Indian banks will be restricted to Indian orphanages and such charitable organizations. Until recently individuals were able to receive gifts sent from abroad. Now if foreign gifts are sent and received to an individual's name, such donations will be subject to the provisions of the new regulations.

For those friends and well-wishers who have made contributions to the Church of the East in India, we ask that you contact the Metropolitan or other church institutions to clarify the correct and easiest method/s to send gifts/donations to India.

At present the permission period of the main account of Board of Central Trustees has expired. We are trying to extend the period. The account of Mar Thimotheus Charitable Hospital is valid till 2018. The process for donations to the Mar Thimotheus Memorial Orphanage is not yet clear.

If you send money without clarifying the validity of the account, the amount will not reach us. The banks will return the money to you. To avoid the waste of time and money please e-mail us for clarification before sending money. We pray that the charitable activities of the Church will be able to continue with the permission of Government.

As a result of the new restrictions on the foreign contribution to India many orphanages, Hospitals and Charitable Institutions of all religions (Christian, Muslims, Hindu etc) are suffering. We hope and pray that the Central Government in New Delhi will favourably consider the difficulties of such institutions and grant permission for genuine organizations to receive foreign funds without delay.

Mar Aprem





# Assyrian Church of the East Youth Association - Sydney

## 4<sup>th</sup> Archdiocesan Youth Conference 2017

From India, His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Dr. Sr. Jincy Othottil will be among the leaders. His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch is expected to be the Chief Guest. Of course His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, the Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon will lead the Conference.

## **Five Clerical Ordinations in Australia**

His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon has elevated three priests to higher holy orders and ordained two priests for the Archdiocese.

On Sunday 26th March His Beatitude elevated Rev'd Fr Korkis Toma to the ranking of Cor-bishop at St Abdisho's Church in Melbourne. Rev'd Fr Korkis is the priest of the latter parish.

On Sunday 2nd April His Beatitude elevated Rev'd Father Ninos Elya and Rev'd Father Narsai Youkhanis to the ranking of Archdeacon and Cor-bishop, respectively at St Hurmizd's Cathedral.

The Rev'd Archdeacon Ninos Elya, formerly parish priest of Saints Peter and Paul Church and chaplain of the Assyrian Schools is to be consecrated to the episcopate on 16th July in Melbourne for the newly formed Diocese of Victoria and New Zealand.

Rev'd Cor-bishop Narsai Youkhanis is the secretary to the Metropolitan and chaplain for the youth and children's associations and will now take up responsibility for international youth ministry for the Assyrian Church of the East.

On the same day, Deacon Sami Reverend Shamuel was ordained to the ranking of priesthood and will assume the name Rev'd Father Shamuel Shamuel and a role as chaplain at St Narsai Assyrian Christian College and the responsible clergy member for the Christian education in the Archdiocese.

Also, Deacon Neil Makko was ordained to the ranking of priesthood and will take on the role of parish priest at Saints Peter and Paul Church and chaplain at St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School.

This ordination took place in the presence of Cor-bishop Ashoor Lazar, Cor-bishop Korkis Toma, Rev'd Fr Younan Dawood, Rev'd Fr Benyamin Shlimon and Rev'd Fr Yousif Jazrawi.

At the conclusion of the ordination, His Beatitude consecrated the Holy Qurbana celebrating the 6th Sunday of the Great Lent.

Afterwards, the clergy and congregation entered Edessa Hall for a celebratory breakfast.

### **Biographies**

#### **– Rev'd Fr Ninos Elya, Archdeacon**

Born in Baghdad, Iraq in 1985, ordained a deacon in 2002 and ordained a priest in 2013 by His Beatitude.

Obtained a Bachelor of Theology from ACU in 2013 and a Master of Theology from ACU in 2015. Currently he is undertaking doctoral studies. He was elected to be consecrated as Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand by the Holy Synod.

**– Rev’d Fr Narsai Youkhanis, Cor-bishop**

Born in Basrah, Iraq in 1989, arrived to Australia in 1995. He was ordained a deacon in 2007 and a priest in 2010 by His Beatitude.

He received a Bachelor in Architecture from UNSW in 2010 and a Master in Early Syriac Studies from Macquarie University in 2012. He is expected to finish his Ph.D. in August 2017.

He was elected by the Holy Synod to take on international youth ministry for the Church.

**– Rev’d Fr Shamuel Shamuel**

Born in Habbaniya, Iraq in 1969, arrived to Australia 2006. He was ordained a deacon 2007 by His Beatitude. He obtained a Bachelor of Mathematics from Almustansiriya University and a Master degree in 2002 from the same university. He commenced his Ph.D. in 2003. He taught mathematics at different institutions in Iraq, and continued his teaching career in Australia at St Narsai Assyrian Christian College from 2011. He completed his theological studies in Baghdad in 1998. He currently manages the Assyrian Church News and the Beth Kokheh Magazine. He is married and blessed with three children.

**- Rev’d Fr Neil Makko**

Born in Sydney, Australia in 1979 and holds a Diploma of Logistics. He was a very active deacon in the Ss Peter and Paul Parish and all their ministries. He is married and been blessed with one child.

## **Deacon and Sub-Deacon Ordinations in Illinois**

It is with great joy that His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of the Eastern United States, accepted the request of Very Rev. Fr. Cor-Bishop Dr. Gewargis Toma, parish priest of Saint Andrews Church in Glenview, Illinois to ordain one deacon and two sub-deacons for the growing parish!

On the sixth week of the Great Fast, His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin placed his blessed right hand upon two new Sub-Deacons; namely, Sargis Giliana and Tawer Matloub. The newly ordained Sub-Deacons are great examples for the youth as they were both born and raised in the diaspora, but have spent countless hours studying the Aramaic language and the Apostolic traditions of our Holy Church.

Lord willing, on April 23, 2017, during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin will also elevate Afram Liwi Zakaria and raise him to the Holy Order of Diaconate for Saint Andrews Church.

We request the prayers of all the Church faithful, across the world, for the ones who have been called to serve the Lord!





His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of Europe celebrating Palm Sunday in Dutch town Zeist. From L-to-R: Shamasha Odisho, Rev Fr Yalda, Bishop Mar Odisho Oraham, Deacon Rimon and Deacon Arden.



Consecration of the Bishop Mar Abris Awshalem in Erbil on 7 May 2017 in St. John the Baptist Patriarchal Cathedral, Ankawa.





Mar Aprem Metropolitan entering Mart Mariam Big Church after the Hosanna procession starting from Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort, Thrissur on 9 April 2017.



Renovated front gate of Mar Yakob M'pasqa Church, Peechi, Thrissur. In sight: Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa, Mar Awgin Kuriakose and Vicar Fr. Jacks Chandy are coming from the church to bless the renovated gate along with church members





Fr. Cyril Antony, Vicar of Marth Mariam Parish, Trivandrum honouring Dr. P.P. Lissymol, Ph.D. on Maundy Thursday after Qurbana, for receiving Innovation Award (Rs.2 lakhs) in New Delhi. Dr. Lissymol is a scientist in Sri Chitra Tirunal Hospital, Trivandrum. She is the wife of Pradeep Mookan, nephew of Mar Aprem Metropolitan.



Cor-episcopa Narsai Youkhanis Celebrating Easter 2017 with the Family of Joseph Haweil. Left-to-Right: Benjamin Haweil, Georgia Haweil, Jacob Haweil, Rev Fr Narsai Youkhanis, Sheena and Joseph Haweil.





His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California Meets with the Priests and Deacons of the Parishes of Mar Yosip in San Jose and Mar Narsai in San Francisco on 19 March 2017.



Dr. Jincy Othottil presenting paper on Anaphora of Mar Nestorius at 'Symposium on Anaphora of Syrian Church' in Holy Spirit University Kaslik, Lebanon on 28 April 2017

## Indian News

**His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem**

**B.D., M.Th., S.T.M., D.Th., Ph.D**  
**Metropolitan**  
**CHURCH OF THE EAST**



Metropolitan's Palace,  
High Road, Thrissur 680 001,  
Kerala, India  
E-mail: hgmaraprem@gmail.com  
Web : www.churchoftheeastindia.org  
Fax : 91 487 2442003  
Phone: 91 487 2420978  
Mob : 9446621511

CH 75-17

15<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **Church of the East in India** **General Transfer with effect from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Mart Mariam Valiapally<br>Thrissur  | Fr. Binu Joseph, Vicar                                  |
| 2. a. Mar Addai Shleeha Church<br>Paravattani                                      | Fr. Sijo Johny, Alex T. Tony                            |
| 2. b. Mar Shalleetha Church<br>Mulayam (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays) | Fr. K R Inasu, Vicar                                    |
| 3. Mar Timotheus Church<br>Nellikunnu  | Fr. M D Abi, Madbha Dns. Babu K Paul, Abey P.D.         |
| 4. Mar Narsai Church<br>Nadathra   | Fr. C K Yohannan  |
| 5. Mar Augin Thoovana Church<br>West Fort  | Dea. Rinoj Davis  |
| 6. Mar Esthappanose Sahdha Church<br>Nellangara                                    | Fr. David K John, Vicar                                 |
| 7. Mar Thoma Sleeha Church<br>Pattikkad  | Abin Babu   |
| 8. Mar Geevarghese Sahda Church<br>Cheroor   | Fr. Tinto K Timothy, Vicar                              |
| 9. Mar Zaia Church<br>Palghat  | Dea. O S Jose   |
| 10. St. Thomas Church<br>Coimbatore  | Fr. Jacks Chandy, Vicar                                 |
| 11. Mar Yonan Church<br>Thiroom  | Fr. Tenoj Jose  |
| 12. Mar Joseph Church<br>Kunnamkulam   | Fr. T O Ignatius, Vicar                                 |
| 13. Mar Timotheus Church<br>Calicut  | Fr. Santhosh Emmatty                                    |
| 14. Mar Gabriel Church<br>Bombay   | Fr. C D Pauly, Vicar                                    |
| 15. Mart Mariam Church<br>U A E  | Ronaldo Babu  |
| 16. Mar Pathrose Shleeha Church<br>Poochetty                                       | Fr. Nipun Arakal  |
| 17. a. Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church<br>East Fort                                   | Dea. Freddy Don   |
| 17. b. Mar Shimon Chapel<br>Anjangadi  | Fr. Sijo Johny, Vicar                                   |
| 18. Mar Aprem Church<br>Chelakkottukara  | Dea. Johnson Ignatius                                   |
| 19. a. Mar Mari Church<br>Kuriachira   | Fr. B O Timothy, Vicar                                  |
| 19. b. Mar Oudesho Church<br>Kuriachira  | Dea. Johnson Ignatius & Abi Antony                      |
| 20. Mar Dinkha I Church<br>Chiyyaram   | Fr. Sunny S Koola, Vicar                                |
|  | Dea. V V Joseph (Madbha Deacon)                         |
|  | Fr. Denny Thalokaren, Vicar                             |
|  | Dea. Denny Davis  |
|  | Fr. Justin Neelankavil, Vicar                           |
|  | Dijin Davis   |
|  | Fr. Michael Pazhumalil, Vicar                           |
|  | Alex T Tony   |
|  | Fr. Sachin Timothy, Vicar                               |
|  | Fr. Victor Kollannur & Dea. Enson Issac (Madbha Deacon) |
|  | Fr. Runo Varghese, Vicar                                |
|  | Dea. Chakkunny Vitheyathil                              |
|  | Fr. Vinod Timothy, Vicar                                |
|  | Fr. Davis Chungath & Dn Don Solomon                     |
|  | Fr O A Abimalek   |
|  | Dea. Denny Thaikadan                                    |
|  | Fr. Davis Thalokaran, Vicar                             |
|  | Fr. Simon Emmatty                                       |
|  | Fr. Shaji Rapheal, Vicar                                |
|  | Fr. Binoy Nirapath & Dea. P.J. David (Joju)             |
|  | Fr. T. R. Jose  |
|  | Dea. Praveen Jose P                                     |
|  | Fr. A. P. Varghese, Vicar                               |
|  | Dea. Delmin Davis                                       |

Continued in page 2.....



21. Mar Beesho Church Puthoor	Rev. Jose Vengassery, Vicar Dea. Clinton Soban
22. Mar Mathai Shleea Church Marotichal	Fr. Michael Vallavanthra, Vicar Dea. A. V. Sheejan (Madbaha Deacon) .....
23. Mar Yaqob M'pasqa Church Peechi	Fr. A. C. Antony, Vicar Dea. Simon K.V.(Madbaha Deacon)
24. Mar Qardagh Sahda Church Madras	Fr.Cyril Antony, Vicar Fr. Francis Cheeramban & Dn. Timotheus Joy
25. St. Thomas Church Ernakulam	Rev. N.J. Abraham, Vicar Dea. Lijo Johnson
26. Mar Sleevea Church Cochin	Fr.Thomas Thermadom, Vicar Fr. Anto Thomas
27. Mar Abdisho Church Kottayam (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> )	Fr. C G Sunilkumar, Vicar Dea. Nimson Varghese
28. Mart Maryam Church Trivandrum (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Fr. Franklin Varghese, Vicar Dea. Rinoj Mampilly & Dea. Jinu Jose
29. Mar Kuriakose Sahda Church Kalloor	Fr. Lazar Madathumpadi, Vicar Dea Abin Daniel
30. Mart Mariam Church Potta, Chalakudy( 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5th)	Fr. Charlie Antony, Vicar Dea. Nimson Varghese
31.Mar Timotheus Church Bangalore	Fr. Lijo Rapheal, Vicar Dea. Babu K .Varghese (Madbaha Deacon)
32. St. Stephen Church Delhi	Fr. Mohan Konikara, Vicar Dea. Sinto Jose

Fr. Vinod Timothy (Vicar of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana parish) will stay at Anchangadi Parsonage.  
Fr. Michael Vallavanthra (Vicar, Marotichal) will stay in the parsonage of Mar Aprem Church.


#### **Mart Mariam Valiapally week- day services**

On Mondays – Fr. C K Yohannan & Dea. O S Jos  
On Tuesdays – Fr. Justin Neelankavil & Abi Antony  
On Thursdays – Fr. Tinto Timothy & Dijin Davis  
On Saturdays – Fr. Nipun Arakal & Alex T Tony

#### **Mission parishes**

Hyderabad Fr. Runo Varghese  
Goa Fr. Jacks Chandy& Dea V.L.Rajan  
Muscat Dea Reji Thazhatha (Madbha deacon)

Fr. K R Inasu - General arrangements for parishes under Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph. (Nos,1 to 16 and Mission parishes Hyderabad, Goa, Muscat)  
Fr. A.P.Varghese - General arrangements for parishes under Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose (Nos.17 to 32 and Mission parish Qatar)



Mar Aprem Metropolitan



### ***Dates of 2017 Bishops' Consecrations***

**May 7, 2017 - Erbil, Iraq**

**July 16, 2017 - Melbourne, Australia**



## **Ph.D. for Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph**

Congratulations to H. L. Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Bishop of India who successfully defended and received a Ph.D. in Syriac Studies from Mahatma Gandhi University, India. His thesis title is:

**“The Revelation of Paul the Apostle: Edition, Translation and a Critical Analysis.”**

The thesis was prepared under the guidance of Fr. Dr. Jacob Thekeparambil, the Director of **St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute** which is the only institute in India preparing candidates for Ph.D. degree in Syriac. Bishop Mar Yohannan has made a fresh translation from Aramaic to English.

Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa is the third person from the Church of the East in India to obtain a Ph.D. degree in Syriac. Mar Aprem Metropolitan was the first one in 2002 and Dr. Sr. Jincy Othottil was the second.

We hope that more people from our Church, both clergy and laity will master this language spoken by Lord Jesus Christ and preserved by our Fathers in spite of the persecution.

## **Ordination of Five Deacons**

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April, Mar Aprem Metropolitan ordained 5 seminarians as full deacons at Mar Aprem Church, Trichur. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa and Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa were assisted by several clergy in the ordination.

The five new deacons are:

1. Deacon Abin Babu
2. Deacon Dijin Davis
3. Deacon Abi Antony
4. Deacon Ronaldo Babu
5. Deacon Alex T. Tony

Several clergy including the oldest Deacon, K.P. Joseph (from batch of 1954/January 10) aged 88 were present for the Holy Qurbana and ordination along with the meal afterwards.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir of Muscat, Oman Mission Parish**

The **St Luke Mission Parish** of the Assyrian Church of the East in Oman is publishing a souvenir in connection with the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation. Our Church does not have any church building of our own in Oman. We are conducting Holy Qurbana 4 times a year in the Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Rui, Muscat. We are grateful to Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar who has given instructions to their parishes in Muscat, Qatar, Sharjah etc. to provide facilities for our people whenever we are in need of a place of worship.

## **100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Philipose Mar Chrysostom Metropolitan**

Mar Aprem Metropolitan went to Trivandrum, capital of Kerala in April 2017 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration of the retired Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, known as the *Valia* Metropolitan. He has the longest record of being a bishop (later) Metropolitan in the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar. He retired from active service after 55 years of Episcopal duties. As a very humorous person Metropolitan Chrysostom wrote the foreword to the book *BISHOP'S JOKES* authored by Mar Aprem Metropolitan.

## **Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa in Muscat and Sharjah**

Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph conducted Oshana (Palm Sunday) services at the Muscat Mission Parish and Holy Week services in Sharjah in our Mart Mariam UAE parish (rented building). He also spoke at the ecumenical Easter services held in the Indian Orthodox Syrian Church in Dubai organized by the KCC in Dubai.

## **Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa Elected Secretary of Kerala Inter-Church Council**

The Kerala Inter-Church Council, a fellowship of all bishops, archbishops, Cardinals, Catholicoses and other church leaders of Episcopal Churches in Kerala, which has been functioning under the leadership of Cardinal George Alenchery of Cochin (Major Archbishop of the Syro Malabar Church) elected Mar Awgin Kuriakose as the Secretary of the Council. This Council meets once a year normally in different towns in Kerala. In 2016 it met in the CSI Centre in Kottayam. In 2017 it met at the Pastoral Orientation Centre. The next meeting is scheduled to meet in SEERI, Kottayam on 17 January 2018.

## **Mar Mathai Shleeha Parish, Marotichal**

The parish festival and inauguration of the Diamond Jubilee Auditorium were celebrated in a grand manner culminating with a public meeting attended by the Metropolitan and both Episcopas in April 2017. This parish is under the Episcopal care of Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose. It is a small parish which supplied one Episcopa (Mar Awgin Kuriakose), one priest (Fr. N.J. Abraham), two deacons (Deacon Sheejan and Deacon Enson in Sharjah) and the first nun for the Church (Sr. Dr. JincyOthottil).

## **Thanks & Regrets**

As one who takes the trouble to gather as much information and photos about the activities of our Church around the world for the benefit of our Church members as well as outsiders in India and abroad I take this opportunity to thank all those who helped us to gather these materials.

At the same time I express my regrets about the Dioceses about which no information is available. May I request all my readers and well-wishers to send news about the work of their parishes and communities. Please write the names and dates of photographs etc. For those from non-English speaking countries; worry not about language barriers; we will correct the English.

In addition to the clerical help I receive from Mr. Johnson John in my office in Trichur, Mr. Joseph Haweil of Melbourne, Australia has been faithfully correcting the final proof of the *Voice of the East* and my other books for many years.

Please co-operate with us to serve you. Just remember, I complete 77 years of age on June 13 this year. I pray that my enthusiasm does not gradually diminish with every birthday.

Yours faithfully,

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

## **Visit to Australia**

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan is planning to visit Sydney in connection with the Youth Conference. He plans to go to Melbourne to participate in the consecration of a Bishop for Victoria and New Zealand on July 16<sup>th</sup>. If anybody wants to contact him please write to [hgmaraprem@gmail.com](mailto:hgmaraprem@gmail.com) before he leaves India on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Fr. Antony Kaitharan to Rome**

Fr. Antony Kaitharan who was till recently the Vicar of Mar Addai Shleeha Parish, Paravattani has been granted a scholarship from the Pontifical Committee for Christian Unity in the Vatican to study at the Oriental Institute, Rome. He will soon leave India to study the Italian language in Arezzo near Rome for 3 and a half months before he starts a Master (Licentiate) degree. He has earned B.D. degree (4 years) and an M.A. degree in Syriac after studying in SEERI for two years. It is the first time a priest of our Church in India is going to Rome to study.

## **85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mar Addai Shleeha Parish, Paravattani, Trichur**

The 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mar Addai Shleeha Parish is being celebrated in a grand manner from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May. For the concluding session on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 6 p.m. Cardinal George Alenchery has consented to inaugurate the function. This is the first time a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church is speaking in one of our churches. Although there were civil suits for the possession of the Mart Mariam Cathedral Church since the dates of Bishop Medlycott in 1889 A.D. and later the Independent Case (1911-1925) against Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan, gradually the hatred and suspicion disappeared and an ecumenical understanding developed between these communities in Trichur.



## **Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Allahabad, U.P. India**

As the Church of the East in India is exploring the possibility of affiliating our theological Seminary in Thirur near Trichur, Kerala with the Sam Higginbottom University in Allahabad in North India I wish to share with my readers around the world to have a peep into the life and activities of a missionary to North India a century ago. If one of my readers has a vision to do something for our Church he will have a mission to perform.

It was in 1955 that a member of our church in India named O.T. Inasu donated a cashew estate of about 52 acres and supervised the construction of the Seminary building in that piece of land. We had no money to construct a compound wall or a temporary fence around that vast land. I was a young Seminarian of about 15 years. When I was a 23-year old deacon I was appointed Rector of this Seminary, as I had earned a B.D. degree and had the privilege of studying in England under the scholarship programme of the World Council of Churches, Geneva during the period 1961 - 62.

With the help of students living in the Seminary we planted five coconut trees. Some people commented that coconut trees will not grow in that hilly land. They were wrong and we succeeded. Then I put a small fence around the Seminary building and a kitchen garden. I then planted teak trees around the property dreaming that it would be an asset of millions of rupees if all the trees grew properly. Unfortunately I went for my M.Th. (Master of Theology) studies in Bangalore and my ambition of earning millions from the sale of teak trees did not bear fruit.

After I took charge of this Seminary as a Metropolitan in 1968 I began to put my vision to reality. But the Church did not have money to subsidize Seminary projects. The Seminary did not have money to complete the fence even with bamboo. As the old cashew trees were not yielding enough to maintain a Seminary we decided to cut the cashew trees in nearly half of the Seminary land and plant rubber trees. Mr. Inasu Jacob, grandson of the donor of the land Athleta O.T. Inasu, donated 6 lakhs of Rupees along with his two cousin brothers on the promise that when the yield of rubber trees begins to generate income that money will be put in the bank as an endowment to educate seminary students. The price of the rubber went down drastically and the dream of profit from rubber tapping is not yet materialised.

After Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph was consecrated in January 2010 he came forward to improve the income from the Seminary property. Unfortunately the price of the rubber is far below our expectation. I hope the price will improve and the rubber trees will help us to realise our vision. He started many other areas of agriculture including a new rubber plantation in 6 acres of land with the collaboration with the Kerala State Agricultural University.

A goat farm, a cow farm, cultivation of various vegetables, bananas etc are added to the cultivation by the enthusiasm of the bishop. We are expecting profit, but it is not easy. The Government or the Universities would tell us figures of huge profits from the farms. But in reality we have to wait patiently in order to get a profit for the benefit of the students in the Seminary. The labour charges are shooting up. A close supervision is mandatory in order to make profit.



His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin ordained one deacon and two sub-deacons for Saint Andrews Church in Glenview, Illinois in April 2017.



Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis ordained new clergy in Arizona, U.S.A.





5 Newly Ordained Deacons with Prelates, Clergy and Nuns in Mar Aprem  
Church Chelakottukara, Thrissur on 29 April 2017.