

# ܡܠܚܝܬܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ

Vol 65

March - April 2018

Nos 3 & 4



His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan with Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa at the Patriarchal Visit in India from 25th April to 2nd May, 2018 in connection with the Archiepiscopal Golden Jubilee of H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

## VOICE OF THE EAST



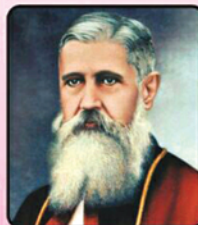


**Dr. Lizymol P.P. receives 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' 2017 award from the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, in a ceremony held at Durbar Hall, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on 8th March, 2018 on the occasion of International Women's Day**

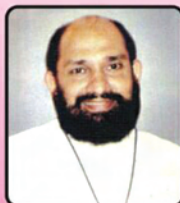


**Mar Abdisho Thondanatt Metropolitan**

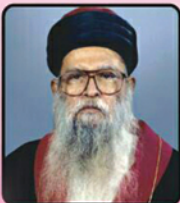
## **Late Prelates**



**Mar Thoma Dharmo Metropolitan**



**Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan**



**Mar Timotheus II Metropolitan**

**Bishop Poulouse  
Mar Poulouse**



**His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of the Western United States lays foundation stone of Mar Yosip Khannisho Parish in Gilbert, Arizona on the Second Sunday of the Great Fast**

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

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# Voice of the East

**Vol. 65**

**March - April 2018**

**Nos. 3 & 4**

## **Editorial**

### **Patriarch's Reception**

The reception accorded to the Catholicos Patriarch of the Church of the East, His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa by the Indian Church from April 25 to May 2 was a historic one. The Indian Church of the East has a tradition of according praise worthy reception to the head of the Church ever since H. H. Maran Mar Eshai Shimon, Catholicos Patriarch visited India from Nov 1961 to January 1962.

The 2nd, 3rd & 4th Patriarchal visits were by the late Khannanya Mar Dinkha IV who had a very real interest in the Indian Church. H. H. Mar Dinkha IV visit to India after his consecration as the Catholicos Patriarch was in January 1991. During the visit, the Catholicos Patriarch negotiated the unity terms with the old calendar group. That desired unity came to effect in November 1995. Mar Narsai Metropolitan and Mar Meelis Zaia Episcopa of Australia were the representatives of the Patriarch to sign the unity agreement. But in January 2000 H H Mar Dinkha IV made his apostolic visit in India. His last visit to India was in January 2010. During that historic visit the Holy Synod was held in the Metropolitan Palace, Trichur, and the Patriarch consecrated two young Indian priests to Episcopas namely Mar Yohannan Yoseph and Mar Awgin Kuriakose, on 17 January 2010.

During that historic visit of 2010 His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa Metropolitan of Iraq was in Thrissur. But as a Catholicos Patriarch H. H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa was visiting the Indian Church for the first time. The Indian people appreciated the concern and the care of the new Catholicos Patriarch towards the Indian Church. The Indian Church prays for the long life of His Holiness Maran Mar Gewargis III Sliwa. All secular newspapers gave details of the Patriarchal visit to India with great details.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other dignitaries of the political field visited the Metropolitan's Palace and presented gifts. Honourable Minister of Tourism Mr. Alphonse Kannanthanam from New Delhi came to the Metropolitan's Palace and greeted the Catholicos patriarch and the Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan was celebrating his archiepiscopal Golden Jubilee.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan



*International News*

## **Archbishop Mar Meelis Zaia receives the 2018 Australian Assyrian of the Year Award**

The 2018 Australian Assyrian of the Year award was presented to His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand, and Lebanon, in recognition of his selfless devotion and tireless efforts toward the conservation of the Assyrian faith, language, and cultural heritage; and for being a driving force behind the establishment of the first Assyrian Christian college in the Western world.

History of His Eminence accomplishments:

In 2002 the first stage of St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School was officially opened. Starting off with only 80 students, today the school accommodates for +700 Kinder to Year 6 students.

In 2006 St Narsai Assyrian Christian College was officially established as it welcomed the Year 6 students from St Hurmizd into the high school stage of education. It was with great pleasure that two out of the four stages of the College's campus in Horsley Park was officially opened in January of 2018, which accommodates for approximately 700 students. Expected capacity once completion is 1200 students.

In 2011 Grace Child Care and Early Learning Centre was officially opened. Due to high demand, another preschool was opening at SHAPS in 2012 which was named St Hurmizd Early Learning Centre.

His Eminence not only focused on educational institutions for the young and youth, but also the elderly. In 2012 St Mary's Retirement Village (rear of St Mary's Church) was opened, with 52 units of different configurations catering our retirees. His Eminence has visions of increasing these units to cater for more retirees.

In 2016 the Assyrian Language College was established where hundreds of youth and adults enrolled to classes run twice a week to learn the mother language. This was utilising St Narsai's temporary campus (Nineveh Lounge).

Announcements were made in 2018 for the establishment of another primary school in Sydney's Cecil Park, next door to Saints Peter and Paul Church. Also, the first ever K-12 co-educational school in Melbourne to take the name of St Ephraim College.

Because of the growing community in Leppington and its surroundings, His Eminence announced the purchase of a land to build Mar Yosip Khnanisho Church to cater for those living in the neighbourhood.

To add onto 2018's prosperous year, His Eminence is tirelessly working on the establishment of Nisibis Theological College to utilise St Narsai's campus after hours. This will be a recognised institution under Sydney's Divinity College with qualifications being recognisable internationally.

## **Chicago Commemorates the 100th Martyrdom Anniversary of Mar Benyamin Shimun XXI**

**“There is no greater love than this: that a person would lay down his life for the sake of his friends” -The Gospel of John 15:13**

The Diocese of the Eastern United States commemorated the 100th martyrdom anniversary of Mar Benyamin Shimun XXI with the opening of a new monument dedicated in his honor as he sacrificed his own life for the sake of the Holy Church and the Assyrian nation. Upon arrival to Montrose Cemetery, His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Diocesan Bishop of the Eastern United States of the Assyrian Church of the East began the a prayer service alongside His Grace Mar Gewargis Yonan, Bishop of Chicago of the Ancient Church of the East, and Reverend members of the clergy. After the prayer service, His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin extended his sincere gratitude to Dr. Norman Solhkah and Dr. Edison Ishaya for their efforts in honoring the martyred Catholicos-Patriarch, Mar Beyamin Shimun XXI. The monument was then officially unveiled to the public by His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, His Grace Mar Gewargis Yonan and Dr. Norman Solhkah.

A luncheon followed the opening of the momentum at Crystal Palace Banquets in Mount Prospect, Illinois. His Grace Bishop Mar Paulus Benjamin and the clergy of the Diocese of the Eastern United States made a procession into the banquet hall and received the Very Rev. Fr. Ghevont Pentezian of Armenian All Saints Apostolic Church, members of the various Assyrian organizations in Chicago, and faithful members of the Church of the East. The luncheon included a variety of poems, hymns, and a great multitude of history of the life of Mar Benyamin Shimun XXI. A piece of history was also displayed at the event, a pectoral cross that Mar Benyamin Shimun XXI gifted to Mar Elia D'Aboona, Bishop of Alqosh, after his episcopal consecration over 110 years ago.

## **Mar Yosip Khannisho Parish Lays Foundation Stone in Gilbert, Arizona**

On the Second Sunday of the the Great Fast, after the celebration of the Holy Qurbana, His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of the Western United States, Rev. Archdeacon Frederick Hermiz, Rev. Koshaba Sholimun, and the Rev. Deacons along with the faithful of Mar Yosip Khannisho Parish laid the foundation stone of their church in Gilbert, Arizona.

The clergy commenced the service with a procession of chanting antiphons (*oniyathe*) unto the construction site. His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis then placed a picture of the blessed Mar Yosip Khannisho into a brick to be the cornerstone of the Church and delivered a brief history of the parish acknowledging the help of the loyal members of the Assyrian Church of the East and Assyrian nation throughout the years.



The church is expected to be completed in 6-7 months by the grace of God and the donations of faithful members of the Church worldwide. If you are interested in donating a personalized brick, which will be placed in the entrance hallway of the new church, please visit [www.projectmaryosip.com](http://www.projectmaryosip.com) and for other various donation visit, [GoFund Me.com/Project Mar Yosip](http://GoFundMe.com/ProjectMarYosip)

## **Bishops Mar Awa Royel and Mar Paulus Benjamin attend the 66th annual National Prayer Breakfast**

His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and the Secretary of the Holy Synod, along with His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of the Eastern United States, attended the 66th annual National Prayer Breakfast in the nation's capital on February 8, 2018.

Initiated in 1953, the National Prayer Breakfast allows for government officials and religious leaders to converse and establish professional relationships while bringing glory to the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The gathering was attended by the President of the United States, Mr. Donald J. Trump, along with approximately 3,500 other attendees including members of congress, various state officials, and religious leaders from all four corners of the earth.

## **Sydney's Children on their Inaugural VBS**

The Assyrian Church of the East Children's Association (ACECA) in Sydney held its inaugural Vacation Bible School (VBS) in from Monday 8th to Thursday 11th January 2018.

The "Camp Out" themed event catered for 120 children that often attend the Association's regular weekly Wednesday night ministry. The VBS included two full days of fun and interactive learning; bible explorations, wilderness games, projects with a purpose, bible adventures and arts and crafts. Lanterns that taught them 'Jesus is the Light', caravan banks that taught charity through ACERO and GUTSY bears that taught love were just a few projects and activities the children worked on.

The third day was the children's fun day out, where parents were invited to share in the celebrations. A picnic was held at Plough and Harrow (Abbotsbury) where children were booked in to experience the Treetops Adventure Park, trekking as high as the trees and swinging to and from their posts; what campers can really do in those forests.

The VBS concluded with a closing campfire ceremony on Thursday presided over by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan, Reverend Chor-Bishop Narsai Youkhanis and Reverend Father Shamuel Shamuel. Children sang and performed, and showcased everything they had learned over the past few days. His Beatitude thanked the children and their parents for entrusting the Association with the care of their children, building spirituality and growing the social unity that plays such a vital role within the Assyrian community. His Beatitude witnessed the new friendships kindled amongst the young participants noting that Jesus was at the centre of such friendships.

Special thanks to St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School for their hospitality, catering to the children over the four days and Rinyo for sponsoring memorable merchandise for each participant.

*Indian News*

## **Patriarchal Visit to India**

The first Apostolic Visit of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa Catholicos Patriarch of the Church of the East, India was held on 25<sup>th</sup> April to May 2, 2018. His Holiness and the prelates was received in the Cochin International Airport by H G Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, H L Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa, H L Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa and The Board of Central Trustees at 2.30 a.m. on Wednesday 25 April 2018. A large number of faithful from St. Thomas Parish, Ernakulum, Mar Sleeva Parish Cochin and the members of various parishes from Thrissur gathered in the Airport to welcome the Catholicos Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, H L Mar Narsai Benjamin and H L Dr. Mar Abris Yuhanan.

At 11 a.m. His Holiness and all our prelates were given an enthusiastic welcome in the Mart Mariam Cathedral under the leadership of the Vicar Fr. Binu Joseph Ponokaran. This Cathedral is two hundred and three years old and is the oldest Christian church in Thrissur town built before Protestant as well as the Roman Catholics churches.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April the two Episcopas namely H L Dr. Mar Abris from Erbil and H L Mar Narsai from Tehran along with the two Episcopas from India namely H L Dr. Mar Yohannan and H.L. Mar Awgin attended as VIPs in the world famous Thrissur *Pooram* festival.

The next day His Holiness along with the Episcopas from the Iran and Erbil were escorted to several parishes in India along with H G Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, H L Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa and H. L Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa. The first visit was to Mar Thimotheus Parish, Nellikkunnu, then Mar Narsai Church, Nadathara, Mar Pathrose Shleeha Church, Poochatty, Mar Thoma Shleeha Church, Pattikadu, Mar Esthapanos Church, Nellangara and Mar Gewargis Church, Cheroor. The members of the YMCA (Young Men Christian Association) of Thrissur came to pay respects to the Patriarch. The members of our Church in India participate in the activities of YMCA as well as YWCA.

In the same evening Men's Youth Association, Women's Youth Association and Sunday School had the Patriarchal meet at the Chaldean Centre where His Holiness as well as the two visiting bishops namely Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran and the Dr. Mar Abris Yuhana of Erbil addressed the gathering.

On Friday 27 the Patriarch assisted by all the bishops celebrated a special Syriac Liturgical Music Holy Qurbana in Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort where His Holiness celebrated the Holy Qurbana on 15 January 2010 when he was the Metropolitan in Iraq. On Friday after noon His Holiness visited Mar Yonan Parish, Thiroor and visited the Seminary of the Church of the East where a Clergy Council Meeting had held and had supper with all clergy and the seminary students.

On the same day 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Seminary building Tabor meditation centre was inaugurated. In addition to the main lecture hall there will be new guest room in the same floor.

On Saturday 28 the Patriarch visited some institutions such as Mar Thimotheus Charitable Hospital, Mar Dinkha Assyrian Convent, Mar Thimotheus Memorial Orphanage and Bethania Ashramam. In the late afternoon there had a dinner with all the representatives, Central Trustees, Parish Trustees and various committees in connection with the Patriarchal Reception at Chaldean Centre auditorium.





The 2018 'Australian Assyrian of the Year award' is presenting to His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon



The 100th martyrdom anniversary of Mar Benjamin Shimun XXI His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of the Eastern United States praying at the monument of Mar Benjamin Shimun XXI with other clergy





Choir group for the Patriarchal Visit  
After the Holy Qurbana celebrated by Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa  
assisted by the prelates and the clergy on 1st May 2018 at Chaldean Syrian School Ground,  
Thrissur in connection with the commemoration  
of the late prelates



Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa along with the prelates and the clergy  
after the Clergy Council meeting held at Seminary, Thirur on Friday 27 April, 2018





Public Reception on 29th April 2018 in connection with the Patriarchal visit in India and the Archiepiscopal Golden Jubilee celebration of H B Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan at Chaldean Syrian School Ground, Thrissur. L to R: Mr. M A Thomas (Chairman, Board of Central Trustees), Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran, Arch Bishop Andrews Thazhath (Thrissur Arch Diocese of the Syro Malabar Church), Dr. Joseph Marthoma (Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church), Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Maran Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Cardinal George Alenchery (Major Arch Bishop of Syro Malabar Church), Mrs. Ajitha Jayarajan (Thrissur Mayor), Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Bishop Dr. Mar Abris Yuhanan of Erbil, Adv. Therambil Ramakrishnan (Former Speaker of the Kerala Legislatures Assembly), Prof. Madhavankutty (Thiruvambady Devasom Board), Mr. C P Jose (General Convener, Patriarchal Visit to India)



After the reception meeting in Mart Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur the Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Maran Mar Gewargis III Sliwa and the prelates pictured with the members of the Church of the East in India on 25th April 2018





H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan with Cardinal George Alenchery, Major Arch Bishop of Syro Malabar Church in the Metropolitan Palace, Thrissur on 29 April 2018



Arch Bishop Andrews Thazhath of Thrissur Arch Diocese of the Syro Malabar Church meets Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Maran Mar Gewargis III Sliwa at the Metropolitan Palace, Thrissur on 29th April 2018



On Sunday 29 a warm red carpet reception was accorded to His Holiness and the prelates at Mar Addai Shleeha Parish. His Holiness celebrated Holy Qurbana assisted by all the prelates. On the same after noon a large grant public reception was held in the specially decorated grounds of the Chaldean Syrian Secondary School.

It was also the Golden Jubilee celebration of H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan who was consecrated as Metropolitan on 29 September 1968 at Baghdad. Cardinal George Alenchery, Major Arch Bishop of Syro Malabar Church, Dr. Joseph Marthoma Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, H G Cyril Mar Baselios Metropolitan of the Independent Syrian Church of Malabar, Arch Bishop Andrews Thazhath of Thrissur Arch Diocese of the Syro Malabar Church, Mayor Mrs. Ajitha Jayarajan, Thrissur Corporation, Adv. Therambil Ramakrishnan Former Speaker of the Kerala Legislatures Assembly, Prof. Madhavankutty of Thiruvambady Devasom Board and all the Assyrian prelates spoke on this occasion. In His Inaugural address His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa appreciated the harmony with all the religion in this area and asked the audience to pray for the people of the Christians in the Middle East as well as the many people being persecuted in the name of religion in the different parts of the world. H G Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan in his presidential address thanked many people of Kerala State, secular and religious, who supported him in the long period of nearly 50 years, which is a rare case in the life of any leader.

On 30 Monday Catholicos Patriarch along with five prelates visited six parishes namely Mar Awgin Thuvana Church, Mar Mari Sleeha Church, Mar Dinkha I Church, Mar Aprem Church, Mar B'hisho Church and Mar Mathai Shleeha Church making it a total number of 16 parishes visited in this short visit.

When His Holiness returned to the Metropolitan's Palace after a hectic scheduled visit of parishes the members of the Chamber of Commerce, YWCA, and the Press Reporters were waiting to see His Holiness. Immediately after that meeting His Holiness went to the Chaldean Syrian School's Grounds for a special supper arranged by the Patriarchal Reception Committee. There was instrumental religious music provided by the members of our Church. After the dinner at the Chaldean School grounds Patriarch and the prelates came to Marth Mariam Cathedral Church to visit the volunteers and the workers preparing for the Memorial Feast to be served in the next day.

On May 1 we had Holy Qurbana in memory of Inidan Late Prelates namely 1. Mar Odisho Thondanatt, 2. Mar Abimalek Timotheus, 3. Mar Thoma Dharmo, 4. Mar Poulouse Mar Poulouse Episcopa, 5. Mar Thimotheus II who was last died on 6 August 2001. After the Holy Qurbana we conducted Anneedha Prayers on the Tombs of the Late Prelates in the chapel between Metropolitan Palace and the Cathedral Church. After the prayers the mass lunch was blessed that kept on serving for hours together. The Patriarch visited the blood donation camp and the eye check up camp. The Prelates participated with the faithful taking part in the memorial food where thousands were coming and going.

A museum was inaugurated by the Catholicos Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa. Dr. Aby Paul, the Principal of the Higher Secondary School worked very hard for the last 3 years to make the dream a reality. The museum already started attracting the people to visit this historical museum with rare manuscripts and pictures and the articles used by our Late Prelates.

## **The Late Prelates of India**

May 1<sup>st</sup> is remembered as the Memorial of the late prelates in India.

### **1. Mar Abdisho Thondanatt**

He was an Indian priest who went to Mosul, Iraq and brought Mar Thoma Rokos Metropolitan in 1861 A.D. But Rokos was sent back to Mosul in 1862. At that time Fr. Anthony Thondanatt went with him to Mosul and to Qudshanis (Now in Turkey) and got consecrated as Metropolitan by Mar Ruwel Shimun Patriarch. He returned to Palai but had persecution from the Roman Catholic. Finally he reached Trichur and died in November 1900.

### **2. Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan**

Mar Bennyamin Shimun Patriarch consecrated Archdeacon Abimalek of Mar Bhisio village as Metropolitan of Malabar and India in December 1907. Mar Timotheus arrived in Trichur on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1908. Unfortunately 3 years after his arrival a group of our Church filed a suit against Mar Timotheus. After 14 years final judgement came in April 1925 and Mar Timotheus got back this Marth Mariam Cathedral and all its properties. He died on 30 April 1945 and was buried here. The road in front of the Metropolitan Palace known as the High Road was named Mar Timotheus High Road by the Corporation of Thrissur.

I would like to report that the last Holy Synod held in Erbil, Iraq 2016 appointed a committee to prepare a report for **declaring Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan as a Saint** in the universal Church. During his 37 years in India he had performed miracles and healed many sick people as testified by Christians, Hindus & Muslims. He had the rare privilege of receiving Jawaharlal Nehru (The first Prime Minister of India) and his daughter Indira Gandhi with her mother Mrs. Kamala in his palace on 29 May 1931.

### **3. Mar Thoma Dharmo Metropolitan**

Mar Thoma Dharmo Metropolitan consecrated by Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun in U.S.A. arrived in India in June 1952 and served the Church for 16 years. He build seminary in Thirur near Thrissur and printed the Hudra (Prayer Book in Syriac language) and trained many clergy with higher theological degrees. He returned from India to Iraq in 1968 and died on 7 September 1969.

### **4. Bishop Poulouse Mar Poulouse**

Bishop Poulouse Mar Poulouse born in India in 1941 and consecrated bishop in Baghdad in 1968. He died on 24 March 1998. Bishop Poulouse Mar Poulouse was the President of World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) in Geneva.

### **5. Mar Timotheus II Metropolitan**

Mar Timotheus II who was born in Thrissur in December 1920 was consecrated Metropolitan by Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun in Baghdad in 1971. The last prelate who died in the Church of the East in India is Mar Timotheus II Metropolitan who died on 6 August 2001 at the age of 81. He was one of the three prelates who worked for the unity of the Church in India in November 1995. He was the Chief Consecrator of Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV in 1976 in England.

In conclusion I would like to say most of these prelates had difficulties and civil suits. The members of the Indian Church are grateful to these prelates who bravely faced oppositions and suffering. We all will pray that they will get the reward in heaven.

## **Patriarchal Sermon**

Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, Thrissur

Friday 27th April 2018

I am so pleased in visiting the blessed parishes of our Church in India. It is the first official opportunity as Patriarch to visit you. With me are His Grace Mar Narsai Bishop of Iran, and His Grace Mar Abris, Bishop of Erbil in Iraq.

I thank God for giving me this precious opportunity to visit the people of our Church in India and to see the fruitful efforts embodied by His Eminence, Metropolitan Mar Aprem, and with the efforts of Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph and Mar Awgin Kuriakose with the roles of blessed priests and dear sisters, and nuns and Church committees who with their sincere efforts cultivate hope and happiness among believers to strengthen their faith, especially the young generation who are the future of the Church by fulfilling these beneficial and spiritual fruitful duties, you will embody the faith of believers in deeds.

The theme of the fig tree in the Gospel of Matthew (21: 18-22) is a good guide for all of us. When a mother holding her sick child comes and ask me to pray on him, I tremble before God and beg and say, "Lord, heal this child so that the faith of the mother can be embodied in us with your heavenly mercy.

I would like to convey to you the greetings of the faithful of Church in Iraq, asking you to pray for them, to be saved from the difficult circumstances that forced many of them to leave the land of their ancestors because of their fear for the future of their generations. After US forces entered into Iraq in 2003, the Iraqi people generally faced difficult and frightening conditions. The biggest loss occurred to Christian citizens.

In 2005, several churches were bombed, including our St. George Church in the Dora District of Baghdad. When I visited the building of the bombed church, I saw the families of the area wrapped around the buildings, surprised and sad and crying . I told them: "They blew up the walls of the church, but they will not be able to blow the walls of our faith and our hearts."

Such conditions have forced many Christians to leave their homeland and migrate to other countries. If the number of christians before 2003 was almost about a million and a half, now it is less than half of million. But they are still living in hope that they will reach the end of the fearful tunnel and there are some signs of hope. The churches are still the spiritual places for them.

How such tragedies happen in Iraq, Syria and other countries in the Middle East in front of the eyes of the international communities, which only held meetings and issue denunciations without tangible results?

Scientists spend billions of dollars to see if there is a spot of life on a planet. Of course, science is a gift of God, but man should pay attention to watering the roots of this beautiful paradise that God gave us, and to protect it from wars, problems, risks and disasters.

### **Award for Dr. P.P. Lizymol M.Sc., Ph.D.**

The President of India presented Nari Puraskar Award to scientist Dr.P.P.Lizymol of Trivandrum on the World Women's Day at New Delhi. She is the wife of Mr.Padeep Mookan, son of Metropolitan Mar Aprem's brother late Prof. Andrews Mookan of Mar Slewa parish, Cochin. Congratulations.

### **Patriarchal Visit to India and UAE**

His Holiness Maran Mar Gewargis III Slewa, Catholicos Patriarch of the Church of the East visited various parishes and institutions in and around Thrissur, Kerala state in South India from April 25 to May 2.

His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa accompanied by Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran and Bishop Dr. Mar Abris Youhana of Erbil left Cochin to Dubai on May 2 and visited our Marth Mariam UAE parish. His Holiness celebrated Holy Qurbana on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May at the Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Sharjah as our rented church in Sharjah is not big enough to hold all our members from India and the Assyrians.

His Holiness and Bishop Mar Abris returned to Erbil on Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph had accompanied His Holiness from Cochin to UAE.

**International Youth Conference  
Thrissur, Kerala, India  
August 21 to 24, 2018**

**9<sup>th</sup> World Syriac Conference  
SEERI, Kottayam, Kerala, INDIA  
8 to 15 September 2018**

**Contact SEERI direct: [seeri@bsnl.in](mailto:seeri@bsnl.in) or [maeri@dataone.in](mailto:maeri@dataone.in)**

**NB: The papers read in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Syriac Conference in SEERI are available in the **THE HARP**, Volume XXX published by SEERI.**



ܩܕܝܫܐ ܐܠܗܐ ܗܝܠ ܥܝܕ

ܡܥܝܢܐ: ܩܕܝܫܐ ܕܥܝܕܐ ܕܝܠܐ ܩܕܝܫܐ

ܩܕܝܫܐ ܕܥܝܕܐ ܕܝܠܐ ܩܕܝܫܐ

**Yellings Toward God Almighty**

**A canticle by Fr. P K Varghese.**

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El Shaddai (God Almighty) help me.

Weak I am make me strong.

El Shaddai the Healer of all

Sick I am heal me.

El Shaddai the bestower

Weary I am comfort me.

El Shaddai the Lord of all

An out-cast I am be a provider of shelter.

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El Shaddai look after me

A thrown-out am I, a refuge I badly in need

El Shaddai the Paraclete

An anchorite am I refresh me.

El Shaddai the Aide

A double - bent am I, straighten me

El Shaddai the Perfect

Hungry am I nourish me.

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ܩܕܝܫܐ ܐܠܗܐ ܥܝܕܐ ܥܝܕܐ

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God Almighty Water of Life

Thirsty am I, provide me a fountain

God Almighty the Affluent

Very rich am I, make me a God-fearing.

God Almighty the Redeemer

An orphan am I, a care-taker be to me

אל גוד צדיק  
God Almighty the Holy One  
שם לב דחילתא חזקתא  
A perverter am I, make me renewed.

אל גוד צדיק  
El Shaddai Bless me  
שם לב דאדור מודקטא  
Upright am I make me a steward  
אל גוד חסדא  
El Shaddai the full of mercy  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Debtor am I wipe away my debts.  
אל גוד חסדא  
El Shaddai the dweller at Zion  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Hermit am I make a propitiator  
אל גוד חסדא  
El Shaddai the trier of hearts  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Innocent am I make me up right.

אל גוד חסדא  
God Almighty support me  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Human being am I make righteous  
אל גוד חסדא  
God Almighty the Justifier  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Wicked am I redeem me  
אל גוד חסדא  
God Almighty the Reliance  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Prodigal am I make me repent  
אל גוד חסדא  
God Almighty the pleasant  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Irritator am I make me a comedian.

אל גוד חסדא  
El Shaddai heal me  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Weak am I make me healthy  
אל גוד חסדא  
El Shaddai the lover of all  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Guide am I give me information  
אל גוד חסדא  
El Shaddai the warrior  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Arrogant am I make me humble  
אל גוד חסדא  
El Shaddai the Creator  
שם לב דאדור חסדא  
Earthly am I make me celestial.

(To be continued)



Holy Qurbana in UAE Parish on Friday 4th May 2018. L to R: Fr. Victor Kollanur, Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin, Bishop Dr. Mar Abris Yuhanan, Fr. Sachin Timothy and Fr. Santhosh Emmatty



Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa lighting the lamp after the Holy Qurbana in UAE parish on Friday 4th May 2018





Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa with His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and the prelates in Metropolitan Palace, Thrissur on 25 April 2018. L to R: Bishop Dr. Mar Abris (Erbil), Bishop Mar Awgin (India), H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan (India), Catholicos Patriarch H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa (Erbil), Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan (India) Bishop Mar Narsai (Tehran)