

# മലയാള സഭ

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May - June 2018

Nos.5 & 6



Honourable Chief Minister Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan congratulates H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan in a meeting at Bolgatty Palace, Kochi on his Arch-episcopal Golden Jubilee already celebrated at Trichur

## VOICE OF THE EAST





**Ordinations at Mar Zaia Cathedral, Modesto (California), on New Sunday: April 8, 2018. Celebrated by His Grace Bishop Mar Awa. The newly ordained are: 1. Front Row (L to R): Readers Isaac Royel, Joseph Yonan. 2. Middle Row (L to R): Sub-deacons Alan Namu and Shaun Toma. 3. Third Row (L to R): Deacons (far left) Oniel Isha, (far right) Brainer Gevorgis and Zaia Merza. Accompanying His Grace is Rev. Qashisha Genard Lazar, the cathedral vicar.**



**Ordinations at Mar Gewargis Parish, Ceres (California), on IV Sunday of Easter, April 22, 2018. Celebrated by His Grace Bishop Mar Awa. The newly ordained are: 1. Front Row: Readers (far left) Edward Yaco, and (far right) Joseph Kamber. 2. Top Row: Deacons (far left) Gvargiz Yaco, and (far right) James Badal. With His Grace is Very Rev. Cor-bishop Auchana Kanoun, parish vicar.**

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

May - June 2018

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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. 65

May - June 2018

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## Editorial

### 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mar Abdisho bar Brikha, Metropolitan

The 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Mar Abdisho bar Brikha, the Metropolitan of Suva (Nisibis) and Armenia will be commemorated and celebrated in Rome on 8-9 November 2018. The scholarly Metropolitan of the Church of the East died in the year 1318 A.D. He was prolific writer in Syriac as well as in Arabic. To honour this important historical milestone for oriental Christians, the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome has made arrangements for the 700<sup>th</sup> death anniversary. His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East from Erbil, North Iraq, Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan of India as well as the members of the Vatican –Assyrian Dialogue Committee headed by Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon will all be in attendance at this rare ecumenical event.

G.P. Badger's '*The Nestorians and their rituals*' (1852) Vol. 2, pp. 361-379, contains an English translation of the Metrical Catalogue of Syriac Writers; pp. 380-422 contains a translation of *Marganitha* (The Pearl). The book titled *Marganitha* was printed by Deacon (later priest) Joseph Kellaitha in Mosul in 1924. Within four years of this publication, Mar Narsai Press in India printed this book in old Aramaic as well as modern Syriac in 1955 with a foreword from His Holiness the late Mar Eshai Shimun, Catholicos-Patriarch. The book contains a list of Patriarchs of the Church of the East. The list of Patriarchs begins with: **1.** Simon Peter **2.** St. Thomas. **3.** Mar Addai **4.** Mar Aggai **5.** Mar Mari and **6.** Mar Abris.

*Marganitha* is considered to be a standard text on theology. This book has been translated into Malayalam and English and published in Trichur. In India, our Sunday School children are aware of this key theological text in the tradition of the Church of the East. Although well known in the Church of the East, knowledge of this great theologian and canonist is limited or almost non-existent among Christians from other Christian denominations.

We pray that the celebrations in Rome in November will provide an opportunity for the members of the Assyrian Church of the East, the Chaldean Catholic Church as well as the members of other Churches to reacquaint themselves with the history and theology of this great writer of texts including *Pardeisad-Eden*, a masterpiece of poetry which is also often referred to as *Maqamat* in Arabic.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

*International News*

**News from the  
Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation**

**www.theacero.org**

**Children's Easter Party, Dohuk, Iraq**

*11 April 2018*

ACERO's Dohuk Chapter has brought the joyous spirit of Easter to some 60 children at our Dohuk Housing Complex in Northern Iraq. With the help and attendance of parishioners and youth from the local Assyrian Church of the East Parish of Mar Narsai, a party was held to celebrate this most Holy Feast of the Resurrection.

The children took part in team games, singing and were gifted with traditional Easter sweets as well as a present for each of them.

We would like to extend our thanks to all Committee members on the ground for their tireless work, most of which is to bring smiles to the faces of our blessed and beloved children, who have at such a young age shown incredible resilience in the face of adversity.

Committee members have reported that a wonderful time was had by all the children as was shown in the smiles on their faces. We thank ACERO for their continued support to help us arrange such celebrations'.

Our work in Northern Iraq is ongoing and our residents in the Complex are well cared for as a result of our supporter's generosity, please continue to support us to keep this and other aid projects going throughout the Middle East.

**Chairman's Easter Message  
Bishop Mar AphremAthniel, Syria**

*8 April 2018*

His Grace Mar Afram Athneil, ACERO's beloved Chairman and Bishop of Syria wishes all our volunteers, donors and supporters a happy and holy Easter and thanks all who have contributed to ACERO's work in the last year; both with your prayers and with your donations.

Without you, we simply could not have been a lifeline for suffering Assyrian, Christians, in the Middle East.

It is our prayer that this Holy feast of the Resurrection brings peace and hope to the persecuted, that they may live in dignity, security and prosperity.

May Christ Jesus, who gave His life and rose for the salvation of humankind bless you all.

## **Aid in Amman, Jordan**

*9 March 2018*

ACERO has not and will not forget the hundreds of needy families currently residing in Jordan. Over the last few months we have reached almost 400 families in countries where the concentration of refugees is at its highest.

Throughout the bitterly cold winter and with living conditions deteriorating, each family was gifted with financial aid to go towards paying bills, heating, groceries and medication.

Our sincerest thanks goes to The Very Rev'd Cor-Bishop Awgin Hurmiz Dawood and Rev'd Fr. Esha and the committee of the Mission of Mart Shmoni who successfully distributed aid to 367 families currently residing in Jordan.

The Very Rev'd Cor-Bishop Awgin has told us:

“ ... again you were able to draw a smile on the face of our refugees in Jordan.....and send a clear message that ‘WE HAVEN’T FORGOTTEN YOU’ ... you were able to help the neediest and the sick ....for this we thank you and pray God will always use you for the glory of His name and give you the courage and wisdom to fulfil His will”.

This project was made possible through the generosity of ACERO project partner, the Assyrian Christian Compassion Ministry (ACCM) of San Jose, USA. ACERO extends its deepest appreciation to the Directors and supporters of the ACCM for their generosity and concern for displaced Assyrian refugees in Jordan and also for their help for refugees in Turkey.

## **Dohuk Aid for School Children/Families and clothing Shipment**

*23 February 2018*

Residents at the ACERO Dohuk Housing Complex have recently benefitted from vital aid for utilities and for the promotion of education with thanks to the generosity of brother Vladimir Moghadassi and all at the Assyrian Evangelical Church of San Jose (AECSJ).

With the generous donation of the AECSJ, members of our Dohuk Chapter were able to supply vital fuel for utilities in the premises. In an area where power outages are extremely common, this basic commodity has been absolutely essential in improving the living conditions of the residents at the complex.

This contribution by the AECSJ has also covered the travel expenses of the 30 school children residing in the complex who will now be able to travel to and from school by bus.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to all at the AECSJ for this act of generosity which has helped so many of our people who need it.

We would also like to thank our donors and supporters in the UK for yet again organising a large shipment of much needed warm clothing and children's clothing to be sent to our complex for distribution. These were a welcomed arrival and all that received them expressed the gratitude especially during these winter months.



## **Education and Aid Project – Kirkuk, Iraq**

*10 February 2018*

We are pleased to announce that over the last few months ACERO has launched and implemented an education and aid programme in the blessed city of Kirkuk.

Bible studies, language and arts and crafts classes have been held at the Assyrian Church of the East Parish of Mar Gewargis under the stewardship of the Rev. Fr. Gewargis Yosip.

ACERO has provided funding for transportation, books and supplies, snacks and toys in order to make it all possible. This culminated in a beautiful Christmas concert put on by the children for their families.

Financial aid was also distributed to families living in the area as the city is experiencing a very difficult economic period.

Rev. Fr. Gewargis Yosip has expressed his gratitude to all at ACERO, namely the executive committee, our Chairman Mar Afram Athneil and His Holiness Mar Gewargis III.

We are grateful to Rev. Fr. Gewargis and his team who have worked very hard to make this possible and for continuing to keep our language and culture alive in our homeland.

## **Dohuk Christmas Food Programme (Barnabas Fund/ACERO Project)**

*24 January 2018*

We are delighted to report that during the blessed festive season, food parcels and presents were distributed amongst families and children in Dohuk, Northern Iraq.

Children in the city were treated to a visit from Santa and welcomed him with laughter and applause and shouted ‘we love Santa’ and asking him ‘what have you brought us?’! Children, parents and the Committee on the ground expressed their gratitude for the festivities stating ‘We thank ACERO and Barnabas for all their help and for bringing smiles to the children’s faces at Christmas’.

Food parcels were distributed to 110 families in both Dohuk and the surrounding towns and villages.

We are once again grateful to Barnabas Fund for their sponsorship of this food program which has helped thousands of families throughout the last year. It has brought an abundance of happiness to men, women and children who have been displaced and who have needed it the most, in particular during the winter months and throughout the festive season.

## **Turkey Christmas Aid Distribution**

*16 January 2018*

We are delighted to report that ACERO aid distributions have taken in place for the very needy and very sick IDPs in Turkey. Due to the high demand and continuing struggles of 200 people currently residing across the country, this is the second distribution of this type in the last three months. Many of those who received help suffer from a variety of illnesses such as diabetes, heart problems and physical disabilities.

It is our policy not to post photos of these most vulnerable persons, however regarding ACEROs help so far, our representative on the ground Danny Lucas writes:

‘I just want to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU for all that ACERO has provided....it has been almost three years since ACERO started helping the people in Turkey.... people needed help for Christmas and they got that help so, thank you so much for being so understanding. 200 people (39 families) got help all over Turkey. You did an amazing job by donating and supporting people, especially in winter. People need help for their bills to be paid, food and their health issues. I would like to thank ACERO from the bottom of my heart for the amazing work that they have done for the past three years. Honestly, no words can describe our gratitude towards this wonderful organization’

We in turn thank Danny and his team for his tireless work in reaching all these families who are spread across the country.

## **Ordinations at Mar Zaia Cathedral, Modesto, California Celebrated by H.G. Mar Awa Royal, Bishop**

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**H.H. Mar Gewarghes III Sliwa and the prelates with members of Mahilasamajam in Bethania Ashram, Thrissur**



**The teachers and the students of Mar Esthapanos Sahda church, Nellangara with Prelates. Mar Esthapanos Sahda Church was selected as the best Sunday School of the year 2017-18**





**Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Fr. Jacks Chandy with the students of Christian Medical College after the Holy Qurbana in Vellore on 1 July 2018. 3rd from the right is Dr. John Jose, Professor in Cardiology Department.**



**H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa and the Prelates with the committee members of Paurasthyanadam Malayalam magazine in connection with the Patriarchal Visit to India in April 2018**





**His Grace Mar Afram Athneil, Chairman of ACERO and the Bishop of Syria wishes the volunteers, donors and supporters of ACERO a happy and holy Easter 2018**



**The Hon. Younathan Betkolia MP, Assyrian Representative in the Iranian Majlis (centre) and Victorian-Assyrian Councillor Joseph Haweil (2nd from left) pictured with Assyrian community leaders at the Grand Opening of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College in Sydney**





H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan distributing plants to Vicar of Mart Mariam Big Church, Fr. Binu Joseph on the World Environmental Day in Mart Mariam Church, Trichur



"Students Education Helping Project"- in 2009 In sight Sister Jincy Othottil speaks on stage. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and the Chairman of Board of Central Trustees are seen in the picture. The meeting was held on 27 May, 2018 at Chaldean Syrian School auditorium



## **H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch in Italy**

His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East has accepted an invitation from His Holiness Pope Francis to join him in the southern Italian Adriatic port city of Bari for an important ecumenical reflection and prayer service with the heads and representatives of Christian Church and Communities on the situation of Christians in the Middle East. Some 19 heads of Churches or their representatives will be in attendance. His Holiness will depart Iraq on 5 July 2018 en route to Italy.

### **A Cardinal for Iraq**

Congratulations to His Beatitude Mar Louis I Raphael Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq who was one among the 14 new cardinals installed by His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican on 29 June 2018. His predecessor Patriarch Mar Emmanuel III Delli was also a Cardinal. Patriarch Sako lives in Baghdad and had visited Kerala last January.

## **News from the World Council of Churches**

### **Pope, WCC leaders share platform at ecumenical meeting**

Pope Francis joined the general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the moderator of its Central Committee at an ecumenical meeting during his landmark 21 June visit to the WCC to celebrate its 70th anniversary at an ecumenical meeting in Geneva.

### **Pope Francis gets WCC gift cross symbolizing disability, carved by Kenyan artist with a message**

Losing his hearing and speaking ability as a young man has not deterred Kenyan Karim Okiki in his wood carving, and a symbolic sculpted cross he presented to Pope Francis on his visit to the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva represents people with disabilities everywhere. "I would like this cross to speak to Pope Francis and the churches worldwide on the need to embrace persons with disabilities especially the deaf and hard of hearing as part of the church today," said Okiki.

### **Pope Francis affirms Catholic Church's commitment to the ecumenical journey**

The thirst for material things blinds human beings to their companions and that indifference abounds in the world's streets today, Pope Francis said in a homily at the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva today.

### **Visiting the World Council of Churches: Pope Francis arrives in Geneva for "Voyage towards unity"**

Pope Francis has arrived in Geneva on what he has described as a "voyage towards unity" to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the World Council of Churches, which brings together 350 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing more than 550 million Christians in over 120 countries.

*Indian Archdiocese News*

## **Educational Scholarships Program in India**

The Women Youth's Association Central committee started their long cherished project- "Students Education Helping Project"- in 2009. Every year we used to admit around 25 students in this project for their 5 years studies from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard from poor families of various parishes of our Indian archdiocese. Now 5 batches of students (125 students) has already completed their studies (from 8th to +2 courses) under this project and some of them from our first batch have completed their post graduations and some of them are married and some of them are working. We are very happy to see such developments in their lives all through these years. And we should praise our Lord Almighty for giving us such an opportunity to help them in one way or another for the last ten years. May the Lord help us to render this service without any interruption and hope that with the help of our church people we can continue it.

We would like to inform you that all our students passed to the next grade. One student from St Thomas church Pattikadu got full A+ in SSLC and one from Mar Narsai Parish Nadathara got state rank in Sunday school examination. Our kids used to do well in their public examinations. This year we have 134 students studying in different grades. We are supporting Differently Abled students without considering their age. We also like to help some students who are studying for professional course from very low economic back ground.

We are appointed 30 caretakers (ladies from our various parishes) to support this educational project. We are giving them 4 or 5 students each and they will contact these students and support them physically and mentally. They are doing a great work always motivating our students. They devote time, money for them and have a lot of concerns for these kids. We are giving some orientation classes, personality development and carrier guidance to these kids.

The main Gen. Convener of this project is Mrs Binu Joshy (Former Gen. Secretary) and the Co-Conveners are Vishy Tharyan, Geemol Joseph, Gigi Chacko and Limsy Johnson. They are rendering their service to this project abundantly. Our present Central Executive committee (Mrs Ligi Thomas- Gen. Secretary) members are supporting them all to render this service. We are spending approximately 5000 rupees for each student in a year, for the purpose we started one specific account at **South Indian Bank, High Road Branch**, under the Name of "**Students Education Fund**" and its A/c No is **0860 05300001071**.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 we distributed the school kits and fees to those who are enlisted in this project. And our Patron H.B. Dr Mar Aprem Thirumeni presided over this function and Chairman Mr. M A Thomas felicitated the same. Dr. Paul O Raphel, Professor Dept. of Anesthesiology and Critical care at Amala Institute of Medical Science Thrissur, gave a lecture on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to our kids and their parents. This class helped them a lot to know about a lifesaving technique useful in emergency situation.

We may tell you that your supports are very important for us to undertake all these services. I take this opportunity to request your help and support for this educational project. I would like to thank Marth Mariam parish UAE, one of the main supporters of our education project in last many years. We are also getting support from our Church members who are living here and there. Our Assyrian people from aboard especially the Australians are supporting a lot to this project. Thank you very much for your financial support for our Students Education Programme.

*Sr Jincy Othottil (President WYA)*

## **Donations for Dialysis**

Mar Addai Shleeha Parish, Paravattani donated more than a hundred thousand Rupees for the dialysis of diabetic patients at Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital. Some other parishes cut their budget for celebrations. The hospital is grateful for the co-operation from different parishes in helping our diabetic patients requiring dialysis.

## **Christian Medical College, Vellore**

The council meeting of the CMC, Vellore was held on 28 and 29 July. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Fr. Jacks Chandy represented our Church in the Council. Holy Qurbana was celebrated at the CMC Chapel on 1 July for the staff and students from our church studying or working there.

A special groundbreaking ceremony was held in the CMC Chittor (Andhra state) campus. Mar Aprem Metropolitan who is a member of the CMC Council for the last 40 years took part in the ground breaking for the new buildings. The function was concluded by the prayer and benediction by Mar Aprem Metropolitan. Our Church is one of the Churches which run the famous Christian Medical College and Hospital, in Vellore, Tamilnadu as well as the vast 600 acre Chittor Campus in the neighbouring Andhra state.

## **June 13 Birthday Celebrations**

The birthday of Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan was celebrated on 13 June when he completed 78 years of age. The Metropolitan distributed books and study materials to poor children at a small function in the Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital of which the Metropolitan is the

Patron President. Mar Aprem Metropolitan is the oldest prelate in our church universally. The Catholicos-Patriarch is the second and Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis of Arizona is the third. Bishop Mar Yosip Sargis living in California is the fourth. All the rest are below 65 and above 30 years of age.

## **Commemoration of St Thomas**

St. Thomas' Day was celebrated in almost all denominations in Kerala on 3 July 2018. Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated Holy Qurbana in the Mar Thoma Shleeha Church, Pattikad which was established in 1800 A.D; 15 years before Mart Mariam Cathedral was built in Thrissur. Mar Thoma Shleeha is respected all over India as the Apostle of India. It is believed that after his first mission to Persia when he worked near Urmia St.Thomas returned to Jerusalem. Then in 52 A.D.he made his second missionary journey. In Kerala he established seven churches. He was martyred in 72 AD in Mylapore near Madras where we have one church named Mar Qardagh Church, which was the first church built by Mar Aprem Metropolitan in 1969.

## **Sporting Congratulations**

Kezia, daughter of John Paul Emmatty of UAE Parish was awarded the National Bronze Medal in 100 Mtrs. free style held in Poona on 24 to 29 June 2018.Hearty congratulations!

## **English Prayer Book**

An English prayer book, translated from Malayalam and written by the late Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan, is available at our Book Depot in Mart Mariam Big Church, Thrissur. The cost for abroad is \$7+\$3 for air mail postage.

## **A Keralite Bishop in England**

The Rev. Dr. John Perumbalath was consecrated a Bishop in the Church of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He is the first person from Kerala to be a bishop in the Church of England. Bishop John was consecrated with two other bishops on 3 July 2018. In the Catholic Church (Syro Malabar Church) there is already one bishop from Kerala, in Bristol, England consecrated by Cardinal George Alenchery.

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



# Kezia

D/o John Paul Emmatty  
UAE Parish



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: محبوبہ لہذا ہے۔ یہ ہے۔

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## LISTEN TO MY VERSE OF REAL REPENTENCE

**Fr. P K Varghese**

I am the one who lost his Paradise because of his rib  
I am the one who committed crime second in the world  
I am the one who was saved of deluge and incurred a curse  
I am the one who became conceived in secret and responsible for it  
I am the one who revealed the secret of the power to Dalila  
I am the King who saw married woman bathing and married her  
I am the servant of prophet who took money from Naaman  
I am the one who received of gold from the God's people and made  
the calf.

[illegible]

I am the King who mortified infants in Bethlehem  
I am the one who first denied then gave baptism to him  
I am the fisherman who asked Jesus to leave the place  
I am the young man who did not sell all to follow Jesus  
I am the apostle who sat under a fig tree formerly  
I am the apostle who denied his maestro and repented later  
I am the governor who crucified the Nazarene with no justice  
I am the apostle who didn't believe his resurrection before.

**40th Day of Demise**  
**17.06.2018**

**Born on**  
**15.03.1927**

**Died on**  
**09.05.2018**



**CHINNAMMA**  
**W/o Thermadom John**  
**(Retd. H.M. Chaldean Syrian LP School)**





The Indian prelates with H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa in the Metropolitan Palace, Thrissur in connection with the Patriarchal Visit to India in April 2018. L to R: H.L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa and H.L. Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa



The Chairman and the members of Board of Central Trustees with H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa in Trichur in April 2018 in connection with the Patriarchal Visit to India