

# ܡܠܚܡܐ ܕܝܠܕܝܢܐ

Vol 66

January - February

Nos 1 & 2



Awarding the 9th COSINE award of the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School to Bharat Ratna Prof. Dr. CNR Rao by H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan at JANCASR, Bangalore on January 17, 2019

## VOICE OF THE EAST



His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM speaks at the Youth Meet of the Assyrian Church of the East Youth Association, Sydney on February 19,



His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Archbishop of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon leads discussions on the establishment of the Nisibis Assyrian Theological College, Sydney, on January 17, 2019

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

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# Voice of the East

**Vol. 66**

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## **Editorial**

### **Renewing Gandhi's Opposition to Alcohol Consumption**

Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of India, spoke vehemently against alcohol. He was shot dead on 30 January 1948 within six months of the independence of India on 15 August 1947. If he had lived longer and continued teaching people about the evils of drinking, perhaps prohibition would have been enforced throughout the country.

Some people do not want to live without drink. Just think about the tragedy of families living with one drunkard. There is no peace of mind in such homes. All religious leaders have spoken against drinking and the evil habits which spoiled the whole world.

I despair for families experiencing debt and sickness because the father of the family is a drunkard. Nowadays there are clubs and other places which encourage social drinking. At the same time there are people like me who preach against alcohol and try to save people from the evils of drinking. Still nobody is succeeding to save our generation from the evil of drinking.

Governments do not stop drinking. They generate revenue from the excise duty of liquor. But the sad reality is that the government has to spend more money on the treatment of the people who become sick by drinking. Think about the number of accidents caused by drunk-drivers. Even within the office or homes some silly quarrels take place due to the consumption of alcohol and end up with attacks on those who come to make peace.

Whether one is a Christian or not drinking is seen in all groups. The saddest scene is that our youngsters have begun to drink as early as their school years. Not only boys but girls also are involved in drinking at private places or Clubs. Unless the government takes strong action the efforts of myself and my colleagues in this campaign cannot produce sufficient results.

Will my readers all over the world join with me in praying for the people around the globe? Only God's intervention can save our generation from the evil of drinking. We need somebody like Mahatma Gandhi to take up this cause and renew our generation.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

## *International News*

### **Youth and Children Ministries Resume in Sydney**

In the week starting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018, the youth and children's ministries commenced in Sydney whereby hundreds of youth gathered on Tuesday and likewise hundreds of children gathered on the following day, Wednesday as they resumed their weekly spiritual and social programs.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February ACEYA (Assyrian Church of the East Youth Association) Sydney held its Youth Meet, presided over by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM and clergy. Hundreds of youth attended the Meet in listening to His Beatitude's keynote address about the challenging times we as Christians are facing in the society. With helpful tips, His Beatitude worked through the challenges with the youth and delivering guidance on coping mechanisms to persevere in faith.

His Beatitude also seized the opportunity to announce the upcoming consecration of Reverend Chorbishop Narsai Youkhanis to the ranking of Bishop, to take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Sydney, Australia.

The youth had the chance to fellowship afterwards with one another and share in a delightful meal together as a family in Christ.

On the following day, the Assyrian Church of the East Children's Association (ACECA) Sydney recommenced their weekly children's bible studies where more than 300 children gathered together at St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School taught by more than 40 volunteers who have committed to teaching the Holy Scriptures to all children in preschool and primary school.

The Church hierarchy in Sydney take this opportunity to thank all volunteers in both ACEYA and ACECA for their hard work and dedication in teaching and working for the youth, children and the wider community.

### **Dean Appointed for Nisibis Assyrian Theological College in Sydney**

On Thursday 17 January 2019 His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Archbishop of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon held the third meeting to discuss the establishment and academic teaching commencement of the Nisibis Assyrian Theological College in Sydney. During this meeting Professor Dr. Matthew Del Nevo was appointed as Dean of the theological college.

The meeting was held at the St Narsai Assyrian Christian College's Horsley Park campus and included His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya bishop of Melbourne and New Zealand, Reverend Chorbishop Narsai Youkhanis and Reverend Father Shamuel Shamuel.

The meeting covered agenda items that addressed administrative aspects of the College, teaching professors both from within the Assyrian Church globally and from sister institutions, and respective units offered.

His Eminence Mar Meelis stressed the importance of this College to the newly appointed Dean, as a college with the vision to teach the holy doctrines of the Assyrian Church of the East to its students who will come from all paths of life; young men who wish to take on high rankings in the Church such as deacon hood, priesthood, etc., teachers who wish to teach Christian Studies at both St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School and St Narsai Assyrian Christian College and similarly with all other schools to be open by the Archdiocese in the near future, youth workers who wish to lead bible studies for the association.

This meeting was a follow-up to the two previously held in both Sydney Divinity College and at St Narsai College in June of 2018. These meetings were accompanied by Their Graces Dr. Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and secretary to the Holy Synod, Mar Paulus Benjamin bishop of Eastern USA, Mar Abris Youkhanan Auxiliary Bishop of Erbil, Mar Benyamin Elya Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand, Reverend Archdeacon Dr. William Toma and Reverend Chorbishop Narsai Youkhanis whom met with Dr. Diane Speed, Dean of Sydney Divinity College in Sydney. This meeting covered official and administrative topics such as registration, finances, etc.

Sydney College of Divinity, headed by Dean Diane Speed, governs the following institutions: Australian College of Christian Studies (ACCS), (formerly Emmaus Bible College) Australian College of Ministries (ACOM), Catholic Institute of Sydney (CIS), Eva Burrows College (formerly Booth College), Nazarene Theological College (NTC), NSW College of Clinical Pastoral Education (NSWCCPE), St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College (SAGOTC), St Cyril's Coptic Orthodox Theological College (SCTC), and now Nisibis Assyrian Theological College.

Avenues that have been explored across the three meetings also include online/distance education for those living abroad having certificates recognised internationally and dormitories for international students who will wish to live on campus.

## **Sydney's Children Enjoy Second Annual VBS**

The Assyrian Church of the East Children's Association (ACECA) in Sydney held its second annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) from Monday 7th January till Friday 11th January 2019 on the premises of St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School, Greenfield Park.

The “Shipwrecked” themed event catered for 200 children that often attend the association’s regular weekly Wednesday night ministry. The VBS included five days of fun and interactive learning, starting at Castaway Sing and Play in the morning and ending with Sail Away Send-off in the afternoons. Stations throughout the day included: Bible Discovery, Ship Rec Games, Imagination Station and Kid Vid Cinema where seven groups rotated daily to cover all content. Children learnt that when you are lonely, when you are powerless, when you do wrong, Jesus rescues!

The children became buddies with the daily bible point characters; Hope the jaguar, Beacon the toucan, Ray the manta ray, Guac the Iguana and Moe the sloth, taking them home with them daily. The children also enjoyed scrumptious treats and lunches each day fitting for anyone who is shipwrecked on an uncharted island.

ACECA extends its immense gratitude to all the volunteers who worked behind the scenes leading up to the event, and all those volunteering teachers who lead their stations throughout the week, Without the help and assistance of these volunteers events like these would be near impossible.

## **Syro-Malabar Church Gets New Diocese in Canada**

Mississauga, Canada was until now an apostolic exarchate, and ecclesiastical territory that is similar to a diocese but without the status of a diocese. An exarchate is raised a diocese when the number of faithful increases and setting up of parishes and other structures.

Mississauga was made an exarchate on August 6, 2015 with Monsignor Kalluvilil as its apostolic exarch.

The diocese has jurisdiction over its people living in Canada. It has nine provinces, 12 parishes, 34 mission centers catering to more than 20,000 faithful. The exarchate that started with two priests now has 23. Seven people are getting trained to be priests. The diocese is also served by 12 sisters from three congregations. It has four churches, including the cathedral.

## **ACERO’s Work in Dohuk, Iraq**

A Report from ACERO Headquarters - London, UK

Our final report from the festive period is from the activities and distributions held at our Dohuk Housing complex. The Complex continues to be a hub of activity for both its residents and our people living in the surrounding villages.

Between November and December a total of 105 families received two lots of food parcel distributions thanks to the generous donations of local evangelical societies and our partners

at Barnabas Fund. In addition to this we thank Pastor Sameer Hanna of the United Christian Church who has also committed to supporting our families living at the complex. With this help we have been able to provide utilities and food parcels as well as covering transport costs for our children to travel to and from school.

To celebrate this most blessed time of year and to welcome a new year of hope, ACERO also hosted a children Christmas party at the Complex where the children enjoyed fun and games, a visit from Santa and a gift for each of them.

We thank ALL our partners, supporters, donors and friends for making this all possible. Your generosity has meant that we were able to bring the magic and spirit of this blessed time of year to hundreds of our people across the Middle East. God bless you all.

## **ACERO Chairman Launches Armenia Appeal**

His Grace Bishop Mar AframAthneil, Bishop of Syria, has today launched one of our largest campaign's to date, the 'Armenia Appeal' with a video message.

In the multi-phase project we will build the capacity of the historic Assyrian community of Armenia improving access to educational facilities, places of worship and livelihood-generating initiatives.

Phase 1 is the renovation of a two-floor building into an Assyrian kindergarten for 120 children in the village of Verin Dvin. You can find full project details here:

<https://www.theacero.org/acero-launches-armenia-appeal/>

Your support is vital. Donate at [www.theacero.org/donate](http://www.theacero.org/donate) and make sure to leave a note identifying that your donation is for the 'Armenia Appeal'.

We need your help. Please share this Appeal with friends and family today.

## **Holy Synod in Erbil**

The Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East will be convened in Erbil, (KRG), Iraq from 12-19 May, 2019. This will be the third Holy Synod after the consecration of the present Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa. The first Holy Synod followed the consecration of His Holiness on 27 September 2015. The second Holy Synod was held in the same place as in November 2016.





H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan leading *Aneedhe* prayers in the cemetery of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort, Thrissur on March 1, 2019





Minister of State Tourism Sri. K.J. Alphons Kannamthanam inaugurates the 'Atal Tinkering Lab' at Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School, Thrissur - January 23, 2019



Opposition leader of the Kerala Legislative Assembly Mr. Ramesh Chennithala speaks at the public meeting of the festival of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Parish on January 13, 2019





Dr. Paul O. Raphael receiving 'The Public Awareness' award at the meeting of Annual Conference of Indian Society of Anesthesiologists (ISACON)



Bharat Ratna Prof. Dr. CNR Rao receiving the COSINE Award from H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan in the presence of Rev. Fr. Lijo Raphale (Ph.D. student and the Vicar of Bangalore parish) pictured next to the Metropolitan, Dr. Aby Paul, extreme right (Principal of Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School) and the teachers from the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School





H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the distribution of the flood relief fund with two Episcopas collected by the Charitable Trust at Chaldean Syrian School Hall, Thrissur



H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan talks with Assyrians from California Sargina Tamimi Silvanian along with Lily and Marc at the Metropolitan Place, Thrissur on Saturday February 23rd, 2019

## **Consecration of a Bishop in Sydney**

The Consecration of Chorbishop Narsai Youkhanis will take place in Sydney, Australia on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2019. H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa will be the chief consecrator. Bishops from different part of the world of the Assyrian Church of the East are expected to participate in this joyful and blessed event. It has been fixed in Sydney because many of the Chorbishop's relatives are from Australia itself. His diocese will be decided by the Holy Synod meeting in Erbil from 12-19 May 2019.

## **Consecration Anniversary of Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis**

48 years have passed after the late St Mar Yosip Khnanisho Metropolitan of blessed memory consecrated Edward Khamis as bishop for Basra in Iraq. He was a High School teacher in Habbaniyah and was 30 years old. Soon afterwards he was sent to America and organised churches in Chicago, California, Canada etc. At present he is the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest prelate of our Church universally. The first and second are Metropolitan Mar Aprem and Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa respectively. At present he is the Bishop residing in Phoenix, Arizona with responsibilities in Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange County etc.

### ***Indian Archdiocese News***

## **Inauguration of Atal Tinkering Lab in Chaldean Syrian HSS, Thrissur by the Minister Alphons Kannamthanam**

### **The Clarion Call of Technological Revolution**

**ATAL TINKERING LAB** is a unique initiative propelled by the Central Government in order to motivate students to involve in scientific innovation and creative brainstorming sessions. It has been titled after the great visionary Prime minister, Sri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee who had always been unique and vibrant in all his endeavors for the nation. The educational and scientific demands of the country was well delivered by the NITI Aayog plans to start up 500 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) every year in the selected schools around the country. These efforts from the Center have been worth appreciable as the ATL labs had the capacity to achieve:

- The vision of the scheme is to 'Cultivate 1 Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators.'
- Also, these laboratories will provide young candidates with a creative work place for shaping their ideas by hands.

- The aim of the labs is to educate 10 lakh students as 'Neoteric Innovations.'
- All the students from classes 6 to 12 can be benefited from these labs.

Our school again rose to national level recognition with our proposal being formally accepted and positively acknowledged by the authorities. The lab was formally opened for the student community in an elegant ceremony in which we had the auspicious presence of one of the greatest luminaries that our state has provided. A man of both words and deeds, Sri. Alphons Kannamthanam was the star of the day with his mesmerizing words which had the magic of positive transformation among our students.

The grand ceremony held of 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2019, threw open new windows of opportunities for our students which could make them think and choose challenging and spirited careers in Scientific and Technological research.

## **Bharat Ratna Prof. Dr. C.N.R. Rao Receives COSINE Award in JNCASR, Bangalore**

### ***COSINE Award 2017- A Journey of Educational Transformation***

Apart from scholastic excellence, a value - oriented positive transformation is what we expect to happen in our students. We have always designed strategies to cater this ultimate need of education. COSINE has been one among these. COSINE is a revolutionary name which brought a flurry of fresh change of ideas and thoughts in many. The COSINE Award instituted by the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School has been the reason for the immense positive transformation in our youths, which they could decode from the sparkling rays of positiveness emitted from its recipients, who have always been the stalwarts of excellence. In fact this transformation has made our students lead a moral life of values.

Though all the COSINE Award ceremonies have provided much ecstasy and cherishing memories, the most recent one was something that has really touched all our hearts. Starting from minutest possibilities, we were in the midst of great uncertainties until the day we presented the award to that legendary personality. It was a rare day of ultimate recognition and honor for the entire Chaldean community as the living legend of Global Scientific arena, the Life time Professor, Bharat Ratna. Dr. CNR Rao was honored by our COSINE Award. To add more joy, the entire award ceremony was hosted by CNR himself in the auspicious premises of one of the premier institutions for scientific research, the JNCASR (Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advance Scientific Research, Bangalore). It was a call of courtesy from his part as this genius was forced to cancel the visit to our school and receive the award in the auspice of the enlightened science aspirants of our town. We, a team of thirty five left for Bangalore to add color to one of our greatest dream. We were blessed



enough to directly have the patronage of H.G Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan who joined us at the venue. His Grace was given a royal welcome by CNR Rao himself and other delegates associated with the institution.

After a brief session in his official chamber where CNR revealed to H.G. Dr. Aprem, his personal affinity to the improvement of Science and technology in India, he also made us explore through the vast collection of accolades that he has received since his scientific expedition started. Later we were guided to one of the famous conference halls in that campus, the Nevil Mott Hall, which spectacted the most important event of the day. The ceremony was presided by our Patron. His presidential address made the elite audience present there which included the current President of JNCASR, get acquainted with the People's Bishop. The award was presented to Dr. CNR Rao by H.G Dr. Mar Aprem which followed a flurry of honors by other delegates, Rev Fr. Lijo Raphael, Vicar. Bangalore Parish, Dr. Aby Paul. Principal, Chaldean Syrian HSS, Smt. Remi Chungath I, HM and PTA representatives. The final interactive session with our students made our team think and learn directly from the legend.

We believe that the COSINE Award 2017 presented to Dr. CNR Rao on January 17, 2019 changed the entire grandeur of this award with a whole wave of recognition being flourished upon the great workmanship and service that our school and community have been delivering since time immemorial.

## **Anneedhe (Prayers for the Departed)**

Mar Aprem Metropolitan is leading prayers after Holy Qurbana in the cemetery of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort, Thrissur, Kerala, India. The cemetery was full of people. The Vicar of the parish Fr. Vinod Timothy and Associate Vicar Fr. Davis V. Chungath, along with Deacon V.V. Joseph and Sister Dr. Jincy Othottil and others assisted in the service on the Anneedhe Friday on 1 March 2019.

## **Medical Camp in Mar Geevarghese Parish, Cheroor**

On Sunday March 3, 2019 a Free Medical Camp was conducted in the Maitri Hall of the Mar Geevarghese parish in Cheroor arranged by the Central Youth Association and Women Youths Association. Free eye checks for cataract was done along with diabetes checks. Mar Aprem Metropolitan spoke on the occasion appreciating the good work done by young people. The Vicar Fr. Nipun Arackel welcomed the Metropolitan to the parish to encourage the youth well as all who took pains to help people. Mrs. Sheeba Babu, Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Thrissur Corporation inaugurated the function.

## **Clergy Gathering at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church Festival**

On 12 January 2019 the Mar Yohannan Mamdhana parish festival had a special programme to honour all the clergy of our church with their families. It was the first time a parish honoured all our clergy and gave them gifts. Mar Aprem Metropolitan assisted by Mar Awgin Episcopa put shawls on all clergy individually. There were a total of 57 clergy honoured on that day.

The presence of the Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Legislative Assembly Mr. Ramesh Chennithala was a surprise. He felicitated our Church and its activities. The meeting was concluded by a vote of thanks by Fr. Binu Ponnokaren (Secretary of the Clergy Council).

## **Inauguration of the Charity Fund Distribution in Connection with the Kerala Floods**

H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurated the distribution of the fund along with the two Episcopas collected by the Charitable Trust in connection with the flood relief to the effected members of the Church in India. The amount distributed is about Three Million Rupees (30,00,000/-).

## **ISACON Award to Church Member**

The "Public Awareness" Award has been given to Dr. Paul O. Raphael at the ISACON meeting. He is a Professor in the Anaesthesia Department in Amala Hospital, Trichur. He is the elder son of Adv. O.P. Raphael and Dr. Leela Raphael who are very active in our Church for more than 60 years.

## **Visit of Sargina Tamimi of California**

Mrs Sargina, daughter of late Fred Tamimi, an Assyrian author, came to Thrissur along with Lily and Mark. Mar Aprem Metropolitan received them at the Metropolitan Palace in Thrissur and showed the Assyrian Manuscripts preserved in the Building for the last 91 years ever since late Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan built this Metropolitan Palace which remains a historic monument in the city. She and her companions were a trip around the world in a ship. Mrs Sargina stated that she was baptised in the Mar Addai Church in Turlock, California. Mar Aprem responded by saying that many people in India has heard about the Mar Addai Church in Turlock, California, because that was the church in which the new Metropolitan of Malabar & India Mar Thoma Darmo was consecrated Metropolitan by Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun in May 1952.

## 100 Year Old letter from Theodore Roosevelt

# Contribution of Ex-President Roosevelt from the Nobel Peace Prize for the Christian Sufferers in the Near East


Contribution of Ex-President Roosevelt  
from the Nobel Peace Prize  
for the Christian Sufferers  
in the Near East

**NORTH SHORE BANK**  
OYSTER BAY, N.Y.

OYSTER BAY, N.Y. Aug 20 1918

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Paul Shimmer \$1000.00

One thousand DOLLARS

No. 65  Shevane Roosevelt

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Office of  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

New York Office  
347 MADISON AVENUE

August 22nd, 1918.

My dear Mr. Shimmon:

I take pleasure in enclosing herewith my check No. 65 on the North Shore Bank, to your order for \$1,000., covering my contribution from the Nobel Peace Prize Fund, to be used among the Armenian and Assyrian Christians. I send this through you because so far as I know you have never sought to excuse or justify what I regard as our inexcuseable dereliction in duty in having failed to declare war on Turkey and therein having failed to play a manly part in the effort permanently to remedy the hideous wrongs of the subjects of the Turk in the only really effective way by destroying Turkish rule.

Faithfully yours,

Urethane Rosin-  
-

has been in what long X

MR. PAUL SHIMMON  
Room 9048  
1 Madison Avenue  
New York City

*(Extract from another letter dated July 10, 1918)*

“The high devotion and gallantry shown by the Assyrian Christians and the Armenians, have commanded the deepest sympathy and the most unqualified admiration of the American people. As I listened to your account of the dreadful situation of your people, my heart was so moved that I wished it were possible for all our nation to have vividly brought home to them the facts that you presented.

With all my heart I wish you God Speed in the work of relief you have undertaken for the Christians in Western Asia. And particularly do I wish your committee success in your effort to raise \$30,000,000 for the maintenance of the tens of thousands of Christians, and the other refugees and sufferers, wherever found—in the Caucasus, in Persia, behind the British lines, or in the interior of Turkey”.

## **New Church in Diana, KRG, Iraq**

On May 15, 2019 (the third day of our Holy Synod), the new church of Mar Gewargis the Martyrin Diana will be consecrated by His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Slewa, with the participation of all the prelates.

## **CORRECTION**

*“Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan handing over the cheque of Rs. 10,000/- to Mr. M A Thomas, Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees for the flood relief..... ”*

Please read as **Rs. 50,000/-** of cheque instead of 10,000/- in the above caption published in our previous issue Nov - Dec 2018

We regret for the inconvenience caused to our readers and expecting your sincere cooperation in future also.

*Voice of the East*



The 2nd Annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) of the Assyrian Church of the East Children's Association (ACECA) in Sydney held at St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School, Greenfield Park, January 7-11, 2019



Renovating a two-floor building into an Assyrian kindergarten in the village of Verin Dvin, Armenia supported by ACERO's Armenia Appeal



# Clergy Meet - 2019

## Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Parish Festival



Geethas