

# صوت المشرق

Vol 66

March - April 2019

Nos 3 & 4



His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa with Corepiscopa Rev. Fr. Narsai Youkhanis. Fr. Narsai Youkhanis will be consecrated as Bishop at Australia on 26 May 2019

## VOICE OF THE EAST





**H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Mar Markose Sleeha Church Hall, Mundoor, Thrissur along with Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Fr. Binu Joseph, Vicar Fr. Jacks Chandy and the members of Mar Awgin Thuvana Church on 20 March 2019**



**Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran pictured with Hon. Yonathan Betkolia MP, Representative of Assyrians in the Iranian Parliament and clergy at an ecumenical Easter function hosted at the Assyrian Evangelical Church in Tehran**

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

March - April 2019

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# Voice of the East

**Vol. 66**

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## **Editorial**

### **Election**

In India we are occupied with election season; including church elections and a General Election to elect a Prime Minister. Today I went out and voted. My voting preference is a secret. Members of our church belong to different political parties and some of them are well versed in the political field. They know the weaknesses and strengths of the candidates contesting elections. Some times members of our church contest elections. Perhaps in personal lives and principles, our church member may not be better than other candidates. Each individual has a responsibility to wisely and prayerfully vote for the candidate they believe is most suitable. As a prelate, any personal views I hold along with my voting preferences are kept to myself ensuring that the church remains bipartisan.

Perhaps a candidate belonging to the Hindu or Islamic faiths may be a superior candidate to a member of my church. Whom should I vote for? Can I vote for a drunkard? Some may not drink publically, but enact lawsto make money by giving licences for a bar near a school or a church. There are some restrictions and regulations that liquor shops should not be near schools. Some young students drink publically in school grounds and youth clubs without the knowledge of parents.

By the time the parents happen to hear about the drinking habits of their children, it is too late. Many parents are crying and asking the Church to cure their sons from such evils of drinking. There are de-addiction centres, but not enough to save our youngsters from addiction to drink.

The same is true of Church elections also. Governmental elections and the election of Church Trustees are both occurring in April-May. I pray our beloved Jesus Christ to intervene in these elections and to elect the best Trustees and Parish Council members.

Some individuals with excellent leadership skills are hesitant to work for their church or nation. Some people seek these posts for the glory of power and position. They may be seeking some personal reward for the service they render to the church or the society. But we should remember that some of the duties we are called upon to render are of a voluntary nature. So we should render service without expecting reward.

I plead with our church members to forget and forgive the grievances against each other. In canvassing for a candidate some exaggerate the grievances against other candidates contesting the election. Following the elections, it is important to seek normalcy. We have to build bridges. We have to clarify misunderstandings. We have to work together for the betterment of the society by eradicating all kinds of confusion. We need a positive approach. Now there are no two groups. There are no rivals. We must work together to establish strong relations in our church, in our neighbourhoods and in our society.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

**PATRIARCHATE  
of the  
HOLY APOSTOLIC CATHOLIC  
ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST  
ERBIL - IRAQ**



بطريركية  
كنيسة المشرق الآشورية  
اربيل - العراق

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## **Patriarchal Epistle for the Feast of the Holy Resurrection 2019**

*"Then Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen our Lord" (St. John 20:18)*

Our venerable brothers of the Holy Synod, the metropolitans and bishops;  
the reverend presbyters and the elect deacons, and the faithful sons and daughters of the Holy Apostolic  
Catholic Church of the East:

*May the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed upon all of you.*

*"But on the first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and saw the stone taken away from the sepulcher. Then she ran, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said unto them, 'They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him'" (St. John 20:1-2). The disciples and the early believers were in such a state of sorrow and shock—sing that Christ died and was buried—even as the promises and covenants of God dictated that the Christ should suffer all of these sorrowful events for the salvation of humanity. Jesus foretold to them beforehand saying: "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again," (St. Matthew 20:18-19). But our merciful and loving Lord who said, "Behold, I am with you all the days, even unto the end of the age," suddenly appeared—He Who was the Creator—in the form of a gardener to Mary Magdalene saying: "Go to my brethren and say unto them: 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, to My God and to your God'" (St. John 20:17).*

Our Lord was also seen to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, and they said unto Him: *"Remain with us" (St. Luke 24:19)*, and Jesus rested with them in their house breaking the Bread of Salvation to them. He indicated that He is neither a guest nor a stranger, but the Lord of the house and the Savior of the world. In like manner even to those in the Upper Room, Christ said: *"Peace be with you" (St. John 20:19)*.

Behold, today even all of us during this whole season of the Great Fast with special prayers have walked as pilgrims with Mary Magdalene to the holy tomb of our Lord—His holy Church—in order that we too might extend the proclamation of salvation to one another. We remain with the disciples in Emmaus in order to supplicate Christ: *"Remain with us!"* that we may partake of the



Bread of Life. We join the holy apostles in the Upper Room in order to receive our Lord's peace that we may endure in His holy peace.

On this holy day of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from among the dead, let us pray to God the Father, while supplicating Christ, that in the same manner that he took the whip and purified the temple of God in which is offered prayer and praise to God, that He might in His manifold mercy soften the hardened heart of modern man. May He bring him to the realization that the extension of the peace which our Lord gave to remain with us comes about by the purifying of the conscience from all enmity and hatred, and not by ravaging wars, nor by the fashioning of weapons which destroy humanity.

In conclusion, we reiterate our prayer to God the Father that in His many mercies He may guide humanity on the way of love and peace. On the occasion of this most holy feast, we extend to all of you, the children of the Church of the East, a blessed Feast of the Resurrection, in the aspiration that you will all fittingly celebrate this holy Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with spiritual joy and in perfect harmony, wherever you may be living, along with all of our brother Christians across the globe.

We pray for the peace and tranquility of the whole world at large, and in the countries of the Middle East in particular.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all forever and ever; Amen.

*Given at our Patriarchal Cell, Erbil, Iraq, on the Feast of the Resurrection, 2019 A.D.*



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Sliwa".

✠ Gewargis III Sliwa

*By Grace: Catholicos-Patriarch  
of the Assyrian Church of the East*

### ***International News***

## **Latest from H.G. Mar Aprim Khamis and the Diocese of Western USA**

From: Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis

To: Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Beloved brother in Christ,

This morning I received with thanks your letter dated 24 April, 2018 requesting our prelates to send to Y.E. news items from their respected diocese to be published in the magazine *Voice of the East* March-April 2019.

By The Grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in Glendale, Arizona we managed recently to buy a property (Three and half Acres) located in front of St. Peter Cathedral, Glendale, AZ. God willing, we will determine in due time in future to build a project for the benefit of our Holy Church. December 2018 (Prior to Christmas of last year) I opened

a new Church of Mar Yousip Khnanisho Church for our faithful living in Gilbert Arizona (60 Miles away from Glendale). This is our second Church in Arizona.

God willing, we will ask His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa Catholicos Patriarch at his convenience to come for the consecration of this Church. Also, we have applied for permission from city of Glendale to build elderly houses project at the property of St. Peter Cathedral. This project will be highly appreciated by the faithful of our Church. Also, We have building at our Glendale property which we intend to use as Charter School.

St. Hermizd Church in San Diego, California is now in process of remodelling and enlarging the Church hall to be utilized for our Church activities.

In Los Angeles, we recently bought the second house as our Church property to be used as a business for the benefit of our Holy Church.

Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis  
April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## **Armenia Appeal Update from ACERO**

With the generous contributions of its supporters, significant progress has been made on Phase 1 of the Armenia Appeal, the renovation of a two-floor building into an Assyrian kindergarten in the village of Verin Dvin, Armenia.

This project will provide a centre for 120 children aged 2-6 years old to receive child care, educational, spiritual and national activities from 9am-5pm on a daily basis.

In recent weeks, workers have made significant progress clearing the site and commencing with plastering and the installation of doors and windows. The installation of plumping and sewerage system along with the rectification and cementing of the building's floor will soon follow.

Later phases of the project will include works at the 189-year-old Assyrian church of Mart Mariam (in the village of Arzni), works at the 191-year-old Assyrian church of Mar Thoma (in the village of Verin Dvin) along with the construction of two community halls will follow.

ACERO extends its immense appreciation to supporters from around the world who have given this project a powerful start. In particular, we note the support of the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon (under the leadership of H.B. Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan), the Diocese of California (under the leadership of H.G. Mar Awa Royel, Bishop), the Assyrian Christian Compassion Ministry of San Jose, California and the many generous individuals who have contributed personally from around the world.

All contributions for this Appeal must be made officially through ACERO. Your financial support is vital. Please contribute at [www.theacero.org/donate](http://www.theacero.org/donate) and leave a note directing your donation to the 'Armenia Appeal'

## **New Church in Northern Iraq**

On May 15, 2019 (the third day of our forthcoming Holy Synod), the new church of Mar Gewargis (St George) the Martyr in Diana will be consecrated by His Holiness with the participation of all the prelates.

## **Terror Strikes Sri Lanka**

April 22, 2019 (*New Delhi*)

The Evangelical Fellowship of India condemned in the strongest terms the terrible and dastardly terrorist attack on innocent people in Sri Lanka on Easter Day, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2019. News so far confirms the death of nearly 300 people and many more injured as a result of eight blasts.

The terrorist attacks targeted three Churches in Negombo, Batticaloa and Colombo's Kochchikade district as well as Shangri-La, Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand hotels in the capital city. Two more explosions took place even as the police were trying to locate the people responsible. Even though 13 people have been arrested by the police, it remains unclear, as to who was behind this attack.

The maximum casualty was inflicted on the Christian community as the faithful had gathered together for the Easter services. The blasts on Churches left the pews and walls covered in blood and lives that will never be the same again, after losing their loved ones in this manner.

We stand in solidarity with all peace-loving people in Sri Lanka and extend our condolences to all affected by these terror attacks. A special mention must be made of our colleagues at National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri-Lanka (NCEASL), who are on the ground helping with the relief operations. Some members of the Alliance lost their loved ones too in this attack and we pray for God's peace and comfort for them in this hour of grief.

EFI calls on all member Churches and bodies to continue to pray for the victims and their families and for peace to return to the island nation. Terrorism and senseless killing sprees are a blot on our collective humanity and need to be dealt with firmly and surely.

This targeting of people during passion week and Easter day, is not a recent phenomenon. In 2017, at least 45 people were killed in Egypt as two Churches in Tanta and Alexandria





**Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the Vacation Bible School (VBS) in Mart Mariam Big Church, Thrissur on 1 April 2019. Sunday School General Secretary Fr. Vinod Timothy and the Vicar of Mart Mariam Big Church Fr. Binu Joseph are seen in the picture**



**Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the Victory Day 2019 organised by the Youths' Association Central Committee. L-to-R: Sister Dr. Jincy Othottil (President of the Womens' Youth), Rappai T L (Vice Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees), Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Fr. Michael Valluvanthra (President of the Youths' Association) and Mr. Rinto Jose (Secretary of the Youths' Association)**





**H.G. Mar Aprēm Metropolitan celebrating Palm Sunday at Mart Mariam Big Church, Thrissur on 14 April 2019**



**Rev Fr. Nikadēmus Yukhanaev pictured with children at the construction site of a two-floor Assyrian kindergarten building being renovated by ACERO in the village of Verin Dvin, Armenia**





**H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan washing the feet of the children in Mart Mariam Big Church, Thrissur in connection with Maundy Thursday on 18 April 2019**



**Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph washing the feet of children in Muscat Mission Parish**



**Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose washing the feet of children in Mar Mari Shleeha Church, Kuriachira**





**Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the Bike Rally, conducted for the awareness of 'Voters Right' by the Youths Association Central Committee (Church of the East), Men's Association (Church of the East), JCI (Thrissur Pooram City) and SVEEP (Systematic Voters Election and Electoral Participation) in connection with the Lok Sabha election 2019 in India**



**Mar Addai Sreeha Church celebrated the wedding anniversary of couples who lived 25-58 years together at the Silver Jubilee celebration of Savra Convention organised by the Youths' Association of Mar Addai Sreeha Church, Thrissur**



cities were bombed by ISIS on Palm Sunday while one of the services was being led by the Coptic Pope Tawadros II, who was thankfully unharmed.

On March 27, 2016, on Easter day, at least 75 people were killed, and hundreds were injured in Lahore, Pakistan, as a result of a bomb explosion near a Church cause by the group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar. The blast killed many children.

On April 8, 2012 in Kaduna, Nigeria, on Easter Sunday, a car bomb that went off near a Church killed at least 41 people. The attack was carried by Boko Haram.

In our own country India while there have been no bomb blasts targeting Churches so far, Easter, Good Friday and Christmas Days are often the days when most violent attacks take place against Christians and in many cases worship services are disrupted and Christians are arrested.

Incidents like these put us face to face with the reality of evil in our world today. They are proof that religiously motivated violence and terrorism are not only firmly present in our world but are increasing. And this is why hatred needs to be rejected outright. Because hate, being evil, gives birth to death and destruction. This is amply clear by all the terrorist attacks in the world whether they be in India, Pakistan or even Christ Church in New Zealand.

The Church of the East in India offered strong protest against attacks in Sri Lanka with a public protest march with candles organized by the Youths Association as well as MACE. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose inaugurated the protest candle March in the Marth Mariam Cathedral.

### ***News from the Indian Archdiocese***

## **Holy Week in Muscat**

Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa conducted Holy Week services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter at our Mission Parish of St. Luke in Muscat, Oman. As we have no church of our own we conduct Holy Services four times a year in the Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Muscat.

## **Holy Qurbana in Qatar**

Dr Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa will conduct a Holy Qurbana at the Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Doha, Qatar on Friday 10 May 2019 at 11am. If there are any Assyrians in Doha, please contact the Metropolitan by email [hgmaraprem@gmail.com](mailto:hgmaraprem@gmail.com) or [marawgin@gmail.com](mailto:marawgin@gmail.com)

## **A Holy Man:**

### **Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan (1878–1945)**

Abimalek was born in the Kellaitha family in Mar Bhishu village in Turkey on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1878. His father Qasha Eshai sent Abimalek to school and he graduated from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Assyrian Mission school for priests in 1901. He was made an archdeacon in 1904 A.D by Mar Benyamin Shimun Patriarch. In 1907, in reply to a petition sent three years earlier from the community at Trichur, Patriarch Mar Benyamin Shimun consecrated Archdeacon Abimalek for the see of Malabar in December 1907. He reached Thrissur on 27 February 1908. In India his career was marked by litigation. After the death of Mar Isaac Khananishu Metropolitan in 1919 Mar Timotheus becomes the senior Metropolitan in the Church universally. He visited Iraq in 1919, 1920–1, and 1927– 1928.

On the second visit he protested against the consecration of Mar Eshai Shimun and was made regent to the boy Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun who was consecrated in 1920 as successor to his uncle Mar Poulose Shimun. But his claim to keep this title of Regent to the Patriarch in 1927 was rejected by the Patriarchal family, as the young Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun had completed 18 years of age and returned to Iraq after study of two years in Cambridge and Canterbury. Mar Timotheus was forced to return from Iraq to India. His special achievement was the foundation of the Mar Narsai Press in Trichur in 1926 which became the main Church printing Press in English, Syriac, and Malayalam. Mar Narsai Press is still functioning and is looking forward to its centenary celebrations in 2026 A.D.

Mar Abimalek Timotheus was respected by the people of Trichur as a holy man. During his life time people of all faiths came to him for prayers. People believed that they were healed by his prayers. Not only Christians, by Hindus, Muslims Jews etc came to him seeking prayers and blessings. Even after his death people from all walks of life came to his tomb and prayed and got healed. They also come to pray in the prayer room in the Metropolitan Palace where Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan used to pray.

We never kept records of these miraculous healings and blessings. Announcement was made in the churches that we want to collect details of miraculous healings, as the Holy Synod has made a proposal to canonise Mar Timotheus Metropolitan. Some people came to report of such healings. But there are no medical records to prove such instances as 73 years have passed after the miracles. In some cases it is 100 years old episode. It is difficult to get medical certificates and to take evidence from the doctors who treated such sicknesses. There are instances of casting out demons when evil possessed persons were brought to him. In modern times some people do not agree to such stories. Some people do not believe in miracles, But the majority of our people believe that the stories about miracles and blessings are not mere stories, but real events that happened in the life of Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan.

Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan was a man of prayer. Realising the fact that many people of the Church did not have regular prayer life, he wrote a prayer book for the lay people to pray in their homes. This book was published in 1917. It is interesting to note that this book was written in Malayalam language. He must have worked hard to write such a book after learning the Malayalam language. An English translation of this Malayalam Prayer Book was published in 2018. Even after 100 years of writing this prayer book the people in Thrissur are using this prayer book in their homes.

Mar Timotheus Metropolitan had composed a prayer book in Aramaic for blessing the newly constructed homes and shop rooms. This book was printed in the Mar Narsai Press and circulated even outside India. Now there is a Malayalam translation of this book which we use for blessing the homes, halls etc. The prayers are collected from different Manuscripts in Aramaic preserved in Thrissur rather than composing new prayers.

Before publishing the Book of Prayers, Mar Timotheus published his first book in Malayalam language, **Messianic Teachings** in 1913. He describes it as a compilation from Aramaic language. Some people think that it is a translation from Aramaic to Malayalam. His purpose was to teach our faith in our Sunday school classes. Later an English translation was made. Those who knew Mar Timotheus Metropolitan personally always referred to his prayer life and zeal for our people to lead a life of devotion.

Many people came with a bottle of water to be blessed by Mar Timotheus Metropolitan. They kept this water in their homes and used it to protect them from the evil one. Before the water is finished fresh water is mixed with it. As a matter of fact every priest is authorised to bless the water and pray for the sick. But people beloved that prayer by the Metropolitan was superior to the same prayers said by the priests.

There are many witnesses for saving the crops by the water blessed by Mar Timotheus whenever pests of different kinds troubled at the paddy fields during the harvest time. There are some paddy fields near the Mar Esthapanose Church in Nellangara two miles from Thrissur. Our Church members approached Mar Timotheus and requested him to pray and bless water to be sprinkled in their paddy fields. Many a times his prayer saved the crop. The area called Nellangara came to be called by the present name Nallangara after the protection given by the prayers of Mar Timotheus to their paddy fields, Even the non-Christians came for his prayers. They now pray at the tomb of Mar Timotheus as their parents did.

Mar Abimalek Timotheus was a holy man who suffered much from our own people. He had to face several civil suits in Trichur Court as well as Chief Court of Cochin State. Finally in April 1925 Mar Timotheus won the final civil suit by the "Award" of Mr. C.W.E. Cotton, Political Agent to the Travancore and Cochin States.

Many people in Thrissur used to come to Mar Timotheus for prayer and blessing. Many sick people from different castes and creeds were healed but we do not have any medical

evidence as he died in April 1945. Most of the people benefited by the prayers of Mar Timotheus are dead and gone.

Although we announced in all our churches during the past two years to give the feedback of the miracle stories of Mar Timotheus Metropolitan only very small number of people reported the stories. Some are not considered it as miracles now. One important healing was in the case of Neerolipadan Antony, father of Deacon N. A. Timothy who was ordained deacon in Teheran in 1968 by Mar Dinkha when he was an Episcopa in Iran.

One day Antony with his family went to his farm in Pattikad. He and other members of his family fell into a pond in the field which was not visible; All members of the family except Antony were rescued by the people who heard the cries. They did not notice that Antony was still in the pond. He was unconscious when he was rescued. So his wife Rosa prayed in the name of Mar Timotheus and promised to pay Rs.5000 if his life can be revived. News went to Mar Timotheus who prayed for Antony and assured that he will be healed. So it happened. The family paid Rs.5000.

My two personal experiences are worth recording. The first one was on 1st May 1945, I went to see the grave of Mar Timotheus Metropolitan, it was being dug. As I was only less than five years of age my curiosity to see how deep the grave was took me to one edge and the people present there shouting the boy has fallen. But I was seen the opposite side of the grave who protected me from falling in to the pit I believe that it was God's plan for this five old year boy and to be a successor to Mar Timotheus after Mar Thoma Darmo who left India in September 1968.

The Second "miracle" frightens me when I think of it. After I became a successor to Mar Timotheus in 1968 I began to reside in Metropolitan Palace in High Road built by Mar Timotheus in 1928. It was in 1973 I received a telephone call one night stating that a man wanted to bring his daughter for prayer in the prayer room of Mar Timotheus Metropolitan. I told him that the gate is locked when the driver went home. I suggested him to bring his daughter the next morning. But he said the matter is urgent and he wants to come immediately. I went to the front gate and opened it. A taxi reached the gate of the Metropolitan Palace and a girl came out with her parents. Her Father was drunk. They carried the sick girl and dropped her in the prayer room where Mar Timotheus used to pray and heal the sick. She looked like a dead girl. After an initial prayer I looked at her. Fear came to my mind thinking that she will not revive. I knelt and prayed. I prayed that the Lord should heal her or wake her up from the sleep. After a few minutes of prayer I sprinkled some water on her face and she opened her eyes. She walked back to her home two miles, as taxi had left and it was not easy to get a taxi at that night.

In conclusion, we would like to report that ever since Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan died on April 30, 1945 many people visit the tomb of the Metropolitan and pray there. Many of these believers would like to see that the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East would formally recognise him as one of the saints of our Church.



## Obituaries

### **Dr. Babu Paul**

Dr. Babu Paul, a leading literary figure and a senior Administrative Officer, aged 78 passed away on 10 April 2019. He was a member of Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church and was decorated by the Patriarch of Antioch in Damascus. He was a layman but well versed in theology, church history etc. His Bible Commentary in Malayalam is a master piece. He had written a Forward to the travelogue of Mar Aprem Metropolitan titled "London to Moscow" published in 1994. He was a frequent writer of articles in the Malayalam Voice of the East magazine.

### **Bishop Abraham Mattom**

Bishop Abraham Mattom, a member of the Vincentian Congregation, aged 97 has passed away on 16 April 2019. He was a great Syriac Scholar. He took a very active part in re-introducing Syriac language in the liturgy of his Diocese in Satna, Madhya Pradesh. He was the second oldest Bishop in India, the first being Philipose Mar Chrysostom Metropolitan, aged 101. He was the Bishop from 30 April 1977 to 12 April 2000.

### **Mor Aprem Timotheus**

His Grace Mor Aprem Timotheus Aboudi Metropolitan who was Patriarchal Delegate to India of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch, aged 89 passed away on 25 April 2019 in Lebanon. He returned from India when his visa to live in India was cancelled. On 18 May 1973 he was given a grand send-off in Kottayam. He is the last Patriarchal Delegate to India. He had come as a Ramban namely Aprem Aboudi as delegate of the Orthodox Patriarch Mar Yacob III who consecrated Ramban Aboudi as Aprem Mor Timotheus Metropolitan.

Aprem Mor Timotheus was a friend of both groups of our Church in Thrissur and was a guest of Mar Aprem Metropolitan in the Metropolitan Palace, Thrissur. After he left India in 1973 he served as Metropolitan in Sweden, Canada and Australia. He visited our Patriarchate at Morton Grove, Chicago and met the late Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV.

## **Men's Association (MACE)**

Mr. Anto D Olloukaran was elected General Secretary of Men's Association for a period of 2 years. Fr. Jose Jacob Vengassery will continue as the President. This organisation is meant for our Church members aged 45 and above. Some of these people were active in the Youths Association when they were below 45. The Men's Association has decided to cooperate with the Youths Association (below 45).

## **Youth's Association**

Mr. Sojan John, staff member of the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School, Thrissur was elected General Secretary of the Youth's Association. Fr. Michael Vallavanthra will continue as the President. The International Youth Conferences are arranged in every alternative year with the cooperation of the Women's Youth Association.

## **Women's Youth**

Mrs. Cheno Powell of Mar Mari Shleeha Parish, Kuriachira was elected General Secretary of the Women's Youth. Rev Dr. Sister Jincy Othottil has been nominated to continue as the President of this organisation. This organisation has been successfully carrying on a scholarship programme. They give financial help of Rs. 5000/- to about 120 deserving boys and girls of our Church studying in the High School and Higher Secondary level.

## **Mahila Samajam**

Mrs. Mary Paul Konikara of Mar Mari Shleeha parish in Kuriachira has been elected General Secretary of the Mahila Samajam, the society of the women above 45 years of age in our Church. Mrs. Shelbi has been nominated President by Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan for the Mahila Samajam founded by late Dr. Dorothy Chacko wife of Dn. Dr. C.J. Chacko of U.S.A.

## **New Representative Council of the Church**

Elections were held in all parishes of the Church of the East in India and U.A.E. for the post of the representatives for the Church Council. In addition to the representatives all Vicars and General Secretaries of the various Church organisations are the ex-officio members. The Head of the Church of the East in India Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan has nominated 10 members including women to this Representative Council for the next 3 years. These members will elect 9 members for the Board of Central Trustees. The Central Trustees will elect a Chairman and Vice Chair from among themselves.

## **Mar Markose Shleeha Church Hall**

The ground-breaking ceremony of the new church hall was conducted by Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph on 20 March 2019. The Vicar of the parish Fr. Jacks Chandy is working hard in collecting money to complete this hall estimated at a cost of Ten Million Rupees. It is expected that the work will be completed within 10 months. The Board of Central Trustees and many men and women of Mar Awgin Thuvana parish were present in the function.

## **B.D. Degree for Deacon Sinto Jose**

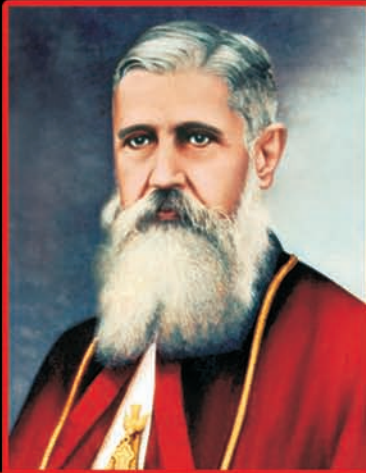
Deacon Sinto Jose Poonjokaran, Assistant Vicar of St. Stephen Parish of New Delhi has successfully completed his BD Degree (Bachelor of Divinity) in April 2019 at the Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth Theological College of Mar Thoma Church at Faridabad near New Delhi. We wish a hearty congratulations to him. He is the only one member from our Church who has taken a BD Degree this year. We expect some more students will complete the BD Degree in the next year.



**Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose speaks at the inauguration of "Aaswas Loan", a self-employment interest free loan scheme for the Church members organised by the Board of Central Trustees on 17 Mar 2019**



**Fr. Sijo Johny, Vicar of the Mar Zaiah Church, Palakad leading the stone laying ceremony of the parsonage 'Dinkha Bhavan' of the Mar Zaiah Church along with the parish members on 20 February 2019**



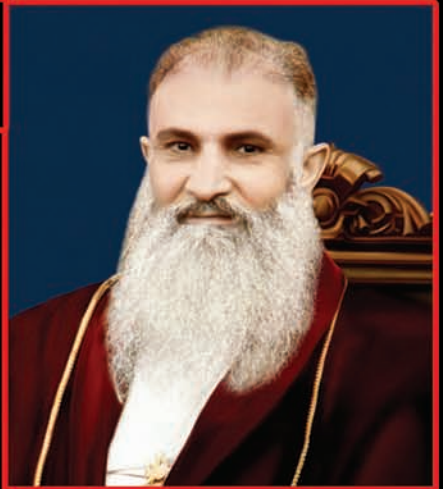
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**1 MAY  
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**The  
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Mar Timotheus  
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Dr. Paulose Mar Paulose  
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d 1998