

صوت المشرق

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January - February 2020

Nos.1 & 2

10th ANNIVERSARY OF EPISCOPAL CONSECRATIONS IN
INDIA 17 JANUARY 2020



H.L. Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph

H.L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose

VOICE OF THE EAST



H.L. Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa and H.L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa light the lamp in connection with the festival of Dinkha (Pindi Perunnal) at Mar Mari Shleeha Parish, Kuriachira in January 2020



H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan praying at the Maramon Convention on the bed of Pampa River in Kozhanchery in February 2020

VOICE OF THE EAST

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

January - February 2020

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Contents

1. Coronavirus (Editorial)

International Church News

2. Statement from the Secretariat of the Holy Synod

3. Statement from the Secretariat of the Holy Synod

4. Statement from His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan

5. Sydney Youth Meet with Archbishop

6. A New Priest for Melbourne, Australia

7. Sydney's Children Roaring at VBS 2020

8. ACERO Continues Turkey Campaign

Indian Archdiocese News

9. Bangalore Parishes

10. CMC in Vellore

11. Men's Association

12. "Ecclesiastical Revivalism"

13. Anneeda Perunal

14. Maramon Convention

15. Ba'utha (Rogation) of the Ninevites

16. New Church at Mundur Near Thrissur

17. Donation for Dialysis Patients

18. Mrs. Patricia Kelaita

19. Holy Qurbana in Goa Parish

20. Men's Association (MACE)

21. Illness of Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph

22. Distribution of Cloth-bags and Vegetable Seedlings

23. Churches Mull Measures to Prevent Virus Spread

24. "DaivaDasakam" - A Universal Prayer in Aramaic

Voice of the East

Vol. 67

January - February

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Editorial

CORONAVIRUS

The spread of the coronavirus has the entire world on alert. Rich and poor alike are feeling the impact of this pandemic. China, Iran and Italy have been most severely affected. With air travel cancelled, borders being closed and mass gatherings reduced, nobody is certain when normalcy will return.

According to newspapers, 101,604 coronavirus cases have been confirmed as at 7 March 2020. Total deaths are 3,461 and the recovered cases are 56,106. By 6 February 2020, the total number of confirmed cases in India reached 31. The latest addition to the list is a Delhi-based man who had recently been to Thailand and Malaysia. 28 active cases are said to be stable.

Our Holy Synod had been summoned by His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa to convene in Erbil, Iraq from April 22 to 29. Due to the unexpected spread of the coronavirus however, the Holy Synod has been postponed. We do not expect that this virus crisis will recede soon. It is our wish and prayer that the damage caused by this disease will decrease. It is not advisable to delay the convocation of the Holy Synod indefinitely however.

It is necessary to convene the Holy Synod occasionally to discuss and make decisions on the affairs of the different dioceses of our Church which is universal. An opportunity for the prelates of the Church to meet and deliberate on the burning issues facing the Church is vital.

We are proud that our Church is one of the earliest Christian communions with an incredible history of early missionary enterprise throughout Asia, including in China, Japan and India. Sadly, years of persecution and oppression have today left this ancient apostolic church a fraction of its former size. It is necessary that our Church has vibrant and active leadership. Prelates should therefore meet in Holy Synods occasionally and discuss and decide effective methods for renewal and rejuvenation.

The clergy of the Church of the East in India recently commenced a programme to reach this goal through home visits and listening to the ideas of the faithful for the growth of the Church. The mission is to increase the number of our Church members in India to 100,000. Our clergy have begun to consult our own people about appropriate methods and to set a roadmap to raise our membership to a minimum of 100,000 people.

Marriage has become problem for church membership in India. Some well-educated women leave the Church in an effort to find a suitable life partner. Some girls wait some years to find a suitable husband in our own denomination. But in many cases they are compelled to leave the Church in order to marry. In the case of boys, they get a match in our Church sometimes. In others, if they ask the girl to leave her old church and join our Church, many girls agree to join our Church.

As we face the numerous trials before our Church and our world; the coronavirus, the election of a new Catholicos-Patriarch and the renewal and rejuvenation of our ancient and apostolic church, we pray for God's blessings and guidance that He may guide our actions.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

International News

المجمع السونهادوسي المقدس
لكنيسة المشرق الآشورية



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❖ *The Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East* ❖

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE HOLY SYNOD CONCERNING THE CONVOCAION OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST, 22-29 APRIL 2020

For Immediate Release

The Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East would like to inform all of the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East that His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, has convoked a special session of the Holy Synod, to be held in the patriarchal see of Erbil, Iraq, from the 22nd to the 29th of April, 2020.

His Holiness has stated in his epistle of February 3rd to the bishops of our holy Church that he is still in the process of recuperating from his illness, recently suffered during his sojourn in Germany in the month of December 2019. His Holiness' medical condition has been a heavy burden on him personally, and this has caused him to reflect deeply on his ability to carry out the duties of his sublime office. Thus, His Holiness the Patriarch has indicated in his letter to the bishops, in which he is formally convoking a special session of the Holy Synod, that of his own free will and after much deep reflection and prayer, he has decided to retire from the exalted office and duties of Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East on April 22nd.

As the holy Church will soon begin the liturgical season of the Great Fast on February 23rd, the 'Sunday of the Entrance Into the Great Fast', let us all keep His Holiness Mar Gewargis III in our prayers, with gratitude for his ministry to the Church as Catholicos-Patriarch. The members of the Holy Synod further ask that all of the faithful pray and beseech the Great Shepherd of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ, to aid them in electing the new Father of Fathers, the Catholicos-Patriarch, according to the will of God the Father and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Given this 19th day of February, 2020; from the Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East.

+ *Awa Royel*

✠ Awa Royel

By Grace: Bishop of California &
Secretary of the Holy Synod.



المجمع السونهادوسي المقدس
لكنيسة المشرق الآشورية



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❖ *The Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East* ❖

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

**STATEMENT FROM THE HOLY SYNOD SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE HEALTH OF
HIS HOLINESS MAR GEWARGIS III, CATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH**

For Immediate Release

21 December 2019

The Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East would like to inform all of the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East that on Friday, December 13, 2019, the bishops of the Church were informed by His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of the Diocese of Scandinavia and Germany, that His Holiness Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Gewargis III suffered a medical episode that required his transportation to the hospital in Köln, Germany, where His Holiness was resting for a short period at the home of his brother before he was to return to his patriarchal residence on December 17th.

His Holiness was immediately admitted to the emergency unit of the hospital upon his arrival, and a series of tests (including a CT scan and MRI) were performed. The test results came back negative, and thus doctors moved His Holiness to a regular room. All of his vital signs are normal, and his speech has returned to full capacity. We are informed by His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Erbil and Patriarchal Auxiliary, who visited His Holiness in Germany from 16 to 20 December 2019 that His Holiness was in a very good state, both physically and mentally. Doctors have required the patriarch to rest completely for a period of two weeks, at his brother's home. He continues to be monitored in the meanwhile by his physicians in Köln.

We would like to thank His Grace Mar Odisho for remaining with His Holiness the Patriarch, and His Grace Mar Abris for visiting His Holiness as well. Further, we thank His Holiness' brother and family in Köln for seeing to the day-to-day needs of His Holiness during his period of rest and recovery. Kindly unite your prayers, beloved clergy and faithful, with all of the bishops of our Holy Church as we supplicate our merciful God to grant good health and a speedy recovery to His Holiness Mar Gewargis. Further updates on His Holiness' recovery and return to his holy see will be given in the future.

Given this 21st day of December, 2019; from the Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus the Lord,

†Mar Awa Royel

By Grace: Bishop of California &
Secretary of the Holy Synod.





Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East | ܩܕܝܫܬܐ ܥܕܝܫܬܐ ܕܡܕܢܬܐ ܕܡܕܢܬܐ ܕܡܕܢܬܐ ܕܡܕܢܬܐ ܕܡܕܢܬܐ

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7 March 2020

**STATEMENT FROM HIS EMINENCE MAR MEELIS ZAIA AM METROPOLITAN TO
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND LEBANON
CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS**

To the faithful members of the Assyrian Church of the East, Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon,

Dear Members,
Blessings of the Lord with you all,

In light of the recent international spread of the coronavirus we are releasing this statement to direct your attention to the canons of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East with regards to the partaking in the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ during the Eucharistic Services.

First and foremost, the partaking of the bread (i.e. the Body of Christ) must be taken using hands. The faithful are to present their hands in the sign of a cross, placing their right hand over their left hand at a ninety-degree angle. The officiating priest then places the Bread in the hands of the faithful. One must not move until they have consumed the Bread into their mouths whilst standing before the priest. Then are free to move on.

Considering the Bread has been dipped into the wine (i.e. Blood of Christ), the faithful are free to partake in the cup or not without feeling at fault.

If one wishes to partake in the wine and drink from the cup, they must do so without touching the cup itself as per the canons of the Holy Church.

Let us come together in prayer and supplicate to our God and Lord Jesus Christ that healing and comfort may come to all these affected by the virus, and that this may pass from this world hastily through the prayers of the Virgin Mary, Saint Hurmizd, St George the Martyr and all the saints, amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ upon you all.

Mar Meelis Zaia AM
Archbishop of Australia, New Zealand & Lebanon

Sydney Youth Meet with Archbishop

On Tuesday 4 February 2020 the Assyrian Church of the East Youth Association Sydney held its annual Youth Meet, presided over by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM and clergy. Youth members attended the Meet in listening to His Beatitude's keynote address about the challenging times we as Christians are facing in the society and the importance of God in our lives. With helpful tips, His Beatitude worked through the challenges with the youth and delivering guidance on coping mechanisms to persevere in faith.

The youth had the chance to fellowship afterwards with one another and share in a delightful meal together as a family in Christ. This marks the beginning of the youth ministries across Sydney parishes for 2020.

The Church in Sydney takes this opportunity to thank all volunteers in ACEYA for their hard work and dedication in teaching and working for the youth and the wider community.

A New Priest for Melbourne, Australia

On Sunday 26 January the faithful congregation of Melbourne gathered to witness the ordination of a newly instated priest for the parish. Reverend Father Morris Daoud, a committed and long serving clergyman of the church was elevated to the priesthood by the Diocesan Bishop, His Grace Mar Benjamin Elya accompanied by visiting prelate from the Diocese of Western Europe, His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis.

The ordination took place at St Odisho's Cathedral in Coolaroo, with hundreds of parishioners gathered for the occasion. Afterwards a celebratory breakfast was hosted in Mona Lisa Hall with heartwarming speeches by the newly ordained Fr Morris, and their graces Mar Benjamin and Mar Awraham.

Biography of Rev'd Fr Morris Daoud:

Fr Morris was the first born to his parents Dawood Yaqo and Nadira Mesho on the 13th June 1980 in Messan Emara, Iraq. In 1985 the family moved to Baghdad. Fr Morris gained his knowledge in the Assyrian language from Deacon Shimon in the church of St Ephraim in the village of Bersiveh, the village of Fr Morris' parents whereby he spent many of the summer breaks. In 1990 the family moved to Mansouria, where Fr Morris further studied under Deacon Akheqar until 1993. In October of 1993, the family migrated out of Iraq and moved to Jordan. In January of 1994 they arrived into Athens, Greece. In Athens, Fr Morris was ordained a lector by the Late His Beatitude Mar Narsai Debaz on the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord in the year 1994, and again studied under Deacon Yousip. In October of 1994, the family arrived to Melbourne Australia. Fr Morris graduated high school in 1999, studied in the field of Travel and Tourism completing his studies in 2001. Fr Morris married on the 17th January 2004 to Noora Daoud and was blessed with two children; Yeshua and Noah. On the 22nd January 2012, Fr Morris was ordained a deacon by His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM Archbishop at St George's Church in Reservoir, Victoria.



His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa speaks at a press conference in connection with his resignation as Catholicos-Patriarch due to his physical health problems



H.B. Mar Meelis Zaia AM Metropolitan's Statement on the COVID-19 Pandemic



Mr. Jose Paul Chiriyankandath (Former Church Board Member) receiving the “Men of Achievement” award from the Minister K. T. Jaleel at the State Conference of Men's Association-Church of the East in India. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa are pictured to the left and right of the Minister



Rev. Fr. K. R. Inasu receiving the “Men of Achievement” award from Minister K. T. Jaleel at the State Conference of Men's Association-Church of the East in India. L-to-R: Mr. Anto D Ollukaran (General Secretary), Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Minister K. T. Jaleel, Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa & Fr. K. R. Inasu



The faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East praying at the tombs of their relatives on the day of Anneedhe at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort, Thrissur on 1 March 2020. Inset: H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan leads prayers with the Vicar of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana parish, Rev. Fr. Vinod Timothy



The 3rd day of Ba'utha (Rogation) of the Ninevites led by H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan in Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort, Thrissur



H. B. Mar Meelis Zaia AM Metropolitan and children at the Third Annual Summer Program of the Children's Association (ACECA) of the Assyrian Church of the East, Australia.



His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM speaks at the Annual Youth Meet of the Assyrian Church of the East Youth Association - Sydney on 4 February 2020

Sydney's Children Roaring at VBS 2020

The Assyrian Church of the East Children's Association (ACECA) hosted its third annual summer program, from Monday 13th January to Friday 17th January 2020. The week long program, themed "ROAR" set an epic African safari that taught the children all about God's goodness.

Each day 250 children were lead into spiritual lessons with 50 of ACECA's most dedicated and hardworking teachers and volunteers. Through station rotations: imagination station, stampede sports, Kid Vid cinema, and wild bible adventures, the children experienced God's goodness in every situation – when life is unfair, sad, changes, scary and even when life is good.

The last day of the program featured a special assembly where the children welcomed His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon, accompanied by His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis of the Diocese of Western Europe, upon his visit to Australia. The presentation showcased all that the children learnt in the week. His Eminence Mar Meelis reinforced the importance of seeing God's goodness in every situation.

ACERO Continues Turkey Campaign

In the most recent development of ACERO's 4-year campaign was in Turkey. ACERO has provided aid to 49 families with a particular focus on those with disabilities, chronic and terminal illnesses.

While many Assyrian refugees in Turkey have been resettled outside of the Middle East, countless others remain with limited hope for re-settlement, facing challenges in dealing with the United Nations and struggling to survive each day.

Writing from Turkey, an ACERO supporter writes: "... no words can describe the joy in our hearts at the magnificent job that ACERO is doing for the people. Thank you ACERO for the huge help that you provided for the people over the years".

Indian Archdiocese News

Bangalore Parishes

On January 25, a consecration was held in the new land purchased for Bangalore parish. This is the 2nd parish in Bangalore. The people of the parish were very interested to join in the blessing ceremony. On January 26 the Holy Qurbana was celebrated at our church in Gadhalahally, Bangalore in connection with the consecration of the new land. There is insufficient space for the faithful to park the car due to the construction work of the new buildings nearby. Not only the space availability of the car parking but most parishioners

are living just a few kilometers away from the old church, so the church has purchased a new area in Electronic City in Bangalore. Most of the people in the parish will find it very useful if a church is built in the new location. Although it may be easy to sell the old church and build a new church, this is not intended. Now we have two parishes in Bangalore. The Bangalore parishioners are proud of the two churches built by the older generation and the current generation.

CMC in Vellore

H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan participated in the Council Meeting of the Christian Medical College of Vellore. Our Church member Prof. Dr. John Jose Erunkaran, working in the Heart Department in CMC, has arranged the meeting with our sponsored students who are presently studying in CMC. As in the previous year two MBBS candidates from our Church got admission in CMC. Some of our Church members also got the admission in Paramedical Courses in CMC, Vellore.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurated the staff quarters of the newly started CMC Hospital in Chittoor, Anthra Pradesh. The Council Secretary requested Mar Aprem Metropolitan for the devotional speech of their next meeting in June 2020, at his 80th birthmonth.

Men's Association

The State Conference of Chaldean Syrian Church of the East Men's Association is being inaugurated by Dr KT Jaleel, Minister of Higher Education, Minister of Minority Welfare, by watering the saplings.

"Religion will never unite nations. Language and culture determine the future of the country" - Professor Dr. KT Jaleel.

Pluralism is good for the country. Religion will never unite nations. The language and culture of a country determines the future of the country. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a non-believer in India, ruled India for many years. There were good religious people in the country then. Dr KT Jaleel, Minister of Religious Affairs, said that religious harmony and peace and happiness were prevalent in India, where there are different religious groups compared to other countries. Minister for Minority Welfare and Higher Education at St. Abimalek Timotheus' Nagar (Chaldean Center) Dr KT Jaleel was inaugurating the event with the watering of mango trees.

The Chaldean Syrian Church of the East, in the face of Christianity, is a faith community that has had to contend with Indian cultures, social justice, and persecution from time to time. His Holiness Mar Abimalek Timotheus was a Metropolitan of the Indian Church, a foreigner who fought against British rule by wearing *khadar* clothes for the freedom of the Indians.

50 years after the wedding the Men's Association presented an opportunity to honor 50 couples and share their experience of marriage as a role model for new comers.

The Minister also inaugurated the 'Jeevani' project and the Polyhouse of men's association at the seminary. General Secretary Anto D Ollukaran hoisted the flag at the convention town. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan presided over the meeting. Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph

Episcopa and Mar Awgin Episcopa delivered the blessing speech. The Central Trustees chairman Mr. C. L. Tenny, General Secretary of National Women's Youth Association Mrs. Shinu Powel, National Youths Association General Secretary Mr. Sojan P John, National President Rev. Fr. Jose Jacob Vengassery and the General Secretary Anto D Ollukkaran also spoke.

“Ecclesiastical Revivalism” (സഭാപുതുക്കലഘട്ടം)

During this Lenten period, a new period of “Ecclesiastical Revivalism” (സഭാപുതുക്കലഘട്ടം) has emerged from the clergyship of the H. R. D. committee. The first step in the process is to conduct a home visit in each parish during the Lenten period, followed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit as part of the spiritual revival of the Church under the guidance of the clergy.

Anneedha Perunal

Two days before the beginning of the *Sauma Rabba* (Great Lent) is the Friday of the Departed in our Church. This year it was on 1 March 2020. A large number of the faithful came to our cemetery on Thursday evening and Friday morning.

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan led the services in Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort. The services at Mar Addai Sreeha Church was conducted by Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa gave leadership for the service in Mar Mari Sreeha Parish. A large number of believers attended these prayers in honour and memory of their departed relatives.

Maramon Convention

One of the largest annual evangelistic Conventions was held at Maramon, on the bed of Pampa River in Kozhanchery in Kerala in the 2nd week of February. This was the 125th Annual Convention. As usual tens of thousands of people belonging to all different Christian denominations attended the same. It is run by the Evangelistic Association of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar.

This was the 50th year Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan of our Church attended this famous convention. The Archbishop of Perth in Australia was a main speaker. It was the first time the people in India saw a lady Archbishop. She belongs to the Anglican Church of Australia. In the Anglican denomination women are consecrated bishop and archbishops. The Maramon Convention invites preachers from different Christian Churches all over the world. Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph also attended this convention for a day.

Ba'utha (Rogation) of the Ninevites

The Ba'utha (Rogation) of the Ninevites was observed in our major churches. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph gave leadership for the three day fast and prayer held in the Marth Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose was the celebrant in Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Parish, East Fort, Thrissur.

Most of the prayers were recited in Aramaic. Some lay people who cannot read Aramaic language read several of these prayers from the transliterated version. Some portions are translated into Malayalam. It was broadcasted live online.

New Church at Mundur Near Thrissur

A church, about ten kilometers west of Thrissur is nearing completion at Mundur. It is now in Mar Awgin Thoovana parish in Thrissur West Fort. It is called Mar Markose Church, as we do not have any church in that name in our denomination. This new church will have about 50 families living in the neighbouring areas.

Fr. Jacks Chandy, Vicar of this proposed parish, is thanking all in India and abroad who supported the project financially. He hopes to have the blessing ceremony of this building by the end of April when all clergy are due to have a general transfer once in every three years. This is one of the dozens of churches built in India after the arrival of our Mar Aprem Metropolitan beginning with Mar Qardagh Church in Madras in 1969.

Donation for Dialysis Patients

The Mahila Samajam (Ladies Society) of the Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Parish, East Fort, donated Rs.50,000/- (US\$700) for the dialysis of the patients in the Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital. Such gifts are a great relief to many patients as dialysis is costly and has to be repeated 2 or 3 times every week until death of a diabetic patient.

Mrs. Patricia Kelaita

Mrs. Patricia, daughter of late Dr. Eshai Kelaita, nephew of Saint Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan, donated ten thousand US Dollars to the Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital to carry on its good deeds in helping the patients. May God reward her and her family for this good gesture. A noble example.

Holy Qurbana in Goa Parish

A Holy Qurbana is fixed in the Goa Mission Parish. It is a small parish. But Goa is a historic place where some of our forefathers were persecuted in the 16th century when the European Catholics forced our people to be obedient to Rome.

Men's Association (MACE)

The Central Committee of the Men's Association has made all arrangements to hold a tour to Goa and conduct a Holy Qurbana in that city on 29 March 2020. Anybody interested to go to be a part of this tour can contact the General Secretary of the Men's Association Mr. Anto D Ollukaran (Phone: 9446873919).

Illness of Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph

Bishop Dr. Mar Yohanna Yoseph had a mild stroke in the early morning of Monday 2 March at the Seminary and was admitted to the SUN Hospital in Thrissur. Expert medical attention was given. He was advised to be shifted to a better hospital.

On the 4th evening after serious consultation with a panel of doctors, H. L. was shifted to Aster Med City Hospital in Ernakulam for further treatment. Doctors decided immediately for a "Skull Decompression Operation" to release pressure in the brain and to save other areas of the brain. After the surgery of 3 hours he was in sleeping mode for next 24 hours. Doctors informed us that H.L. is stable and there are no complications to date. It may take some weeks or months of rest and post-surgery care for H.L.'s recovery.

Please uphold Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph in your prayers that our Lord may grant him health and a speedy recovery.

Distribution of Cloth-bags and Vegetable Seedlings

In connection with the State Convention of the Men's Association, Church of the East in India, 500 cloth-bags have been distributed to 500 families. Also, in connection with the "Jeevani", a scheme of the Agriculture Department distributed vegetable seedlings. The convention led by the Agriculture Deputy Director Mr. Narendran, the District Agriculture Officer Mrs. Sadhy T.A., and Biju C. The Men's Association office bearers Adv. Baby P Antony, Anson K David, Charles Chitilappilly, Varghese Pellissery, Abraham Immatty, Wilson Tharayil, James Ukkan, Babu Thazhekkadan, Tomy Jose also participated in the function.

The Minority Welfare Higher Education Minister Prof. Dr. K T Jaleel distributed the "Men of Achievement" award to Rev. Fr. K R Inasu and Jose Paul Chiriyankandath. H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan honoured them with the *Ponnaada* (golden shawl). Both were recognized for their contributions to the community during the recent Kerala floods and their contributions to the Church.

Churches Mull Measures to Prevent Virus Spread

From the Indian Express – 10 March 2020

Close on the heels of confirmation of COVID - 19 cases, churches in the state are adopting safety measures to avoid the spread of the virus among churchgoers. Among the measures mulled are preventing any physical contact between priests and the faithful during the Holy Communion.

As per the customs followed by the Jacobite and Orthodox denominations of Malankara Church during the communion, the priest or bishop gives the sacred bread and wine to the faithful directly into their mouths.

Jacobite Syrian Church spokes-person Kuriakose Mar Theophilose said they will come out with a new set of ways to avoid physical contact during the Holy Mass and find out ways to see if close interaction can be spared during confession.

"We do not have a provision to give Holy Communion in the hands of the faithful. However, since they receive communion by mouth, there are chances that the priests or bishops touch their lips. Hence, we are looking at altering the existing provision if there is a large virus outbreak," he said. "We will come up with new measures within two days if the current situation with regards to virus prevails," he said.

Catholicos of the Orthodox Church Baselios Marthoma Paulose II had recently issued a diktat urging the faithful to obey the guidelines given by their respective states with regard to COVID-19.

It also said people having COVID-19-related symptoms should avoid coming to churches.

The priests too are concerned as it is lent when the practice of confession takes place in most churches.

"Unlike Catholics, we do not use confession box and the faithful can directly confess their sins to the priest. If any persons with COVID-19 come to confess, it will be a cause for worry," said a Jacobite priest.

Anuja Susan Varghese
Indian Express

.....Continuation from the previous issue.....

“DaivaDasakam” - A Universal Prayer in Aramaic

Malayalam

Aramaic

Transliteration of Aramaic

✠ 3വമേ! കാത്തുകൊൾകങ്ങു
കൈവിടാതിങ്ങു ഞങ്ങളെ
നാവികൻ നീ ദവാബിധിക്കൊ-
രാവിവൻതോണി നിൻപദം

ഒന്നാനായെണ്ണിയെണ്ണിഞ്ഞൊ-
ട്ടെണ്ണ പൊരുളൊടുങ്ങിയാൽ
നിന്നിടും ദൃക്കുപോലുള്ള
നിനിലസ്പന്ധമാകണം

അന്നവസ്ത്രാദി മൃട്ടാതെ
തന്നു രക്ഷിച്ചു ഞങ്ങളെ
ധന്യരാക്കുന്ന നിയൊന്നു-
തന്നെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു തമ്പുരാൻ

ആഴിയും തിരയും കാറ്റും
ആഴവും പോലെ ഞങ്ങളും.
മായയും നിൻമഹിമയും
നിയുമെന്നുള്ളിലാകണം

നിയല്ലോ സൃഷ്ടിയും, സ്രഷ്ടാ-
വായതും സൃഷ്ടിജാലവും
നിയല്ലോ ദൈവമേ, സൃഷ്ടി -
ക്കുള്ള സാമഗ്രിയായതും

നിയല്ലോ മായയും, മായാ-
വിയും മായാവിനോടും
നിയല്ലോ മായയെ നിക്കി-
സ്സായുള്ളൂ നൽകുമാരുന്നും

നീ സത്യം ജ്ഞാനമാനന്ദം
നീ തന്നെ വർത്തമാനവും
ഭൂതവും ഭാവിയും വേദ-
ല്ലോതും മൊഴിയുമ്മാർക്കിൽ നീ

അകവും പുറവും തിങ്ങും
മഹിമാവാർന്ന നിൻപദം
പുകഴ്ത്തുന്നു ഞങ്ങളങ്ങു
ഭഗവാനേ! ജ്വലിക്കുക

ജ്വലിക്കുക മഹദേവ!
ദീനാവനപരായണ!
ജ്വലിക്കുക ചിദാനന്ദ!
ദയാസിന്ധോ! ജ്വലിക്കുക.

ആഴമേറും നിൻമഹസ്സാ-
മാഴിയിൽ ഞങ്ങളാകവേ
ആഴണം വാഴണം നിത്യം
വാഴണം വാഴണം സുഖം

1. ܩܕܝܫܐ ܕܥܠܐ
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ഓ ആലാഹാ നന്തർ ലൻ
ഉലാ തർപി ബൻ ഈദയ്യാ
അത്ത് റബ്ബ് ഇൽഹാറാ ബ്യാമ്മാ
അത്ത്മ റ്റഹ്ലക് ഉഈ ഇൽപ്പാ

ഉബാത്തർ ദിത്ഥന്നി ഹദ് ബ്ഹദ്
ഹോയ്ദേയ്ൻ ബ്ഹുത്താം പുശാക്കോ
പോയ്ശാ അയ്ന ബൽഹുദേ
തിത്നിൻ ബാഹ് നവ്ശ് ഗാവായ്മാ

മേഹുൽതാ ത്വുശാ ഉശർകുറ്റാ
അർസ്തുത്ത് പാർഖമ് ലൻ ആലം
ഖായീം അത്ത് വാ ലൻ വഹ്ദാ
ഹോയ്ത്താന ബൽ ഹോദായ്ക്ലിൻ

അക് യുമ്മാ ഉറുഹാ ഉഗല്ലേ
വുഖാ ആപ് ഹാസിൻ ഹ്നൻ ലാക്
ഈ തുതാക് അത്ത് തിശ്ബൊഹ്താഹ്
അത്ത് ആപ് ആമർ അത്ത് ബ്രിയാൻ

അത്തു ബ്രീതാ ഉബാരോയ
ആപ് ഹാത് കുൽഹേൻ ബിർയാതാ
ഓ ആലാഹാ ഹാത് ഇൽതാ
വദ്കുൽ മിദ്രിം ബൽഹുദായ്ക്

അത്തു ബ്രീതാ ഉലാ മിദ്ഹസുറ്റാ
വദ്ലാ മിത്ഗൽയാ അത്തു
ആഖർ അത്ത് ഹിബ്ലാനായാ
സാവാ അത് ലൻ ഓ റബ്ബാ

അത്തു ശ്ററാറാ ഉഹേക്കെത്താ
ഹോദുതാ ഉഖായേം ദോബർ
സവ്നാ ദാബർ വദ് അത്തീദ്
മിത്ഹശവ്ത് മിൽതാ ദിമ്മർ

കുൽമിദ്രിം ദബ്ഗാവ് ഉദേബർ
റെഗ്ലാക് ദോലേ ദീഖാറാ
ഹോശീനൻ ലാക് ബ്കുൽഇദ്രാൻ
സാകുത്താ ലാക് ഓ മർയ്യാ

സാകുത്താ ലാക് ഓ റബ്ബാ
റബ്ബ് ആസുറ്റാ വീഹീദായാ
സാകുത്താ ലാക് മഹ്സഹാനാ
സാകുത്താ ലാക് മ്ഹറ്മാനാ

ബ്യാമ്മാ അതിശ്ബൊഹ്താക് ഉക്ഥാ
മിത്ശമാവു അക്ഹദ് ആപ്നൻ
അമേഗ്മാ അമേമ്മർ ബേഹ് അത്ത്
അമേമ്മർ ഉമേമ്മർ ബേ താവാ

His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Assyrian Church of the East, India



Ordination of Deacon Morris Dawood as priest by H.G. Mar Benyamin Elya on 26 January 2020 at St Abdisho's Cathedral, Coolaroo (Melbourne) Australia



Inter-Church Council Meeting held at the Malankara Major Archbishop House, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 17 January 2020



H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the Staff Quarters of the Christian Medical College, Chittoor, Anthra Pradesh on 12 March 2020



Dr. K. T. Jaleel, Minister of Higher Education, Minister of Minority Welfare, inaugurates the State Conference of the Men's Association of Church of the East in India on 1 March 2020 at Thrissur. L-to-R: Mr. Anto D. Ollukaran, H. L. Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa, H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Hon'ble Minister K.T. Jaleel, H.L. Mar Awgin Kuria-kose Episcopa and the Board of Central Trustees Chairman Mr. Tenny C L.