



Mr. Anto D Ollukaran, General Secretary of Men's Association presenting the immunity medicine kit to H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan with the collaboration of M/s Ivas Business Solution



H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the Subhisha Keralam project by presenting the tomato seedlings to Mr. AntoD.Ollukaran, General Secretary of the Men's Association. L-to-R: Rev.Fr. Jacks Chandy, Adv. Baby. P. Antony, President Rev. Fr. Jos Vengassery, Varghese Pellissery & Mr. Anto D Ollukaran

#### **VOICE OF THE EAST**

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly) (Private Circulation only) March-April & May-June 2020 Patron: His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem

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# **Voice of the East**

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**Editorial** 

## **Combating Covid-19**

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted the whole world. Sadly, the publication of *Voice of the East* of March-April 2020 was also delayed. I do not know of any other illness that has effected the whole world, whether the rich and the poor, in this way. However, its pleasing to see that governments are working together to reduce the spread of this disease. May God intervene to control it and save mankind from further destruction. The sad effects of Covid-19 cannot easily be ignored. May God help to save the world from this tragedy. India was able to control it considerably but cannot claim total success. May Almighty God help mankind to survive. The total destruction of Covid-19 cannot be easily calculated.

The Government of Kerala took extra care through the Chief Minister Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan to fight together this pandemic. There was co-operation from all political parties at the beginning. Later political parties began to start quarrels wanting to take advantage of such a crisis.

The epidemic known as Covid-19 has opened the eyes of the authorities and the general public. Some will decide to get better. But many people who are used to living lazily are showing their unique personality. While all countries urge people to be careful not to spread the disease to others, the newspapers report cases including a man escaping from a high-security airport, secretly visiting relatives and then being caught by the police. Thus, there are some among us who think that those who deceive the authorities are clever. How much better our country would be if such people changed their behaviour. Let us pray that our people may repent.

Covid-19 has also pulled nations into economic crisis. Economists around the world are forecasting mass unemployment and economic devastation. The economic impact will be seen for many years to come.

We pray that in this unprecedented and terrible time, every reader of this periodical and their families are blessed with good health, safety and security. May Almighty God rid the world of this terrible pandemic that order returns to the world and that we may once again gather in our churches to worship our merciful and loving God.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

#### International News

### U.S. Bishops' Archpastoral Letter Regarding COVID-19



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#### ARCHPASTORAL LETTER FOR ALL THE PARISHES OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST IN THE UNITED STATES

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East, in the United States: Grace, Peace and Blessings in Christ Jesus the Lord!

We address you, our beloved in Christ Jesus, in fidelity to our archpastoral ministry as the bishops of the three dioceses of the Assyrian Church of the East in the United States—Western USA, California, and Eastern USA—in response to the concern over the present pandemic which is quickly spreading throughout our country, namely the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

The past few weeks has been a time of trial and suffering not only for our faithful, but for all the citizens of the United States—and indeed across the whole world. We all find ourselves in the midst of a viral infection that even our medical professionals are struggling to deal with and to contain, in any way possible. We believe that this trial is not merely one of a medical proportion, simply put. Rather, it is a time when the Lord is allowing our faith to be 'tried as by fire' in order to refine us and strengthen our love for Him, amidst the uncertainties that are enveloping us all. For, we know that every illness and infirmity is a result of our fallen and sinful human nature.

We all have come to realize that the holy and Great Fast (*Soma Rabba*) this year is very different, and we are being called to a deeper and more renewed faith—it is something special. We are not only fasting in repentance for our own sins, a living example of which we see in our ancient forefathers the Ninevites, who fasted in repentance and were delivered by God. Rather, we are also fasting that the Lord might absolve and forgive the sins of humanity as a whole. Not only are we fasting for our own spiritual benefit, but now is the time to make our fast a 'global' one, by remembering the sick and the

elderly, the vulnerable and the young, who are most susceptible to the present pestilence which God is allowing us to undergo—in His infinite wisdom.

We are conscious of the many grave concerns of a pastoral nature which our faithful have, as well as unanswered questions, which therefore falls upon us to address to remedy in an ecclesiastical nature, but yet being informed by the exhortations of our local and national health agencies. Therefore, we are issuing this joint pastoral letter with liturgical prescriptions that will be in effect for all the parishes of the Assyrian Church of the East across the United States.

After much prayer, reflection and thoughtful consultation and discussion, the following liturgical directives are being issues as of the date of this circular letter to all of our faithful in the United States:

- The Bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East are concerned for the spiritual welfare of our faithful, and urge them to remain faithful to Christ, and to hope and trust in His majesty and care for His flock, the holy Church, and for His mercy upon all mankind in this present global pandemic;
- 2. As Shepherds of the flock of Christ, we ask our beloved faithful to increase their prayers and supplication before the Lord, during this holy season of fasting, that God might have mercy on all of us and banish the fears and uncertainties that are accompanying this illness. Let us especially seek the prayers and intercession of the holy Saints of God, as models of Christian living and faith to be emulated;
- 3. **Liturgical prescriptions**: the celebration of the Holy Qurbana, the most sacred Sacrament of the Eucharist of the Lord's Body and Blood, will be continue to be celebrated for Wednesday, March 19th (Mid-Lent/Pallo) and Sunday, March 22nd in all the parishes where the local governmental agencies have not proscribed large gatherings. However, the Eucharist will be observed in the following manner for these two dates indicated: 1) the Holy Qurbana will be celebrated only by a limited number of priests and deacons, without the presence of the faithful (i.e. behind closed doors), and a time allowance will be announced for each parish in which the faithful can come in the church (without staying) and receive the Eucharist from the celebrant. Due to national guidelines issued by the president, no more than 10 people will be allowed in the church at one time during the reception of Communion. We ask the ushers and the parish committee to be vigilant in helping this flow of restricted amount of persons.
- 4. For the two dates of the celebration noted above (#3), the direct participation from the Communion Chalice will be strictly relegated to the priests and deacons alone, and not to the faithful. The usual fasting restrictions still apply before the reception of Holy Communion.
- 5. There will be no congregating in the parish hall, church foyer or any other premises of the church during the Eucharistic liturgy, and at the reception of Holy Communion.
- 6. We especially express our solace for the elderly, chronically ill and the young, who are sick at this time with the corona virus, and those who are most vulnerable to contract it. Thus, we strongly urge all those who are sick with the flu or any other chronic illness, the elderly, and small children to stay at home during these next few weeks.

- 7. Further prescriptions will be given in the very near future for the following Sundays, March 29, Palm Sunday (April 5) and the Feast of the Resurrection (April 12), as we are monitoring the situation closely.
- 8. Regarding funerals: a funeral in any given parish is to be conducted by only a few clergy in an abbreviated format, with only the immediate family members present. No funeral luncheons may be held on any church premises at any time. We also highly discourage any condolence gatherings at the home of the deceased, except for the immediate family.
- 9. Should any parishioner have a given pastoral need or emergency, please contact your local parish priest that arrangements might be made to meet your spiritual needs. These include the anointing of the sick and those who are near death. However, baptisms and weddings will be postponed for after Easter (pending the situation);
- 10. Should one of the parishioners have an urgent need (food, household, items), and is either elderly or bed-ridden, please inform your local parish;
- 11. We ask that each parishioner makes himself/herself aware with the recommendations and restrictions of their local governmental health agency.

We would like to say a final word, and ask that all of us continue to believe with great faith and to trust in the Lord, and in His abundant mercies towards. Our Lord Jesus Christ promised: "Ask, and it shall be given to you" (St. Matthew 7:7); let us ask with faith. Furthermore, let us pray and fast as one body, seeking the Lord's favor at this time, for again the Lord promises us: "Fear not, little flock!" (St. Luke 12:32). By God's grace let us dispel every fear and panic from us, and surrender our hearts to the Lord that He might heal them, and strengthen us at this trying time.

In closing, our prayers are extended to all of the physicians, nurses and medical professions who have the task of physically caring for the infirm, particularly those who have contracted the virus. May the Lord strengthen them and keep them from all harm.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all; Amen+++

Issued on this 17th day of March, in the year of Our Lord 2020:-

\*Aprim Khamis

Bishop of Western USA



\*Awa Royel

Bishop of California



†Paulus Benjamin
Bishop of Eastern USA



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محاورتها فحديد وحديث والمداع معرسادا

\* 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 STATUS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST

#### For Immediate Release

The Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East would like to update all of the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East concerning the status of the special of the Holy Synod, previously called by His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East.

The Holy Synod which was scheduled to be held in the patriarchal see of Erbil, Iraq, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020, has been postponed due to the restrictions of travel worldwide on account of the novel coronavirus pandemic. His Holiness has informed the bishops in writing, in his epistle dated April 16, 2020, that the Synod will take place as soon as international travel restrictions are lifted, and the general health conditions allow for the bishops of the Church to meet and elect the new Catholicos-Patriarch.

The faithful will be informed as soon as a new date for the Synod has been fixed.

Given this 20th day of April, 2020; from the Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East.

† Awa Royel

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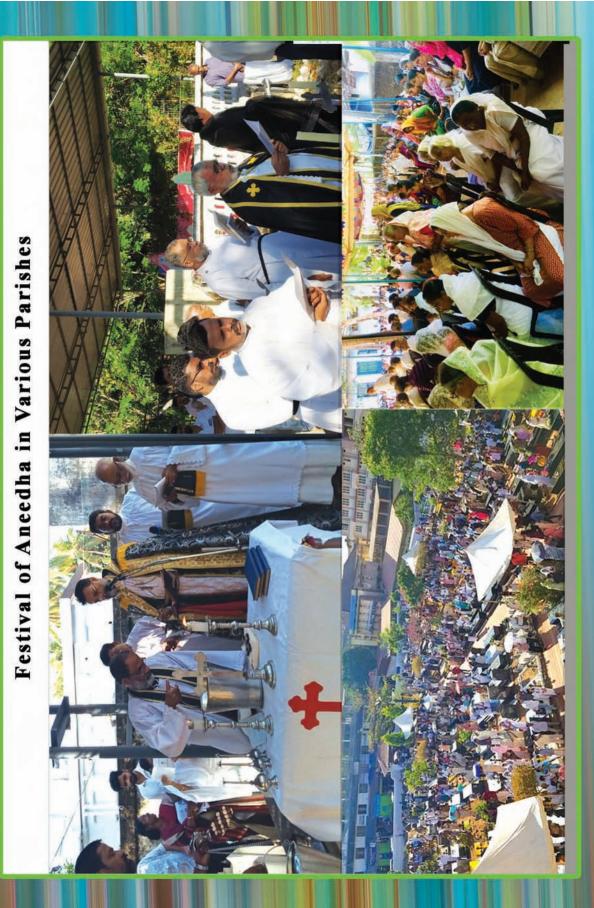
By Grace: Bishop of California & Secretary of the Holy Synod.



### **Rewriting Global Orthodoxy**

His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis participated in a virtual discussion on a project entitled 'Rewriting Global Orthodoxy: The Oriental Churches in Europe, 1970-2020'. The meeting was hosted by the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies Radboud University of Nijmegen in The Netherlands.

The project started in October 2019, by the Faculty, in cooperation with the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, with a grant from the European Research Council of the European Commission. It explores the religious publications of the Coptic, Syriac Orthodox, Armenian, Ethiopian and Eritrean churches in Europe, in comparison with those of the Church of the East and other churches whose members over the past fifty years have moved to various European countries. It studies these Churches who have in various ways established dioceses, churches and parishes, and have started to build up church life and the education of the young and the old, via a variety of publications – published in Europe or in other places of the world.



His Grace Mar Aprem Metropolitan delivering the keys to the houses built by Marth Mariam Big Church for the poor on the 80th birthday of H. G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan on 13 June 2020





Rev. Fr. Binu Joseph presenting donation and new washbasins for the newly built houses on behalf of the Youths' Association of the Marth Mariam Big Church to Mr. I G Joy for 'Mar Aprem Metropolitan Golden Jubilee Housing Donation Scheme'



H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the Annual Day Farewell
Function of Mar Thimotheus High School, Kuriachira along with the Bishop Mar
Awgin Kuriakose and the Corporate Manager Mr. John Paul Mannukadan. The
Principal of the Higher Secondary School Dr. Abi Paul
standing behind the Bishop



H.L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa and the members of the Board of Central Trustees handing over rice and other necessities to the Thrissur Mayor Mrs. Ajitha Jayaraj for all the community kitchens within the Thrissur Corporation



Vicar of Marth Mariam Big Church Fr. Binu Joseph handed over 2000 hand gloves, 10 bottle hand sanitizer and 150 face mask to Thrissur Collector S. Shanavas as part of the "BREAK THE CHAIN" Challenge launched by the Central Youth Association to combat the Covid 19 epidemic in the presence of Minister Shri A C Moideen and Youth Association General Secretary Sojan P John

His Grace was joined by scholars and other Church leaders during the virtual session.

His Grace is grateful to the Faculty for the invitation to participate in the discussion and looks forward to contributing to other projects and research regarding the Assyrian Church of the East and Syriac Studies.

### Covid-19

The coronavirus continues to spread. It is not easy to say how many lives will be lost. In any case, our future will not be as we planned. There will be changes in our lives depending on the circumstances of the corona pandemic. We should be ready to act by undertaking daily works with conscious caution.

As far as Kerala is concerned, during this pandemic alcoholism may once again change the life plan of alcoholics as well as the other family members. In fact, some people now spend a few days without the smell of alcohol, but it is feared that the current situation will lead to further devastation. Many families will suffer from alcoholism because they think that the money from the sale of alcohol is essential to the needs of the government.

Although the churches in Kerala are vigilant against alcohol, we must realize that we are going to be more doomed. We must all work together to eradicate alcoholism. Let us pray to God to save our country from alcoholism.

## 80th Birthday Reflections

H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

I completed 80 years of age on 13 June 2020 (born on June 13, 1940). It is the time to pray and work for our country. I realize that completing 80 years of age is not the result of my abilities but the grace of God.

By the age of 80, God has given us a chance to live a pretty good life. Thanks to God for that. It doesn't matter that I couldn't do better. At the same time, I remember with gratitude that God gave us opportunities beyond what we deserved. I thankfully remember that God has given me great positions in the Indian Church this century or the last. Not only in India but also in my service as Locum Tenens (Acting Catholicos-Patriarch) of the Assyrian Church of the East for six months. It is God's will.

At the time of the death of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, I was the senior most metropolitan and happened to lead the funeral services for His Holiness. Likewise, the election of the new Patriarch and, by the grace of God, my leadership that led him to rule in that position, were unforgettable events. I also take this opportunity to thank my brother prelates for their support and assistance.

During this time a council met in Erbil for two Indian bishops. No major and significant changes were made for Indian Archdiocese at that time. Although many decisions had to be made urgently, the Council decided to consider them only after the new patriarch had been

consecrated. After the consecration of Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, the first decision in the next day's meeting was to cancel the previous Synod decree that "No one other than an Assyrian may be elected Patriarch", which had been decreed at the Holy Synod held under the presidency of the late Mar Dinkha IV in November 1976. The decision to rescind this decree was not a matter of controversy as all the bishops had previously agreed to the move. Every Christian must accept the word of the Apostle Paul who says "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus".

Positions and prestige are an issue in many Churches. One of the historic reasons for disputes and splits in churches has been because of the desire to seek leadership positions. Nothing like this has happened in our church. The new Patriarch was able to take up his role peacefully without any allegations of vote-rigging, fraudulent voting, or the formation of new churches or the division of existing churches. Similarly, the relocation of the Patriarchate, which had been operating in the United States since 1940, to the city of Erbil in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region also occurred during this period. Many had criticized the fact that our church had its headquarters in the United States because it is an Eastern church. For this reason, the decision was taken to return the headquarters of the Church of the East to its ancestral birthplace. The question before us is whether the relocation of the headquarters to Iraq has been of any benefit. It was a very deliberate decision of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV. In the future we will get the answer to the question I have posed. Without great freedom of action, it is not clear whether our Church will have a better future in Iraq, Syria and Iran. The Assyrian people are also still pursuing their long-held dream of statehood.

Therefore, some people agree in the decision to have headquarters in Erbil itself. That being said, many also oppose the decision noting that Assyrians in the United States have greater freedom of conscience and speech. There are also Assyrians who think with a commercial eye. There are those who think that they can come to Iraq from the United States and make a profit by doing business. In any case, I pray that our Church may have a better future in the United States and Iraq.

Covid-19 is a major disease that is spreading across the world, not just in Kerala or India. According to one of the Malayalam newspapers dated 19.07.2020 the total number of Covid patients in the world today is 1,42,80,589. In India 10,76,535 and 11,659 in Kerala. And the deaths around the world are 6,01,268. In India 26,826 and 40 in Kerala. It is not known how many people in our Church died due to Covid-19. Let us pray for all.

# Indian Archdiocese News General Transfer of Clergy in India

The parish change of priests in the Indian Church came into effect from June 14. Covid-19 and other ailments are causing a lot of discomfort to all. However, the church has decided not to procrastinate as many clergy are ready for a change. Let us pray to God that this General Transfer will be beneficial to all.

## Mahila Samajam (Women's Association)

As part of the Covid-19 counterattack, the Mahila Samajam, with a spirit of service, made 25000 masks for the Kerala Police. Mahila Samajam Secretary Mrs. Mary Paul handed it over to IRB Sub Inspector Shri. Johnson Joseph.

The Mahila Samajam Committee offered their best wishes and thanks to all the participants on this occasion. The committee informed that all those involved will be given certificates.

### Men's Association

The Men's Association of the Church of the East distributed a 500 kit of vegetable seeds received from the Agricultural and Farmers Development Welfare Department to 500 families of the Church of the East in India.

The distribution has been started by Mr. Anto D Ollukaran, General Secretary of the Men's Association by giving away the kit to Mr. Abi Thazhtah, Mr. Thimothy MR, Mr. Babu AR and Mr. Abi J Ponmanissery.

The seed distribution was organised according to the "Non-toxic Vegetable Living Plan" of the Agriculture Department.

# **Environment Day**

H.L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa inaugurated the medicinal fruit garden in the Thiroor Seminary compound on the day of Environment by planting the seeds of pomegranate, gooseberry, blueberry, custard apple, guava etc.

The President of Men's Association Rev. Fr. Jose Vengassery, the Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees Mr. Tenny C L, General Secretary of Men's Association Mr. Anto D Ollukaran, Youth General Secretary Mr. Sojan John, Seminary Secretary Mr. Mereej Thimothy and Mr. M R Thimothy spoke on the occasion.

As part of the Environment Day H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan planted nutmeg in the Metropolitan Palace compound, Thrissur.

## 'I Can't Breathe'

Malayalam Magazine 'PourasthyaNaadam' **By Anto D. Ollukaran** 

'I Can't Breathe', Your knee is on my neck". This groan itself is the one that we are being hearing from our surroundings. The cry out of the blacks who had been the prey of racists' torturing still continues. In European countries there is no any permanent solution against

this. Rarely, however, this inhibition occurs. The caste system and the untouchability, that once prevailed in our country, has not been completely disappeared. And that is why the rest of it we has to be *heard* 'I Can't Breathe'.

There are many such people among us who engage in activities that hurt the co-existing people without understanding their living conditions and rejoice in it, considering it as a fascination or a hobby. They see it as an achievement. Whether by word or by deed these oppressors says heard 'I Can't Breathe'.

Probably their choking is not for oxygen. Most of us are smart enough in mentally torturing the companions in one way or another. They may have praise-singers. The amount of the alcohol they use determines the standard of these praise-singers. It is not easy to correct them. These selfish people will blabber even they have no knowledge of Social and cultural things to develop the society in depth. Such attitudes need to be corrected. This is what Jesus Christ said on the cross "*I'm thirsty*".

The crucification is the thirsty of Christ for the bitter experience of standing up against the discrimination of human society and against the greed of materialists. Often a man himself loses his ability to recognize this.

In the downfall and fall down of a person is an attitude of attending a reception. This attitude should be changed. It is not humanitarian to spread slander by hiding the truth even if it cannot be corrected.

Let the corona period give us hope for a new vision. May the grace of the Holy Spirit be poured out for the correction and the renovation.

(The Author is the General Secretary of Men's Association, Chaldean Syrian Church of the East in India)

# **Behind the Mask of Charity**

From The News - Sunday Express - 17.07.2020

A native of Kannur, Kerala had made an emotional appeal on social media a month ago seeking financial help for the treatment of her mother who needed an emergency liver surgery. To her surprise, she received a whopping Rs. 1.25 Crore in her bank account within a few days. But, Varsha has now filed a complaint saying that soon after her mother's surgery, she started receiving threat calls from various corners, including charity workers who helped her, demanding a share of the amount she received.

Meanwhile, the huge flow of money within a short span and the subsequent controversy has raised suspicion over the involvement of racket trying to legalise black money via the charity route, say sources.

## **Housing Scheme**

The 'Mar Aprem Metropolitan Golden Jubilee Housing Donation Scheme' was a massive project conceived by the Marth Mariam Valiyapalli, Thrissur to provide shelter to those who lost their homes in the catastrophic floods witnessed in Kerala in 2018. Under the leadership of the Marth Mariam Valiya Palli, the general meeting of the Church decided to buy 20 cents of land in Khuttaala near Venginisseri, Thrissur and construct 10 houses. The place was later renamed as St. Mar Timotheus Nagar.

Its official inauguration was held on the festival of Kudash Etha 2018 in the presence of His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, officiated jointly by Hon'ble Minister A. C. Moideen and Thrissur District Panchayat President Mrs. Mary Thomas. At each stage of its construction, it was supported by His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and other Episcopas. After about a year and a half, its construction was completed and ready to be handed over to the beneficiaries. The buildings consisted of blocks six and four. The construction cost was around Rs. 2 Crore.

The list was compiled by an expert committee chaired by Valiyapalli Vicar Fr. Binu Joseph Ponnokkaran. The handing over of the keys of these houses took place on June 13 at a simple ceremony held in the Marth Mariam Big Church at the celebration of the 80th birthday of H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan. The construction committee later decided to hold its official inauguration and public meeting in the context of Covid-19. The construction work was led by a committee headed by Vicar Father Binu Joseph, Assistant Vicar Father Sijo Johny and Kaikars Shri I G Joy and Shri Raju Emmatty. Father Binu Joseph welcomed the keynote address which began with the prayer of the Assistant Vicar, Father Sijo Johny.

Mr. C. L. Tenny, the Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees distributed the grocery kits to the beneficiaries. Mr. Sojan P John, General Secretary of the Youth Association greeted. Mr. I G Joy, Kaikar of Marth Mariam Big Church explained about the Housing Project. Mr. Raju Emmatty, Kaikar of the Marth Mariam Church presented the Vote of Thanks for the committee.

#### The Editorial

(Translated from the *Paurasthya Naadam* Malayalam Magazine – June 2020)

After the Crucifixion the anointing of the Holy Spirit was the greatest blessing bestowed on the disciples who were afraid of the Jewish authorities, who were not active, and who were not active preachers of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Disappointed by the pressure of adversity, the disciples were reluctant to fulfill the mission Jesus Christ had given them. Nevertheless, Jesus fulfilled the promise that he made to them during his lifetime through the gift of the Holy Spirit. As soon as they received this gift, they first boldly proved their faith in Jesus Christ.

Those who had come to Jerusalem from many lands at that time understood in their own language what they had heard from the disciples of Christ. Besides, the language of the disciples was not as vague as many claim today. Transliteration is the result of copying the custom of many other religions that were prevalent at the time. We also see that the apostle Paul took a very strong stand against it. Another thing is that they did not use the gift of the Holy Spirit for financial gain or any other personal gain or to make promises.

The third chapter of the book of Acts tells us that although Peter and John were unable to provide financial assistance to the beggar for daily bread they healed him and enabled him to stand on his own two feet. He became a praiser of God. This is the experience of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit gives us the will to do good, regardless of the pros and cons of any crisis, and the hope that a Christian believer will be able to overcome any crisis in order to do good, just as Jesus rose from all the crisis. This experience enables us to build a world of goodness and to bring believers closer to God and to his Son.

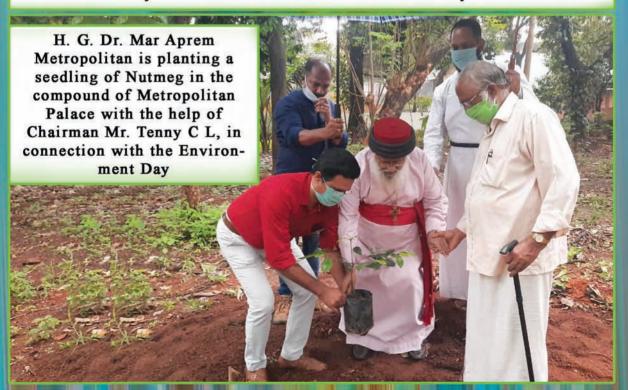
When this Covid period fills us with worries, we see many minds ready to help us overcome it. But unfortunately we also see those who have come down only to reap the benefits from this difficult time. There are those who lure people directly, through the media and especially through the digital media, and leak their wallets. Others claim that the end of the world is near in the name of faith and try to bring people to their path and reap the benefits by raising more concerns. For that they seek help from the book of Revelation. It is easy for these people to mislead those who do not know the background of the book of Revelation. Earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, wars, and even great plagues are good fields for these people to spread their superstitions.

However, a keen eye can detect the emptiness of these people. None of these prophecies have come true as they said. Moreover, the book of Revelation, the Bible, and other books do not mention the end of the world. God, the father of Jesu, envisions a new world ruled by God. The first verse of the twenty-first chapter of the book of Revelation is not about the end of the world. On the contrary, this world system, controlled by those who persecute who believe in Jesus, has changed and instead envisions a new world ruled by the God.

Seeing the new heavens and the new earth is not the first time in the book of Revelation. We see this in the book of the Prophet Isaiah. In the Book of Prophet Isaiah 17 out of 65 says, "Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth". Throughout the book of Daniel, God and his representative are described as having dominion over the persecutors. This view is not alien to many works written between the Old Testament and the New Testament. God, who is able to rule over the oppressors world, will change their world system. Even if it takes longer time than the expected, it will happen. The message that the Pentecostal experience gives us today is that God will change the forces that disrupt human goodness, no matter how powerful they may seem, even if it seems impossible to change. We must be prepared for it by faith.



H. L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa inaugurates the Fruit Garden in the Thiroor Seminary in connection with the Environment Day on 5th June 2020





Men's Association of the Church of the East. L-to-R: President Rev. Fr. Jos Vengassery, H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan cuts a cake to celebrate his 80th birthday with the Adv. Mr. Baby. P. Antony, Mr. Varghese Pellissery, General Secretary Mr. Anto D. Ollukaran, Mr. Anson. K. Davis, Mr. E'ham Emmatty