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After the Metropolitan Consecration held at Mart Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur, the new Metropolitan H B Mar Awgin Kuriakose and Catholicos Patriarch H H Mar Awa III along with other prelates of the Assyrian Church of the East.

VOICE OF THE EAST



On 6 January 2022, Patriarch H H Mar Awa III is celebrating the Holy Qurbana at Mart Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur, in connection with the Holy Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ.



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch receives in audience at the patriarchal cathedral His Excellency Judge Mohamed Abdel-salam, the Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Patron : **His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem**

Metropolitan's Palace,

Trichur - 680 001, Kerala, India

Phone : 91487 - 2420978

Personal : 91487 - 2442166

Email : hgmaraprem@gmail.com

Website Links

Official: www.news.assyrianchurch.org

Archdiocese of India & UAE: www.churchoftheeastindia.org

Archdiocese of Australia & New Zealand: www.assyrianchurch.org.au

Diocese of California: www.acoecalifornia.org

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Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation: www.theacero.org

Unofficial: www.nestorian.org

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Editorial

The biggest challenge facing the Christian Churches in India in this era is the migration of the young generation to foreign countries for better living conditions. Many students who migrate to foreign countries often find themselves disconnected from their religious roots and the teachings of the Church. They are exposed to different lifestyles and belief systems, which can cause them to become unaware of Church and God. This can have serious consequences for their spiritual and emotional well-being. It is a matter of great concern that their number is increasing day by day. With low birth rates and migration, the number of families leaving without generations is increasing today. If this trend continues, many houses in Kerala will be locked without families within ten to fifteen years. Youth participation in the work programs of youth movements in churches is in a poor state.

The number of people who forget God and God's word and go on with their lives in today's society, where immorality is running with great enthusiasm, breaking all the boundaries of morality, is also increasing. After five or ten years, we will have to see in our Holy Church worse than this. It is time for the Church to wake up and think about the solutions to this. We must come forward with foresight to devise and implement plans to overcome the challenges we face now and in the future. We have to keep the next generation together with the Church and the community with strong faith in God.

What the Church needs today is not the spiritual life that we are accustomed to: "Me, my God, and my family". Rather, a believer must rise to the conviction that "I, my God, my Family, my Church and the Community". It is time for everyone to take the Church and society to their heart and kneel before God in mourning for the future generation and society.

Additionally, the Church can use technology to bridge the gap between students and their faith. Online resources such as live streams of religious services and Bible study groups can help students stay connected to their faith even when they are away from home.

Ultimately, it is important for the Church to recognize the challenges faced by migrating students and take an active role in addressing these issues. By doing so, the Church can help students maintain a strong connection to their faith, even when they are far from home.

Dr Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Holy Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

On Friday, January 6, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos- Patriarch, offered the Holy Mysteries at Mart Mariam Cathedral in Thrissur – Kerala to celebrate the Holy Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ.

His Holiness was accompanied by His Beatitude Mar Aprim Nathneil, Metropolitan of Syria, His Grace Mar Emmanuel Yousip, Bishop of Canada, His Grace Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Metropolitan-Designate and Patriarchal Administrator of all India and UAE, His Grace Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Emeritus, His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern United States, His Grace Mar Benjamin Elijah, Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand, and Archdeacon Fr. William Toma.

His Excellency Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam

On Wednesday, January 18, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch received in audience at the patriarchal cathedral His Excellency Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, the Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders, and his accompanying delegation.

During the audience, the judge spoke on the role of the Council in spreading dialogue and coexistence, primarily relation to Christian-Muslim, Muslim-Muslim dialogues, as well as with other religions. In turn, His Holiness extended his warmest greetings to the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Chairman of the Board of the Council, and stressed the importance of inter-religious dialogue and peaceful coexistence Iraq and in the Middle East at large. His Holiness mentioned numerous examples in the world, where the faithful of our Assyrian Church are living in peace and coexistence, in such places as the KRI, India and the UAE. Also present at the audience were His Eminence Mar Aprim Athneil, Metropolitan of Syria, His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Kirkuk, Diana, and Patriarchal Auxiliary, and Rev. Fr. Martin Nabeel.

The Assyrians and Chaldeans

On the occasion of the “Resolution Relating to the Recognition of the Assyro-Chaldean Genocide of 1915-1918” adopted in public session by the French Senate (Resolution No. 54), on Wednesday February 8, 2023, an annual dinner gala was organized in Paris at the Inter Continental Paris Le Grand, at the initiative of the Association of Assyro-Chaldeans in France (A.A.C.F.) and its President, Mr. Isa-Marius Yaramis. A special invitation was extended to His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, by the President of the Association Mr. Isa Yaramis, to be the guest-of-honor at the banquet. His Holiness was accompanied by His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Europe, and the Very Rev. Cor-bishop Auchana Kanoun of the Diocese of California.

A number of political leaders and senior civil servants were also in attendance, including Mr. Jean-Christophe Peaucelle (Advisor for Religious Affairs of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs), several deputies, senators, including Mr. Bruno Retailleau (President of the group ‘Les Républicains au Senate’) and his colleague, Mrs. Valérie Boyer, diplomats, including Mr. Wade Al-Batti, Ambassador of the

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Republic of Iraq to France, elected officials, representatives of religions, several bishops including Mgr. Najib Mikhaël, Chaldean Archbishop of Mosul & Aqra, academics, representatives of associations, many friends and members of the Assyro-Chaldean community in France. Also present were Assyrian scholars from the academic field, namely: Professor Emeritus Joseph Yacoub of the Catholic University of Lyons, Dr. Efreem Yildiz of the University of Salamanca, and independent researcher Joseph Alichoran.

On this occasion, His Holiness the Patriarch addressed the assembly in the French language on this day so important for the memory of the countless thousands of martyrs of the Assyrian Church of the East who fell during the Great War of 1914-1918. In his speech, His Holiness rightly recalled that: "These persecutions against our Assyrian and Chaldean people have continued throughout these twenty-one centuries of our Christian faith. The great mystery is not how we were decimated, but how we survived these countless persecutions. If it weren't for the grace of God, coupled with the determination of our faithful ancestors to survive, we would have been wiped from the face of the earth. For its part, France has played an indispensable and leading role in the modern history of the Assyro-Chaldean people, particularly at the turn of the 20th century, and more particularly during the atrocities committed against our nation during the First World War[1914]. Estimates indicate that as much as two-thirds of our population was wiped out during the genocidal campaign of the "Young Turks", simply because our people were Christians, and not part of the majority religion of the Ottoman Empire at that time. And yet, to this day, our nation has still not received justice from the perpetrators of these atrocious acts of the last century, who sought to completely destroy and eliminate every Christian and non-Turkish element from the newly formed country; a country that should have been founded on the venerable principles of justice, equality and freedom of conscience."

His Holiness further states: "Nevertheless, I am sure that we are all very encouraged today by the bold decision taken by the Senate of the French Republic to recognize the genocide of the Assyro-Chaldean people by the Ottoman Turks during the First World War. This laudable statement is one more step in the right direction to right the wrongs of modern history, and in particular to do justice to the unjust acts of genocide perpetrated against the Assyrians and Chaldeans, as well as against the Syrians and other peoples, Christians of Ottoman Turkey. In the name of the countless children, women and old people of our people martyred at the beginning of the last century, I thank France for being a just and courageous nation, for opening the way to the future by correcting the past!" His Holiness also stated in his address that the Assyrians and Chaldeans are indeed one nation, and sons of the one Church of the East.

International Mother Language Day (Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Maran Mar Awa III)

Today, February 21st, is International Mother Language Day. This is a precious opportunity to pay homage to our beautiful Assyrian language. This observance was begun by UNESCO in 1999 in promoting the mother language of all peoples across the globe. As Assyrians, we too should recognize and appreciate our Assyrian mother tongue, especially on this day of commemoration. We should appreciate it by learning it ourselves, and by teaching it to others, particularly the younger generation.

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It is my sincere hope that all Assyrian parents across the world will be diligent in teaching our beautiful mother tongue to our children, so that in learning it, they can cherish and preserve one of the most important elements of our Assyrian heritage. I thank all of our Assyrian language schools operated by our holy Church worldwide for playing a major role in promoting our Assyrian language as well. May we all be encouraged to promote the learning and teaching of our Assyrian mother tongue, so that by doing so we will secure the future and survival of our Assyrian nation for coming generations.

Patriarchal Address on the Occasion of the Consecration of His Beatitude Mar Awgin Kuriakoseas Metropolitan of All India; Thrissur, 8 January 2023

In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Forever, Amen.

My brother hierarchs, the Most Reverend Metropolitans and Bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East-members of the Holy Synod; the Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Guests, and the Faithful of the Church of the East in India: Grace to you, from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Today is a day of great joy and jubilation for the Church of the East in India, and worldwide. Thus, I echo the words of the Psalmist: *“This is the day which the Lord has made; come, let us rejoice and be glad in it”* (Psalm 118:24). It is a joy of jubilation because another golden page has been written in the glorious history of the Church of the East, here in the blessed and historical land of India. Today, by the grace of God and the action of the Holy Spirit, together with our brother hierarchs, we have raised our eminent brother His Beatitude Mar Awgin Kuriakose to the exalted rank of Metropolitan by the laying-on of our hand, over all the Archdiocese of India. During the consecration ceremony, His Beatitude was given the historical title of the archdiocese: Malabar and All India. This echoes the days of glory of the history of our blessed Church here in this historical land, which was already blessed by the footsteps of the disciple or our Lord, Mar Thoma Shlikha, who preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this land from the year 52 AD to 75 AD, when he received the crown of martyrdom near Mylapore.

Since that first evangelistic mission of the blessed apostle St. Thomas-who witnessed the Risen Lord Jesus in the Upper Room by placing his fingers and hand in the open wounds of Christ-the Christian faith of our forefathers flourished in the southern coast of India. By the middle of the fourth century, the ecclesiastical ties with the Church of the East, based in Mesopotamia and having as the primatial see the royal twin-cities of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, were further strengthened and nourished. Later, Patriarch Mar Timothy I (‘The Great’) elevated the Church in India to an autonomous metropolitan see, separate from that of Fars. Since the beginning of the ninth century therefore, the Church of the East in India has boasted one of the most historical archiepiscopal sees of our Church. And thus, since that very important event in the life of the Church of the East in India, the faithful on this blessed subcontinent have enjoyed their own metropolitan see. A bit later, we know that in

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the year 1301 the Church of the East in India was shepherded by Mar Yakob, who was referred to as the 'Metropolitan and Gate of All India.'

The Church has seen much growth and missionary activity all throughout the subcontinent these many past centuries. In fact, this was the case until the arrival of the Portuguese missionaries to the Malabar Coast in 1499. In that year, when Vasco da Gama arrived, he was stunned to see that there were no less than 100,000 Christians in South India, and that all of them were children of the patriarchate of Seleucia-Ctesiphon in Mesopotamia. The arrival of the Portuguese became a watershed in the life of the Church in India. But yet, thanks be to God, the Church of the East has survived all throughout these past centuries of struggles and challenges from various parts.

Today, as we celebrate a new era in the life of the Church of the East in India, I put on record the momentous work carried out by my venerable predecessors on this ancient and apostolic see who had visited the Church of the East in India. First, the late Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, was the first patriarch of the Church of the East who visited the archdiocese in January of 1961. That historic event will be forever remembered, as it was the very first time that a reigning Patriarch of Seleucia-Ctesiphon ever stepped foot on Indian soil.

Then, his successor the late Mar Dinkha IV of blessed memory conducted several patriarchal visitations to the Archdiocese of India, namely in 1991, 2001, and 2010. In 1995, during the patriarchate of Mar Dinkha IV, the unity of the Church of the East was achieved, and the decades-old rift which effected the Church in India since 1965 was healed. The last visit of this patriarch in 2010 was also memorable, as it was the first time that a meeting of the Holy Synod was convened in India. That momentous event was further blessed with the episcopal consecration of two new auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of India, namely His Grace Mar Yohannan Yoseph, and His Grace (at the time) Mar Awgin Kuriakose.

The Church of the East in India also witnessed twice the apostolic visitation of my immediate predecessor, His Holiness Patriarch-Emeritus Mar Gewargis III. In April of 2018, Mar Gewargis III conducted his first apostolic visitation of the Archdiocese of India. During his visit in 2019, he formally canonized the late, beloved Metropolitan of India, blessed Mar Abimalek Timotheus as a saint of the Assyrian Church of the East in accord with the decision of the Holy Synod of the same year. In 2018, the Archdiocese of India has also conducted celebrations commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the episcopal consecration of His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan.

And today, by the grace of God, our humility has been accorded the opportunity by the Lord to conduct our first patriarchal and apostolic visit to the archdiocese of the Church of the East in India. We stand humbly, therefore, in this eminent and blessed succession of the Patriarchs of the East who have visited the Holy Church in India, in order to strengthen the spiritual bonds between the faithful of our Church and the Patriarch of Seleucia-Ctesiphon—a bond that goes back to the first centuries of the Christian era, and a bond which your venerable forefathers defended with everything they possessed.

This visit was crowned today with the consecration of His Beatitude Mar Awgin Kuriakose as Metropolitan of All India and its dependencies, succeeding our beloved and eminent brother His Beatitude Mar Aprem who now retains the title



Prelates and the clergy moving to the Marth Mariam Cathedral from the Metropolitan Palace as a procession for the Holy Qurbana for the Consecration on 8 January 2023.



Patriarch HH Mar Awa III celebrate the Holy Qurbana in connection with the consecration of Metropolitan at the Marth Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur.



Metropolitan H B Mar Awgin Kuriakose lighting the lamp at the closing ceremony of the Platinum Jubilee of St. Thomas Church, Ernakulam on 26 January 2023



On 8 January 2023 the rally of "Declaration of Faith" starts on Sunday School Day from Mar Yohannan Mamdana Church, East Fort, Thrissur.



The meditation program called "Dhyanaaraav" was organised at Kuruvilachan Church, Thrissur Conducted under the leadership of H G Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa on December 21, 2022.



Mrs. Achamma Paulus, the mother of Metropolitan-designate Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, gave sweets to His Grace at 'A confluence of friendship meeting' of the laymen and the Sunday School students in Marotichal, Thrissur

50 YEARS OF HAPPY MARRIED LIFE



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of 'Patriarchal Delegate in India'. This morning's celebration is particularly historic because it is the first time that a Metropolitan of the Church of the East is also consecrated on Indian soil, and it is the first hierarchical consecration in the 'Valiyapally', or 'Big Church' (i.e., Marth Maryam Cathedral) here in the city of Thrissur. No doubt, this day will be remembered for generations of the Church of the East in India to come, and may it be written in golden letters in the annals of the glorious history of our Church in India.

And thus, we wish to express our deep gratitude to our beloved and venerable brother His Beatitude Mar Aprem, our Patriarchal Delegate in India, for his more-than six decades of faithful and unselfish ministry as deacon, priest, bishop and metropolitan of the Church of the East in India. And now as His Beatitude hands on full administration of the archdiocese to His Beatitude Mar Awgin, we pray for the continued health and well-being of Dr. Mar Aprem, who continues to be beloved and venerated by all of us. To our beloved brother His Grace Mar Yohannan, we beseech the Lord's blessings upon him and thank him wholeheartedly for his many years of ministry in the Church of the East in India and pray for his health and years of rest to come.

Finally, to our eminent brother, the new Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of India and its dependencies, His Beatitude Mar Awgin, we express our heartfelt congratulations on this new ministry which you are called to fulfill by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd and the High-priest of our Faith, who imparts all the graces of the holy and apostolic priesthood for the perfection of the believers and the making-holy of Christ's flock.

As the chief shepherd and primate of the Church of the East, and the first servant among the hierarchs by the grace of God, I ask that you be a steadfast, diligent, and loving shepherd over the holy flock entrusted to your arch-pastoral care. Govern the faithful of the Church of the East in India with the love of Christ, with the zeal of the apostles, with the faith of our holy fathers, and with the conviction of the martyrs and the determination of the confessors. Remain unshakable in your teaching of sound and holy doctrine and present yourself always as a living example of Christ Jesus before the faithful. Be slow to judge, Quick to forgive and always ready to bring the errant ones to repentance and salvation. Feed the flock of Christ with, food of the Spirit, leading them in the safe pastures of the Holy Church, so that with boldness you may say before Him: "Behold, we and the children you gave us, who have been preserved in your compassion." Never grow tired of protecting the weakest and most vulnerable ones among the sheep, encouraging them always and strengthening their spirit. As a diligent soldier of Christ, never be afraid to proclaim the truth of the Gospel before all men and be always mindful of bringing the Church of the East in India from glory to glory, and from honor to honor. In so doing, dear brother, you will be accounted worthy by the Great Shepherd Christ Jesus to receive the unfading crown of glory and righteousness, which is preserved in the end for all the holy shepherds who have been well-pleasing before Him.

In closing I would like to express my deep gratitude to the honorable government of the State of Kerala, for receiving me and my delegation as guests of the government. I would also like to express my thank to the clergy, Central Committee, and to the Patriarchal visit and the Metropolitan consecration Steering Committee. I invoke the blessing of God Almighty upon this blessed and holy assembly, and upon the entire Church of the East in India. May the grace and peace of Maran Eshoo Mshekha remain with you all, forever; Amen.

Monthly Thoughts of H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

(Translated from Malayalam Magazine - Jan-Feb 2023)

January 2023

Visit of His Holiness Mar Awa III Patriarch to India

The 122nd Holy Catholicos Patriarch Mar Awa III of our Church has arrived in Thrissur for the apostolic visit. His Holiness is a very close associate of the Indian Church. H L Mar Awa Royel has come to India as the Secretary of the Holy Synod in 2010, to participate in the International Youth Conference in 2016, and to discuss with the Russian Orthodox Church in 2019. His first apostolic visit will be from January 4 to 14. There is no doubt that this visit will bring more awakening to our Indian Church. May God bless His Holiness abundantly.

Consecration of the New Metropolitan

With this consecration, the Church of India and the global Assyrian Church of the East have received a Metropolitan. On Sunday 8th January, the procession started from the Metropolitan Palace, High Road and entered the Marth Mariam Valiyapally and then His Holiness Mar Awa III presided over the Metropolitan Consecration Services. It is the first time in the history of the Chaldean Syrian Church of the East in India that a Metropolitan is enthroned in India. I pray that the new Metropolitan H G Mar Awgin will be strong and able to lead the Church in the coming days.

Ba'utha of Ninevites

We observe the Ninevites Ba'utha or the Three Day Lent, on January 30th, 31st, and February 1st. Concludes Holy Qurbana on Thursday, 2 February 2023 I remind you to understand the importance of the Ba'utha and observe the fast by giving up hearty foods such as fish and meat etc. The days that commemorate the Lord Jesus Christ's 40 days of fasting and persecution in the desert are coming. So let us observe a great fast with purity. On the day before the Lent, marriage is not allowed in the church.

February 2023

The visit of Patriarch HH Mar Awa III to India and the consecration of Metropolitan were held beautifully in the month of January 2023.

The Church Convention is from March 29th to April 2nd. We should pay more attention to spiritual matters. But some people think how to make other events more colourful with drums, songs & dance. At the same time, there are some in the Church who wonder what we should do to grow spiritually. There are some people in our Church who are wondering what can be done to make the Church Convention more efficient. It is not possible to lead the Church to spiritual growth with the efforts of a few committees alone. More members should take sincere efforts to make this Church Convention a success. A few spiritual songs are available in Malayalam language due to Maramon Convention. It is interesting to note that these songs are not confined to one Church but spread throughout the Christian Churches in Kerala. Having been associated with the Maramon

Convention for more than half a century, I am aware of the developments in the ecumenical field in Kerala Malayalis.

Some people in our Church are not very enthusiastic about fasting. Some people stay away from fasting observances citing illness and many other reasons. That is not right. I pray that there will be a change in this Lent.

Indian Archdiocese News

The Flame of Eastern Faith

The Church has organised a vehicle rally “Flame of Eastern Faith” in connection with the first visit of the supreme head of the global Assyrian Church of the East, Maran Mar Awa III, and the coronation of the new Metropolitan. The rally has started at 9.30 am from the courtyard of the Marth Mariam Cathedral where the tomb of the late prelates exist.

Fr. AC Antony inaugurated the rally by handing over the flame to Fr. Sijo Johny, Captain of the vehicle rally. The vehicle rally has been received by twenty parishes in Thrissur and reached back in Marth Mariam Cathedral at 5.00 pm in the evening. Athletes of the Chaldean Syrian School and Church faithful arrived at the Marth Mariam Valiyapalli Cathedral accompanied by about a hundred vehicles.

Metropolitan-designate H G Mar Kuriakose Episcopa received the flame from Father Sijo Johny and gave the closing message. Until January 14, the “Flame of Eastern Faith” will be kept burning at the graves of the Late Prelates.

The Board of Central Trustees Chairman AM Antony, General Convener Jacob Baby, Jt Convener Jose Thazhtha, Volunteer Convener Lali Raphael, Trustees Rajan Joseph Mannuthy, Leons Kangapadan, Shaju AV, Program Committee Chairman Dr Rishi Emmaty, Publicity Committee Chairman Abi J Ponmanissery, Transport Committee Chairman Tenny and Toby Padikala led the rally. Chaldean Syrian School Athletes, Youth’s Association, Men’s Association and Women’s Association all followed the ‘Flame of Faith’ rally.

A Confluence of Friendship

In connection with the arrival of Patriarch His Holiness Mar Awa III of the Assyrian Church of the East in India from 4 to 14 January 2023, and the first consecration of a Metropolitan in India, an audio-video on “The Angels and Priestly Institutions of the Church” has been released by the Mar Mathai Shleeha parish, Mother Parish of Metropolitan-Designate H G Mar Awgin Kuriakose, at ‘A confluence of friendship meeting’ of the laymen and the Sunday School students in Marotichal, Thrissur. Mrs. Achamma Paulus, the mother of Metropolitan-designate Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, gave sweets to His Grace. Shri Joy Othotil honoured His Grace by a golden Shawl.

Vicar Fr. Sijo Johnny welcomed and Prof. Dr. Rishi Emmaty gave the vote of thanks. The Assistant Vicar Deacon Sheejan, Ward Member Mr. Arosh, the Board of Central Trustee Vice Chairman Mr. Jacob Baby Olakenkil, Sister Jincy Othotil, Mr. Benny Maliekal, Mr. C L Tenny and Mr. Biju Pachampampil (brother of Metropolitan-Designate Mar Awgin Kuriakose) spoke on the occasion.

Reception for His Holiness and Delegates in Thrissur

The Catholicos Patriarch His Holiness Mar Awa III Arrived at Kochi Nedumbassery Airport on Wednesday 4th January at 8.30 a.m. for his 10 days apostolic visit and for the consecration of a new head for the Indian Church. The heads of various dioceses of the Church, Mar Aprem Athaniel of Syria, Mar Emanuel Joseph of Canada, Eastern US Bishop Mar Paulos Benjamin and Victoria-New Zealand Bishop Mar Benjamin Elia also arrived with the Holiness.

Under the leadership of Metropolitan-designate Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, Clergy Secretary Fr. KR Inasu, Vicar General Fr. Joseph Vengassery, Fr. Sijo Johnny, Ernakulam Parish Priest Fr. Michael Vallavantara, Kochi Parish Priest Fr. Anto Thomas, Trustee Board Chairman Mr. MA Antony, General Convener Mr. Jacob Baby, Central Trustee Board Members Mr. Rajan Jose Mannuthi, Mr. Lali Raphael, Mr. Jose Thazhtha, Mr. Leons Kangapadan, Mr. Anson K David, Mr. Shaju AV, Mr. Jimreves Solomon, Program Committee Chairman Dr. Rishi Immatty, Publicity & Media Committee Chairman Mr. Abi J Ponmanishery, Transport Committee Chairman Mr. C.L. Tenny received His Holiness and delegates. Then, accompanied by a huge crowd, reached at Marth Mariam Valiyapally Cathedral and was received in the traditional way by His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, H L Dr. Mar Yohannan Joseph Episcopa and Marth Mariam Valiyapally Vicar Father Cyril Anthony. Then they prayed for the church entrance and blessed the devotees.

In his first message to the faithful, His Holiness said that the Indian Archdiocese, which is still preserving the legacy of Marthoma Shliha, who brought the Christian message to India and was martyred, is an example for other dioceses due to their fervor.

Platinum Jubilee of St. Thomas Church, Ernakulam

Ernakulam St. Thomas Church completed its Platinum Jubilee celebrations with the support of parishioners and the Church members gloriously. After more than a year of preparations and prayers, when it was concluded on January 26, 2023, it gave a whole new awakening to the people of the parish.

On January 26, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the new Metropolitan arrived to preside over the ceremonies and celebrations, and was welcomed by the vicars and members of the Parish Council in the presence of the laymen who filled the church grounds with a red carpet spread, flower shower and accompanied by church bells and prayer songs. Then, under the guidance of Metropolitan His Grace Mar Awgin

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Kuriakose, the Holy Qurbana in Syriac was celebrated with the assistance of five priests under the leadership of Venerable Fr. Justin Neelankavil. A Syrian choir from Thrissur was a new experience for the people of Ernakulam.

After the Holy Qurbana, the people enjoyed the excellent artistic programs that were presented systematically till the evening General Meeting. In the meantime, Fr. VV Joseph's "Know the Mind" class and "Know the Pitfalls" class led by the Excise Commissioner ignited the field of knowledge of the audience to add grandeur to the programs. Cardinal Mar George Alenchery inaugurated the public meeting that followed.

Honorable Mayor Mr. Anil Kumar, Board of Central Trustees Vice Chairman Mr. Jacob Baby and others extended their greetings in the meeting witnessed by Metropolitan Mar Awgin Kuriakose. Father AP Varghese, Father NJ Abraham, who are celebrating their golden jubilee of the priesthood and Father Jacks Chandy, Fr. Anto Thomas & Deacon Lijo Johnson who are celebrating their silver jubilee, and Vicar Father Michael Valluvantra, who has a Doctorate in Psychology, all were honored at this occasion. The 75th dialysis patient was assisted at the conference. The orchestra "Kalkandam" led the gathered crowd to a dancing mood. All those who participated in the Jubilee celebration were treated to sumptuous meals. The Platinum Jubilee celebration has brought a new revival to the St. Thomas Parish, Ernakulam.

Mar Aprem Sunday School

Fr. Vinod Timothy - General Secretary

On 8 January 2023, Sunday at 3.30pm the "Declaration of Faith" rally started from Mar Yohannan Mamdana Church, East Fort, Thrissur. Twenty-five parishes from Indian dioceses, including Mumbai and Chennai have participated in the rally. The rally concluded at the Chaldean School by congratulating His Holiness and other dignitaries.

On Sunday, 5 February 2023, Mar Aprem Sunday School welcomed and congratulated the new Metropolitan HB Mar Awgin Kuriakose. In a grand program, attended by the officers of various devotional organizations of the church, prizes have been distributed to the winners of the Art Festival, to the winners of the Sunday school Day - "Declaration of Faith" rally. And also distributed the consolation prizes to the winners of different parishes. The new Metropolitan HB Mar Awgin Kuriakos said that the Sunday school movement has a great place in the heart of the believers of the Church and the activities of the Sunday school are going forward with more energy.

"Dhyaanaraav" **The Evening Meditation**

In order to make the visit of Maran Mar Awa III Catholicos Patriarch to India and the consecration service programs of HL Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa to be the most glorious and auspicious, a meditation program called "*Dhyaanaraav*" was organised at Kuruvilachan Church, where the ancestors of our Holy Church

Voice of the East

rested, and where the spirit of prayer of Saint Abimalek Timothy Thirumeni is filled on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, from 8 pm to 10 pm. The prayer and meditation was organised under the leadership of Central Men's Association of Chaldean Syrian Church of the East.

H G Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa led the services with the assistance of Rev. Fr. K. R. Inasu, Rev. Fr. Jose Vengassery, Rev. Fr. Michael Valuvantra, Rev. Fr. Lazar Madathumpadi, Rev. Fr. Franklin Varghese, Rev. Fr. Cyril Antony, Rev. Fr. Joseph VV.

Voice of Hope

(Aby J Ponmanissery)

It can be understood from the reports of study-surveys conducted by various institutions that there is a remarkable increase in the number of young people who have no religion in many places in the Christian majority countries in the world today. There is a high possibility of such situation to be occurred in our country too. Studies indicate that the trend of young people moving away from Church activities and faith will increase the most in the next 30 years. It will be difficult to keep the youth in the Christian faith if the church does not strengthen the spiritual ministries in such a way that the youth can meet Christ personally.

Therefore, the Church will have to pay a heavy price for this. In order to attract and retain infants and young people to the faith, the Church should plan programs that are important for social contact programs, evangelism, and active youth groups centered in our parish churches. If children and young people do not have a personal encounter with Christ in spiritual services and Sunday school studies in our church, it will not be possible for them to stand firm in their faith. Even after 10 years of Sunday School studies, if you can't recite two lines of prayer on your own or read a passage from the Bible quickly and accurately, then you have to think that something is seriously wrong with our Sunday school learning method.

Tragedy awaits us if our Sunday school education system does not change to a system of molding heroes of the faith, producing only bright students who will witness for Christ in any situation, instead of learning a few truths and getting prizes in Sunday School exams. We should be able to show the young Christ to the youth by encouraging the youth groups, assigning them each mission and preparing good leadership to make it successful. Church leaders and priests should be able to address the youth properly. They should make proper use of all the opportunities they get. If we are not able to preach the gospel of Christ's love in the right way today, the next generation will witness a world without Christ.

It would be horrifying to think of a world without Christ when all goodness abounds where Christ is the all-embracing Redeemer. Therefore, if we are not ready to transmit the love of Christ and the Christian values we have acquired to the growing generation, do not forget that we are preparing the ground for the reign of evil in the world to come. Church leadership, priesthood, and the faithful need a rethink. Let the change be through us. My best wishes to all.



The Catholicos Patriarch H H Maran Mar Awa III speaks at the annual dinner festival on the occasion of the “Resolution Relating to the Recognition of the Assyro-Chaldean Genocide of 1915-1918” on February 8, 2023.



Catholicos Patriarch H H Mar Awa III leading the consecration ceremony of Metropolitan in Marth Mariam Cathedral on 8 January 2023



Rev. Fr. V V Joseph and Rev. Fr. Abin Babu Arangasseri along with Metropolitan H B Mar Awgin Kuriakose after the ordination service held at the Mar Esthapanos Sahda Church, Nellankara on Sunday 29 January 2023.



After the Holy Qurbana in St. Thomas Church, Ernakulam H G Mar Awgin Kuriakose Metropolitan pictured with the clergy