

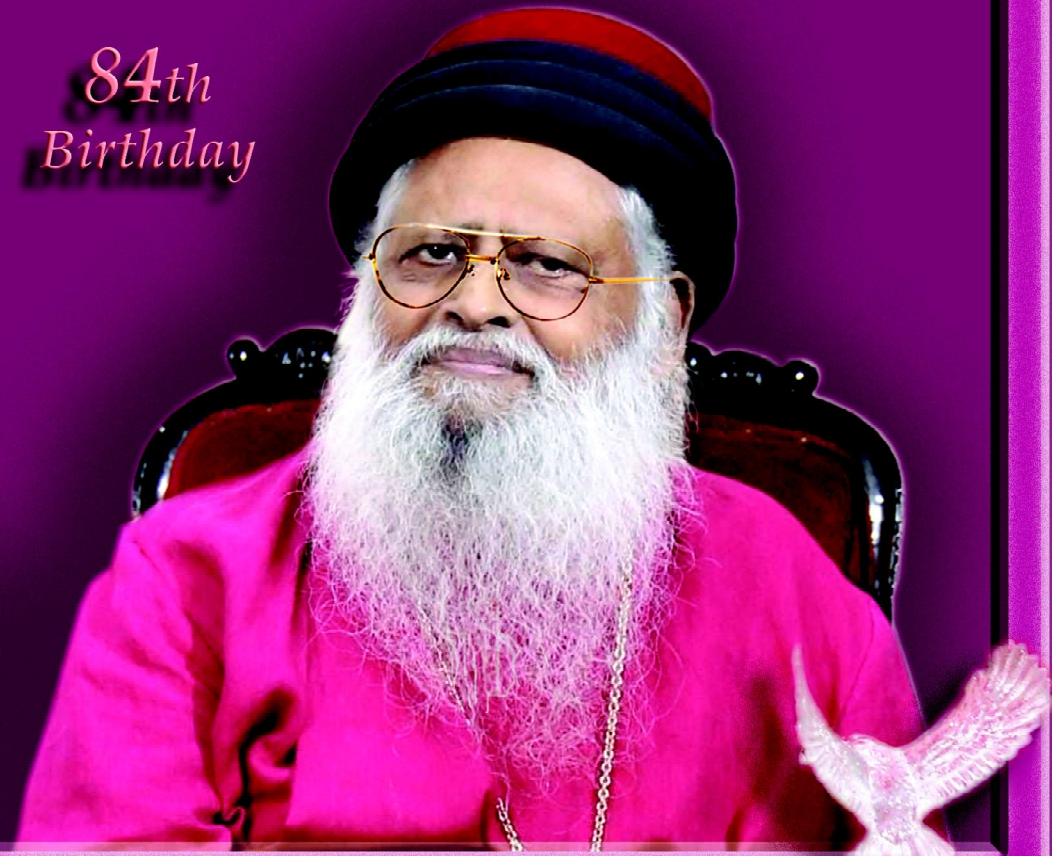
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Vol 70

May - June 2023

Nos 5 - 6

*84th
Birthday*



Your unwavering faith, compassionate leadership, and dedication to spreading God's love has touched countless lives.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO DR. MAR APREM METROPOLITAN

'Voice of the East' English Magazine

VOICE OF THE EAST



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch meets His Excellency Mr. Nasrullah Rashnudi, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Erbil



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch meets Dr. Michael Bassous, General Secretary of the Bible Society in the Middle East, and the accompanying delegations.

Voice of the East

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Editorial

World No Tobacco Day

‘World No Tobacco Day’ is observed globally on May 31st every year. It is an initiative by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to promote tobacco control policies worldwide. The day serves as a reminder of the dangers of tobacco consumption, the health risks associated with it, and the importance of quitting smoking.

‘World No Tobacco Day’ was first organized by the World Health Assembly in 1987 to draw attention to the widespread use of tobacco and its devastating health consequences. Since then, it has been observed annually to highlight the global tobacco epidemic and encourage governments, organizations, and individuals to take action against tobacco use.

The government, its parts and religious and social organizations have to wake up and work against tobacco as well as drug addiction. We must take it upon ourselves to protect the next generation from falling into the dangerous trap of drug abuse, especially parents. The evil of addiction first affects the individual; from there it affects one’s own family, and then becomes a great scourge affecting the society as well.

Today there are many situations around us for a person to slip into tobacco and drug addiction. Out of curiosity or at the insistence of friends, through some imitation, curiosity to know what intoxicants are, lack of clear awareness of its evils, these are all the initial reasons that lead a person to the use of tobacco, drugs and alcohol.

‘World No Tobacco Day’ serves as a powerful platform to address the global tobacco epidemic and promote healthier, smoke-free lifestyles. By raising awareness, supporting cessation efforts, and advocating for strong tobacco control policies, we can work towards reducing tobacco-related illnesses and improving public health worldwide. Remember, every day is an opportunity to quit smoking and make a positive impact on your well-being.

As part of the activities of Nellankara Youth Association of Chaldean Syrian Church of the East, World Anti- Tobacco Day was observed by giving drug awareness notice to the Councilor Subhi Sukumar under the chairmanship of Parish Vicar Fr. Dr. Michael Vallavantra. Youth members have taken up the task of spreading the slogan “Don’t smoke life, tobacco is a threat to the environment” to all the people and gave awareness notice to all the people. Vicar Fr. Dr. Michael Vallavantra and Assistant Vicar Fr. M.D. Abi and Youth Secretary Mr. Abi Babu spoke. Joint Secretary Mr. John Peter thanked to all the parishioners, youth members and Local residents who attended the function.

H G Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

International Youth Conference in Erbil

The official registration form for the Inaugural International Youth Conference in Erbil of the Assyrian Church of the East is now available!

Conference dates: 5-12 August 2023

To find out more and register for the conference, please visit: <https://forms.gle/WBXye4pGqfUE6gd7A>

We look forward to welcoming you to Erbil!

Mr. Nasrullah Rashnudi, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Erbil

On Thursday, May 4, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, received in audience His Excellency Mr. Nasrullah Rashnudi, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Erbil, and the accompanying delegation, at the Patriarchate.

During the audience, preparations for the upcoming Patriarchal visit to Iran, which will take place from May 11 to May 21, 2023, were discussed. His Holiness emphasized the historicity of the existence of the Assyrians in Iran, and the importance of strengthening the relations between the Assyrian Church of the East and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch Met Dr. Michael Bassous, General Secretary of the Bible Society

On Friday, May 5, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, received in audience at the Patriarchate on a courtesy call Dr. Michael Bassous, General Secretary of the Bible Society in the Middle East, and the accompanying delegation.

During the audience, issues pertaining to the support offered by the Bible Society to all churches, as well as the current challenges facing the youth in living the Word of God and making it relevant to their lives, and the initiatives of the society in creating programs that would help young people connect with the Word of God.

His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch Met Mr. Mikhael Benjamin

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, received in audience at the Patriarchate Mr. Mikhael Benjamin, Head of the Nineveh Center for Minority Rights, and the accompanying delegation.

During the audience, issues pertaining to the preservation of the ancient churches and Christian relics in Iraq and the KRI were discussed, and other projects held by the Nineveh center in this regard. His Holiness praised the initiatives of the center, and emphasized the importance of preserving the historical churches, and the need to promote religious tourism in the Region.

His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch met His Beatitude Mar Yaqo Danil

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, received in audience His Beatitude Mar Yaqo Danil, Locum Tenens of the Patriarchate of the Ancient Church of the East, accompanied by His Grace Mar Shimun Daniel, Bishop of Iraq and the Middle East at the Patriarchate. Also attending the audience were His Eminence Mar Aprim Athniel, Metropolitan of Syria, and His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern United States.

During the audience, Metropolitan Mar Yaqo Danil extended to His Holiness the invitation to attend the consecration of the Patriarch-elect His Grace Mar Gewargis Yonan. In turn, His Holiness thanked the prelates for the visit and offered His greetings and best wishes to the Patriarch-Elect.

Monastery of the Chaldean Antonian Order of Saint Rabban Hormizd in Ankawa

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, visited the monastery of The Chaldean Antonian Order of Saint Rabban Hormizd in Ankawa. He was warmly received by Rev. Fr. Samir Sawrsho, the Abbot of the Order, and the brethren of the monastery. His Holiness was accompanied by His Eminence Mar Aprim Athniel, Metropolitan of Syria; His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern United States; His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Kirkuk, Diana, and Patriarchal Auxiliary; and Rev. Fr. Martin Nabeel.

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During the visit, the relics of St. Rabban Hormizd were gifted from the monastery by the Abbot Samir to the new Cathedral of the Blessed Apostles Mar Toma, Mar Addai, and Mar Mari in Erbil, which is to be consecrated and opened soon. In turn, His Holiness the Patriarch thanked the brethren for their love and respect, and together they prayed, asking for the intercession of St. Rabban Hormizd.

The first visit of Catholicos-Patriarch, His Holiness Mar Awa III to the Diocese of Iran

On Friday, May 12, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, arrived in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran to begin His first visit as Catholicos-Patriarch to the Diocese of Iran. His arrival was met with a warm reception at the Mar Gewargis Cathedral, where He was greeted by His Grace Mar Narsai Beniamin, Bishop of Iran, Georgia, and Armenia, as well as prelates and representatives of sister churches, government officials, and clergies and sons and daughters of the Assyrian Church in Tehran.

Accompanying His Holiness are His Eminence Mar Afrim Athniel, Metropolitan of Syria; His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern United States; and His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Kirkuk, Diana, and Patriarchal Auxiliary. The visit, which will take place from May 12 to 21, 2023, holds great significance for Church, as it provides an opportunity for His Holiness to connect with the faithful in Iran, and to strengthen ties between the Assyrian Church of the East and Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran received His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch

On Sunday, May 14, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, was formally received by His Excellency Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Accompanying His Holiness were His Eminence Mar Aprim Athniel, Metropolitan of Syria; His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin, Bishop of Iran, Georgia, and Armenia; His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern United States; His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Kirkuk, Dana, and Patriarchal Auxiliary; and Mr. Sharli Envieh, Representative of Assyrians in the Iranian Parliament.

During the meeting, issues pertaining to the moral challenges facing the communities and the role of religious leaders in this regard were discussed, as well as the inter-

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religious and intercultural dialogues, and the respect showed by the Iranian government to the ethnic and religious components. His Holiness emphasized on the importance of maintaining and strengthening the historical relationship between the Assyrian Church of the East and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch received by His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf

On Monday, May 15, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, was formally received by His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran.

Accompanying His Holiness were His Eminence Mar Aprim Athniel, Metropolitan of Syria; His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin, Bishop of Iran, Georgia, and Armenia; His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern United States; His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Kirkuk, Dana, and Patriarchal Auxiliary; Mr. Sharli Envieh and Mr. Robert Beglaryan, Representatives of Assyrians and Armenians in the Iranian Parliament.

His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch visited His Eminence Sepuh Sargsyan

On Monday, May 15, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, paid a cordial visit to His Eminence Sepuh Sargsyan, Archbishop of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Iran.

Accompanying His Holiness were His Eminence Mar Aprim Athniel, Metropolitan of Syria; His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin, Bishop of Iran, Georgia, and Armenia; His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern United States; His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Kirkuk, Dana, and Patriarchal Auxiliary; Mr. Sharli Envieh and Mr. Robert Beglaryan, Representatives of Assyrians and Armenians in the Iranian Parliament.

His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch Met several directors and representatives from Christian and International NGOs

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, received several directors and representatives from Christian and International NGOs during a meet-and-greet invitation by the Patriarchate.



On World Environment Day, Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the 'Saint Abimalek Timotheus Fruit Garden' by planting fruit tree saplings at the Marth Mariam Valiyapalli compound.



Attendees of Teachers Training Course for Sunday School Teachers



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch meets Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Sunday, May 14, 2023



Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch meets His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran.



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch meets His Eminence Sepuh Sargsyan, Archbishop of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Iran along with the other Assyrian prelates



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch Meets several directors and representatives from Christian and International NGOs



Assyrian prelates celebrating the 50th Golden Anniversary of HG Mar Aprim Khamis on June 04, 2023.
From L to R: HG Mar Paulus Benjamin (Bishop of the Eastern Diocese of the USA), Mar Aprim Khamis (Bishop of Western USA), His Holiness Mar Awa III (Catholicos-Patriarch), HG Mar Emmanuel (Bishop of Canada)



Devotees from Mumbai and Thrissur along with Goa parishioners after the Holy Qurbana conducted by Metropolitan H B Mar Awgin Kuriakose in 2023 at Mar Hurmizd Parish, Goa.

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Also in attendance were His Eminence Mar Afrim Athniel, Metropolitan of Syria, His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Kirkuk, Diana, and Patriarch Auxiliary, Archdeacon Emmanuel Youkhana, Fr. Eshaya Dawood, and Fr. Martin Nabeel.

During the gathering, His Holiness expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all attendees for their prompt response to the needs of the various ancient Christian communities in Iraq, and particularly the KRI. His Holiness particularly acknowledged their unwavering support for the historical Churches and other ethnic components of the Region. Additionally, His Holiness emphasized the significance of fostering strong relationships between the Assyrian Church of the East and the various International NGOs.

The meeting was filled with warmth and goodwill, and to conclude this meaningful gathering, a fellowship meal was served at the patriarchate, creating a bond of friendship among everyone present.

His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch Celebrated Holy Mass at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter's in Glendale, Arizona

On Sunday, June 4, 2023, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, presided over the Holy Qurbana at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter's in Glendale, Arizona for the II Sunday of the Apostles.

His Holiness was accompanied by His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of the Western USA; His Grace Mar Emmanuel Yosip, Bishop of Canada; His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of the Eastern USA, and clergy members of the Diocese of the Western USA. Later at the same day, His Holiness attended the Golden Jubilee celebratory dinner of His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis' episcopal consecration.

In his keynote address, His Holiness the Catholicos-Patriarch highlighted the vast 50-year episcopal tenure of His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis and thanked him for his continued service within the Lord's vineyard.

Celebration of a Golden Anniversary of HG Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of the Diocese of the Western USA

On June 04, 2023, the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, Diocese of Arizona was blessed with the Jubilee celebration that marked the 50th Golden Anniversary of HG Mar Aprim Khamis Bishop of the Diocese of the Western USA to the See of Bishopric.

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The celebration began on Sunday morning, June 04, 2023, the 2nd Sunday of the Apostles. In a magnificent church ceremony, HH Mar Awa III Royel Catholicos-Patriarch officiated the Holy Mass with combined angelic church hymns and fragrance of incense. HH Mar Awa was joined by HG Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis, HG Mar Emmanuel Bishop of Canada, and HG Mar Paulus Bishop of the Eastern Diocese of the USA, along with many clergymen that came to Arizona from various states.

Prior to entering the St. Peter Cathedral, the church fathers were welcomed by all the Clergymen, as well as, adult and youth choirs, school children and all the parishioners with the “Welcoming of the Fathers” Hymn.

Subsequently to the Holy Mass, the sons and daughters of the Assyrian Church of the East of the Western Diocese of US were greatly honored to present a newly constructed water fountain that was placed in the St. Peter Cathedral’s Courtyard, as gift to HG Mar Aprim Kahmis. HH Mar Awa III joined HG Mar Aprim Khamis in cutting the red ribbon. Simultaneously, all the parishioners sang with great joy and happiness for the occasion.

On the eve of this historical and memorable banquet event, the night was filled with joy and excitement. The banquet was packed with audience that included the sons and daughters of our church, civic leaders, and clergymen from various sister churches. HH Mar Awa III along with all the prelates spoke very eloquently regarding HG Mar Aprim Khamis’s accomplishments such as ordaining priests and deacons, building & consecrating churches etc., during his continuous tenure that spans for 50 years as the bishop of the USA and Canada. Additionally, HG Mar Aprim Khamis was serenaded by the deacons and church choirs with anniversary hymns. More, congratulatory letters from clergymen and various civic organizations were announced to the audience, and a history segment was featured on the screen of how HG Mar Aprim was called to be a Bishop by the Late Mar Eshai Shimun XXI Catholicos-Patriarch. The ceremony event ended with a wonderful hymn praising the Lord for His providence.

HG Mar Aprim Khamis was ordained to the rank of Bishop on March 02, 1973, for Basra and as an assistant to the Late Mar Yosip Khnanisho Metropolitan. On May 28, 1975, HG Mar Aprim Khamis transferred to become the Bishop for the United States and Canada. From 1999 until present day, His Grace has been serving as the Bishop for the Diocese of the Western United States, with his See in Glendale, Arizona.

It is with these thoughts and with sincere wishes that we express our warm, and prayerful congratulations to HG Bishop Mar Aprim Kahmis in this happy, memorable and historical event!

Rev. Sargon Yaro, St. Peter Cathedral, Glendale, Arizona.

Monthly Thoughts of H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

(Translated from the Malayalam Magazine *Paurasthyanadam*)

Church in the Philippines

A group of bishops and priests working independently of the Catholic Church in the Philippines have been expressing their desire to unite with our Church for several years. They are about one lakh people. Negotiations are going on in several rounds. They have come to India many times.

On 15th of May, Metropolitan Mar Awgin Kuriakose and Synod Secretary, Bishops Mar Benyamin Elya of Australia and Bishop Mar Elijah Isaac of Iraq are going there to discuss with them. Let us pray for good decisions to emerge.

Judicial Cases Against the Church

There is also a trend of filing judicial cases against the Church. It is not good for the church. This will affect the growth and cohesion of the church. Those who make the case, think about what benefit the Church gets from this. Let us work together to move the Church forward. There are also minor and major court cases in Christian churches. The reasons may be many, but in any case, it is not a good testimony for Christian Churches. This type of divisive litigation should be eliminated from Christian Churches.

Mar Hormizd Church Goa

We are pleased to announce that we have been given permission to celebrate Holy Qurbana once a month in the Latin Church at Panjim in Goa. Along with that, they provide accommodation and food for our priests.

Therefore, from now on, there is no need to book the hall by spending money and offering Holy Qurbana in the hall. Let the Churches come forward to work together with love and mutual understanding. Let us pray for the growth and progress of the Goa mission parish. May it continue to flourish and thrive.

New Academic Year

After a long vacation, the children have started back to school. Every school celebrates the entrance festival with new ideas to welcome the children. I pray that the children who have started the new academic year and the children, who have qualified for higher studies, may study well and achieve success. Parents should fulfill their

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responsibility by providing necessary help to their children. Emphasize Sunday school education over secular education. Send the children to Sunday school without interruption. Children acquire learning for spiritual growth through this.

84th Birthday

I celebrated my eighty-fourth birthday on June 13. I praise God for the grace He has given me so far. My life started at home and raised me to the highest position in the Church. All this is the grace of God. I don't like extravagant celebrations and don't spend money on it. Please pray for me to live happily the life that God gives.

Clergy Student

Those who wish to become clergy-student contact Metropolitan Mar Awgin Kuriakose through their respective Parish Priests. For several years no one has come forward to serve as Deacon or Priest. The Church is still dependent on retired and elderly priests. Although it is not good to give them extra burden, the Church needs their services if the Holy Qurbana are to be held in all parishes without interruption. Those who have passed 10th class & Plus-Two to become priests should come forward voluntarily. Their study expenses, accommodation and food are all taken care of by the church. If the interest is to work and become a priest in the church, that can be done. If no one comes forward to become priests, this will be the biggest crisis the Church will face tomorrow.

Bible Quiz 2023

Under the auspices of the India Campus Crusade for Christ, the Bible Quiz exam, which is held every year at the end of August on Sunday, will be held this year as usual at the prayer hall attached to the Valiyapalli in Thrissur. Those who wish to appear for the examination should give their names to my secretary Fr Jacks before July 15th. Portions from the Bible are 'Parables & The Gospel of Mark'.

The News from Indian Archdiocese

Women Youths Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Women Youths Association is being held on April 14th at Thrissur Chaldean Center under the auspices of the Women Youths Association Central Committee of the Chaldean Syrian Church of the East. The meeting was presided by Mar Awgin Kuriakose Metropolitan. Dr. Mary, Professor of Kerala Agriculture University's Krishividwan Center and Secretary of the Pastoral Council of Thrissur Archdiocese, inaugurated the conference.

Advocate Betty Jose of Thrissur District Court and Sister Lismi CMC, the first nun to work as a cinematographer in Kerala, were the chief guests at the conference. Vicar General of the Church Father Jose Jacob Vengassery and Clergy Secretary Father KR Inasu Youth Association President Fr. Jacks Chandy and Board of Central Trustees Chairman Mr. A M Anthony gave felicitation.

Metropolitan Mar Awgin Kuriakose, the Chairperson, said that the charity activities of the organization are good, but not to be limited to it, they should work together to lead the youth to the spiritual awakening of the Church and to attract the youth to the faith of the Church, calling on them to participate in developing favorable conditions for living a life of faith. The president of the organisation, Sister Dr. Jincy O.U. welcomed and the general secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob, gave the vote of thanks.

May 1st of 2023 Commemoration of India Prelates

The Archdiocese of Chaldean Syrian Church of the East in India celebrated the commemoration day of Saint Mar Abimalek Timotheus and the memory day of the Late Prelates Mar Thoma Dharmo, Mar Timotheus II and Dr. Paulose Mar Paulose this year as usual on the 1st of May.

At 7 O'clock in the morning, the celebration began with the Holy Qurbana at the Marth Mariam Valiyapalli Cathedral under the patronage of His Beatitude Mar Awgin Kuriakose Metropolitan. After that, prayers were offered at the holy tomb of Kuruvilachan Church located in the same church yard and prayer service was held at the tomb of other prelates on the same day. At 10:30 a.m. the community feast was blessed.

Blood donation drive in collaboration with Thrissur General Hospital under the auspices of Kendra Youths and Kendra Women's Youth Associations, free eye check-up camp in collaboration with Drishyam Eye Care Hospital under the auspices of Kendra Men's Association, free ENT, blood sugar and blood pressure check-up camp in collaboration with Kunnatumkara Mar Thimotheus Charitable Society, in collaboration with Sanjeevani Ayurveda Clinic, a free Ayurvedic medical camp was also conducted by the Central Mahila Samaajam Group.

At 10.45 in the morning, a public meeting was held in the pavilion built on the occasion of the Memorial Day in the large church courtyard. Honorable Kerala Revenue Minister Advocate K Rajan, Honorable Thrissur Corporation Mayor Shri MK Varghese and Honorable Thrissur MLA Shri P Balachandran were the chief guests in the function.

Importance of Reading in Computer Era

(The article won the First prize in the literary competition conducted by the 'Paurastyanadam Literary Symposium' Team)

(Adhithi Manoj)

Our reading habits have changed. News Papers and books were the only sources for reading for a long period of time. Technology developed and most of the reading materials, which were on paper, now appear in digital versions like E Books, PDFs or in some other digital formats. This development was unimaginable till recently. Advancements in computer technology and communications made this change possible. However, interest in reading has now declined a lot.

Books are vehicles of knowledge, and wisdom. They have a good role to play in the development of creative minds. Many books in the past were inspiring and those with good reading habits became leading and well-known personalities globally, nationally and regionally. A good book is written after years of research and experience. They add to our knowledge and help us to shape our thought and style. Technology has even changed the way we use libraries. For instance, instead of searching the shelves one by one, we can simply reserve the book we want online. before picking it up in person. E-readers are widely available, but still many people prefer to read printed books. However, now the libraries are not the only source to get books.

Today, we have websites and apps available for reading. Books to read are readily available both online and offline. History of reading is centuries or even a few Millennia old, long before Guttenberg introduced the production of books in the 15th century through the introduction of the Printing Press. This changed the mode of reading and reading books increased, as it later became affordable and accessible for many. Today in the 21st century we are undergoing another such drastic change like the invention of the printing press. Now technological blessings like the internet, smart boards, tablets and E-readers are again reshaping our reading and learning habits. Rapid technological advancements were made after the Second World War in the field of communication. But now advancements are felt in all walks of life.

Technological progress does not only have positive aspects. It has negative aspects as well. Health issues related to the excessive use of the media are numerous. One such issue is the harm it causes to the eyes. Due to the excessive use of technological devices various eye diseases occur and a condition may reach where sight itself is fully lost. In the past, each village had its own library, but today the number of libraries is drastically reduced. They were also a meeting place and a place to share. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam said: "One best book is equal to a hundred good friends and one good friend is equal to a library". In the past every household used to have a newspaper but today everyone reads news on their mobile phones.

It is said that knowledge is like an ocean, and it is vast. The importance of reading is much more important than in the past. Reading is both good for health and mind. Lloyd Alexander says: "Keep reading, it's one of the most marvelous adventures that anyone can have". A fact that when E-reading is increasing, the era of meeting and discussion in reading rooms is also declining. We should use the knowledge we earn through modern media to increase the quality of life both for us and for others. Knowledge, as once said, is a treasure that no one can claim.



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch meets Mr. Mikhael Benjamin, Head of the Nineveh Center for Minority Rights and the accompanying delegation.



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch meets His Beatitude Mar Yaqo Danil, Locum Tenens of the Patriarchate of the Ancient Church of the East, accompanied by His Grace Mar Shimun Daniel, Bishop of Iraq and the Middle East at the Patriarchate along with His Eminence Mar Aprim Athniel, Metropolitan of Syria, and His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern United States.



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch visiting the monastery of The Chaldean Antonian Order of Saint Rabban Hormizd in Ankawa on Wednesday, May 10, 2023



The faithful of Mar Ghevarghese Cathedral waiting to give a warm welcome to His Holiness Mar Awa III during his first visit as Catholicos-Patriarch on Friday, May 12, 2023