

صوت الشرق

Vol 62 September-October 2015 Nos.9 & 10



Catholicos-Patriarch
H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa

VOICE OF THE EAST



President of Iraqi Kurdistan His Excellency Masoud Barzani meeting H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa on 28 September 2015 in Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church hall, Erbil



The President of Iraqi Kurdistan His Excellency Masoud Barzani meeting Mar Aprem Metropolitan at Erbil on 28 September 2015

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Voice of the East

Vol. 62

September-October 2015

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Editorial

H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch

The Assyrian Church of the East around the world rejoiced on Sunday 27 September 2015 at the consecration of its 121st Catholicos-Patriarch at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church at Ankawa, Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Regional Government in North Iraq.

The Church of the East in India was delighted to be a part of the colourful ceremony. One of the prayers at the consecration service was read in the Malayalam language. When the prelates were gathered for planning the consecration ceremony I shared my thoughts as to the latter with all the prelates. Some felt that that if we use Malayalam for one prayer, the faithful would expect the use of Arabic, Kurdish, Soureth (modern Syriac), English, Russian etc. to be a symbolic gesture of the universal nature of the Church of the East. Due to the limitation of time it was decided that we would be satisfied with the Malayalam translation which is the mother tongue of the senior Metropolitan and two Episcopas from India.

The main language of the consecration service was Aramaic (*lishana ateeqa*). The Evangelion lesson too was read by the Chief Consecrator Mar Aprem Metropolitan in the Aramaic language. Although in India we read the Evangelion etc. in Malayalam (which was also the case under Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan and Mar Thoma Dharmo Metropolitan). Both Metropolitans were Assyrian by ancestry and served the Church of the East in India from February 1908 to April 1945 and from June 1952 to September 1968 respectively.

The Indian church looks forward to a Patriarchal Visit from H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa to India; he was in India in January 2010 when late Catholicos-Patriarch Maran Mar Dinkha IV visited India for the 13th Holy Synod and the consecration of two Indian Bishops.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

International Church News

The First Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East convened under the Presidency of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, Catholicos Patriarch

The first Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church was in session from Monday, September 28th through Tuesday, September 29th, 2015 that took place in St. John the Baptist (Mar Youkhanna) Church in Ankawa, Erbil, Kurdistan Region under the Presidency of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, Catholicos Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East with the participation of the following prelates:

1. His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India
2. His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon
3. His Grace Mar Sargis Yousip, Bishop
4. His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of Western USA
5. His Grace Mar Emmanuel Joseph, Bishop of Canada
6. His Grace Mar Odisho Awraham, Bishop of Europe
7. His Grace Mar Afram Athneil, Bishop of Syria
8. His Grace Mar Isaac Yousip, Bishop of Nuhadra (Duhok) and Russia
9. His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod
10. His Grace Mar Yohannan Joseph, Bishop of India
11. His Grace Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Bishop of India
12. His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin, Bishop of Iran
13. His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern
14. Archdeacon William Toma was the recording secretary of the acts and minutes of the Holy Synod

The Holy Synod discussed many facets of life of the Assyrian Church of the East today and enacted a number of disciplinary matters governing the daily life of the Church and ordained clergy. In its working sessions, the following issues were discussed:

1. With regard to the matter of the reunification of the Church, namely the Assyrian Church of the East and our brethren of the Ancient Church of the East; whether an official letter be sent to the Ancient Church of the East. The Synod agreed that no further letter should be written to the Ancient Church of the East pertaining to the reunification of the Church.
2. With regard to the proposal made by HH Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of the Syrian Orthodox Church, to have joining efforts among Syriac speaking churches namely: Assyrian Church of the East, Syrian Orthodox Church, Chaldean Church and Syrian Catholic Church to support and assist our Christian communities who are living under critical condition in the Middle East. The Synod agreed that the Assyrian Church of the East will participate and join with the Syriac churches mentioned above to set up solidarity and support for our people who are living in the Middle East.

3. With regard to the ecumenical dialogue with Catholic Church: The synod has decreed the following:
 - The Assyrian Church of the East will continue her dialogue with the Catholic Church even after signing the declaration of the “Sacramental Life.”
 - A copy of the draft on the declaration of “Sacramental life” will be sent to the prelates who are not familiar with the contents of the declaration. They may submit their questions and concerns to the ecumenical committee of our Church.
 - The synod decrees that HG Mar Afram Athneil be part of the ecumenical committee of the Assyrian Church of the East in dialogue with Roman Catholic Church.
4. The Synod recommended that an appreciation letter be sent to the head of churches who were present or had sent a representative to participate at the consecration and enthronement ceremony of the Catholic Patriarch. HG Mar Awa Royel will prepare the letter of gratitude in English that will be signed by His Holiness.
5. The Synod recommended to write a letter of appreciation to HB Mar Aprem Mooken for leading our Church during the time of vacancy. In addition, a letter of thanks be written to HG Mar Isaac Yousip for organizing the Synod of prelates in Duhok in June and September 2015 in Erbil and for planning and arranging the enthronement ceremony that took place on September 27, 2015.
6. With regard to the manner that prelates will communicate and contact His Holiness:
 - The Synod recommended to rent a house to serve as a temporary Patriarchate in Erbil until the erection of the Patriarchate cell is completed.
 - It has been recommended that His Holiness appoints a priest who can live in the Patriarchate residence.
 - It was recommended that His Holiness will have two phone numbers and two email addresses, one for the Patriarchate office and one for personal use of His Holiness. The priest that will be living His Holiness in the Patriarchate residence will be in charge of carrying the affairs of the office of the Patriarchate including phone calls and emails.
7. With regard to assigning a Patriarchal diocese:
 - The Synod decreed that Erbil will be a Patriarchal diocese.
 - Baghdad will be a temporary Patriarchal diocese until a new bishop is appointed.
 - His Holiness will write an official letter to HG Mar Paulus Benjamin indicating that the Eastern USA diocese of the Assyrian Church will be considered an Episcopal diocese from now on.
 - The diocese of Russia will continue to be an Episcopal diocese under jurisdiction of HG Mar Isaac Yousip.
 - The Synod decreed that HG Mar Isaac Yousip will be temporarily a Patriarchal Vicar.

8. The Synod recommended that His Holiness will not remind the central government of Iraq in regard to the land that was promised to the late Mar Dinkha IV by the government officials to erect a patriarchal cell in Baghdad.
9. With regard to appointing a clergy who will be working with the Patriarchate, the Synod recommended to elect and consecrate an auxiliary bishop for His Holiness as well as to appoint a new priest who will be working in the Patriarchate.
10. The Holy Synod discussed the status of five priests:
 - The Synod assured to implement the Canon that was delineated in the Holy Synod of 2012: “A priest who leaves his diocese without the approval of his respected metropolitan or bishop and moves to another diocese in the West, the respected bishop of the latter diocese must not accept him.”
 - Rev. Isaac: the Synod recommended that Rev. Isaac to be ordained archdeacon of the Patriarchate cell. This will be realized after His Holiness evaluates and discuss’ the matter with HG Mar Isaac Yousip.
 - Rev. Akhiqar: HG Mar Awa Royel will send him a warning letter ordering him to go back to his diocese. If he doesn’t obey then a disciplinary matter will be issued.
 - Rev. Samaan: HG Mar Emmanuel Joseph will write Rev. Samaan a letter indicating that he is released from the diocese of Canada and the diocese is not responsible for any misconduct performed by him. Afterward, HG Mar Awa will write him a letter indicating that he has been released from his priesthood ministry in the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East and the church is not responsible of any manner or behavior carried out by him.
 - Rev. Aprem: the synod recommended that HG Mar Awa Royel will request Rev. Afrem to write a letter of apology to His Holiness for refusing the order of the Church to serve as a parish priest in Baghdad. After submitting a letter of apology, His Holiness will assign him to a parish in Baghdad. However, if he does not obey the order disciplinary action will take place. If he doesn’t obey then a disciplinary matter will be issued.
 - Rev. Tyari: the Synod recommended that His Holiness will request him to summon for a private meeting in the Patriarchate office in Erbil by the end of this year and inform him that the Church has the willingness to elect and elevate him to the rank of episcopacy. If he agrees, he will need to write an official letter expressing his willingness to receive the rank of episcopacy and work in any dioceses that the Church will assign him to. Upon his completion from receiving his Ph.D., His Holiness will assign him to a church for pastoral experience.

11. The personal belonging of the late Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV such as crosses and rings, the Synod recommended that when His Holiness travels to Chicago, His Holiness will distinguish the items that will be required to be in a bank safe deposit box while the rest that can be kept in the Episcopal cell.
12. With regard to the Patriarchal account in Chicago, the Synod recommended the following steps:
 - His Holiness will open a new account in a bank in Erbil.
 - His Holiness will change the individuals who are in charge of the Patriarchal account that are two lay men: Mr. Freydoun Benjamin and Mr. Wilson Jacob.
 - Each diocese of the Assyrian Church worldwide must pay her dues to the Patriarchal account.
13. The issue of the grave site of the late Mar Dinkha IV was not discussed during the Synod.

The proposed issues that will be discussed in the Second Holy Synod convene under the Presidency of HH Mar Gewargis III in Erbil 2016

1. HB Mar Milees Zaia proposed that in the next Synod it must discuss the outstanding issues that were supposed to be discussed during the Holy Synod in May under the presidency of the late Mar Dinkha.
2. The petition HG Mar Sargis Yousip to assign him a diocese in the State of California.
3. The petition of HG Mar Odisho Awraham to be released from his jurisdiction over the mission church of Jordan.
4. HG Mar Narsai Benjamin proposed to discuss the status of ACERO.
5. HG Mar Awa Royel proposed to establish a liturgical commission to do a liturgical reform and ensure the unification of our liturgy in all diocese.
6. HG Mar Yohannan Joseph proposed to designate a particular date in the liturgical calendar of the Church to commemorate the blessed memory of the late Metropolitan of India Mar Timotheos Awimalk.
7. HG Mar Yohannan Joseph proposed to assign the mission churches of the following Gulf countries (Qatar, Oman (Muscat), UAE (Dubai) and Kuwait) be under the jurisdiction of HB Mar Aprem Mooken.
8. HG Mar Yohannan Joseph proposed that the diocese of India to be divided into two separate dioceses.
9. HG Mar Yohannan Joseph proposed that HB Mar Aprem Mooken be appointed as a General Patriarchal Vicar.
10. HG Mar Isaac Yousip proposed to designate new metropolitan dioceses for the Assyrian Church of the East and elect and consecrate new Metropolitans for those dioceses.



Consecration of Catholicos-Patriarch H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa lead by the Patriarchal Vicar H.B. Dr Mar Aprem Metropolitan and the other twelve prelates in Erbil on 27 September 2015 at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church



Patriarch H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa is on the throne of Assyrian Church of the East at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church in Erbil. Patriarchal Vicar H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem and H.B. Mar Meelis Zaia on either side



Prime Minister of Regional Government of Kurdistan meeting the Patriarch H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Erbil



Assyrian-Iraqi Parliamentarian Mr. Yonadam Kanna meeting greeting the new Patriarch H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa in Erbil



After the Holy Qurbana in UAE parish on 9 October 2015 Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Bishop Mar Awa Royel and Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose pictured with the Parish Priests and Parish members



Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurates the new Institutional Conference Center of YMCA, Kannara, Peechi on September 2015. L-to-R: Dr. T.T. Paul (President of YMCA), Mr. Mathew Mampilly, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Chief Whip Adv. Thomas Unniyadan MLA



Dr. Joeal Subash PhD., son of Leela Subash and Subash John Thazhatha, Ernakulum

Dr. K.V. Vinosh Peter, PhD., Member of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort, Thrissur



Inauguration of the band 'Barekh Mar' by Mar Aprem Metropolitan; this charitable church band is lead by Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose at the Chaldean Center in Thrissur on 25 October 2015. The youth of our Church in Sydney financed the preliminary expense of this band which has brought together all the talented artists (instrumentalists, vocalists and lyric writers).

CATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST

His Holiness was born Warda Daniel Sliwa, in Habbaniyah, Iraq 1941, from his parents the late Daniel Sliwa and Mariam Sliwa. He matriculated from the School of Education at Baghdad in 1964. Then, he taught English in various cities in Iraq for 13 years.

While visiting the US was called by the late His Holiness Mar Dinkha to serve the Church in the ordained ministry. After training in the rites and theology of the Church, he was ordained to the diaconate on April 13, 1980 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1980. After serving as a priest worthily and continuing his training in the Church, Rev. Polos was nominated the late patriarch and the hierarchy to assume the exalted rank of metropolitan for Baghdad and all Iraq, filling the vacant metropolitan see of Elam, thus succeeding the late Metropolitan Mar Yosip Khnanisho, of blessed memory. Thus, on Pentecost Sunday, June 7, 1981, Rev. Polos was consecrated by the late His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV in the cathedral church of St. George, Chicago. The new metropolitan was given the name 'Mar Gewargis.'

After the falling asleep in the Lord of the late Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV on March 26, 2015, the Council of Hierarchs met in synod in the church of St. John the Baptist in Ankawa, Erbil (Kurdistan Regional Government) Iraq between September 16 and 18, 2015. On Friday, September 18, the hierarchs elected His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa as the 121st Catholicos-Patriarch of the holy see of Seleucia-Ctesiphon. He was solemnly consecrated and enthroned at the same church of St. John on Sunday, September 27, 2015, by two metropolitans Their Beatitudes Mar Aprem Mooken and Mar Meelis Zaia, with the right hand of fellowship of all the hierarchs of the Assyrian Church of the East.

During the course of His Holiness' ministry in the Church as a metropolitan, he has been able to establish the archdiocesan minor seminary in Baghdad, which produced numerous priests and deacons to serve the Church in Iraq. Some of the students were sent abroad in Europe for doctoral theological studies, and it was expected that they returned and served the Church in Iraq and contribute to the formation of a proper seminary for the Church.

His Holiness as metropolitan established the library of the metropolitan's residence, which now houses hundreds of ancient manuscripts. While in Baghdad, he established the metropolitan's press and was successful in printing a number of liturgical books and other volumes of a catechetical nature for the needs of the Church across the globe. In 2009, he established the Urhai (Edessa) private elementary school in Baghdad.

In 1994, after the fall of the USSR, His Holiness began a mission to the Assyrians in the Russian Federation, establishing a number of mission parishes. In that year a permanent priest was assigned for the newly established parish of St. Mary in Moscow, Russian Federation. The newly build and beautiful church in honor of St. Mary was consecrated. From this point on, the number of priests and deacons to serve the growing community of the Assyrian Church of the East in Russia was increased.

While metropolitan of Iraq, His Holiness has governed the Church in Iraq with great dedication and tireless efforts wherever needed. He travelled to China in 1998 and made contacts there with the Christian Churches. He also made historic visits to the regions of Mardin and Hakkari, while visiting the ancient relics of the Assyrian Church in that country dating back to the early centuries of Christianity.

His Holiness has been active in ecumenical forums and fraternal exchange between the Assyrian Church of the East and other Churches and ecclesial organizations. Most notably, he has been active with the Middle East Council of Churches and the Council of the Heads of the Churches in Baghdad.

As His Holiness embarks upon his sublime arch pastoral ministry as the head of the Assyrian Church of the East worldwide, the faithful take hope and consolation in a dedicated and unflinching pastor who care for his flock. May his sublime ministry as the supreme head of the Church be fruitful and give hope to the flock of Christ, purchased by His Precious blood.

Authenticity in Unity
A Personal Reflection on Present-Day Questions
Concerning the Unity of the Church of the East

Bishop Mar Awa Royel, *Diocese of California*

[CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE]

3 Ancient term used for the primate of Seleucia-Ctesiphon since the times of Mar Papa bar Gaggai (ca. 325 AD), and more explicitly in the synods of Mar Isaac (410 AD) and Mar Dadisho (424 AD).

The Assyrian identity is not simply that of an ethnic minority but of the Fathers of the Church of the East who wrote, predominantly, in Classical Syriac-Aramaic. The tradition of the great Assyrian and Syriac-writing spiritual fathers and saints was composed and received into a spiritual tradition and prayer-life that has become united and definitive of the Assyrian identity as inseparable from the all-encompassing Apostolic Tradition as handed down to all nations. Assyrians are the children of the Church of the East, and as such, there is no true Assyrian identity without this living connection to its traditional and Mother Church, which then unites it to all Christians. We have been formed by our experience and history of two millennia across a variety of cultures, and this spiritual truth stands as represented in our title as Church of the East. By the same token, this does not negate the catholicity of the Church of the East or exclude other nations from entering Her fold. Rather, the Church remains conscious of and faithful to Her mission to call all peoples to repentance and faith in Christ.

We remember that when we were Ottoman subjects we were different “millets” but that does not mean that we view the ancestral members of our Church in the Middle East as being truly different nations, whether they be termed “Chaldeans”, “Assyrians”, or simply “Syriacs”. At the same time, the Church of the East has a long history of evangelism and fruitful ecclesiastical life beyond the Assyrian people: in India, in Central Asia, in China and throughout Asia. And today in the diaspora we receive into fellowship those who find “the pearl of great price” within our ancient

ecclesiastical tradition. Any of these non-Assyrian people that have been, are, or shall be in the future within the Church of the East are equally part of our Church and Children of the Church of the East. No exclusive nationalist concern can be used to prevent unity, or to force it either.

The Church of the East, historically, has not existed to purely preserve a Patriarchal line or ethnic nomenclature. The Church of the East is the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church in her territory and of her tradition. Our Apostolic tradition, of Mar Thoma, Mar Addai & Mar Mari, of Mar Ephrem and Mar Isaac, Mar Dadisho Qatraya, of Mar Narsai, and many others, and our many holy martyrs ancient and modern, is our sacred inheritance which we are bound under our Lord to keep. It includes our Liturgical, canonical, patristic traditions, as well as our tradition of evangelism. This inheritance and tradition is the ancestral right of any believing Assyrian, and is also the right of any Christian who comes to Faith and fellowship in the Church of the East.

To be continued in next issue.....

MALANKARA MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH **Apostolic See of St. Thomas**

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21.09.2015

His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan,
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My dear Thirumeni,

I am happy to receive your email and invitation dated 20 September, 2015.
My greetings to the new Patriarch of the Holy Synod of Assyrian Church!

I do have a programme in Ankola, North Karnataka on 27 September, 2015.
I would have postponed it, but the time is very short to get a visa to Erbil, Iraq.
Please convey greetings from the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and my personal respect and admiration to him and longing to see him on his visit to India.

With prayers and blessings,

Yours Sincerely,

DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN

PS. I think the Sharjah programme is on; permission is granted.

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The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
CATHOLICATE OF THE EAST

BASELIOS MARTHOMA PAULOSE II
CATHOLICOS OF
THE APOSTOLIC THRONE OF
ST. THOMAS
AND MALANKARA METROPOLITAN



CATHOLICATE PALACE
KOTTAYAM-686 038
KERALA, INDIA

27 September 2015

His Holiness Mar Gewargis III
Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East

Greetings to Your Holiness Mar Gewargis III in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

Look on our shield, O God; look with favour on your anointed one. Psalm 84:9

Aggrieving on the physical loss of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, it is now exactly six months that I have written to His Beatitude Mar Aprem Metropolitan. It is through His Beatitude Mar Aprem that I had the contact to His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, about which I had pleasant memories. And now we have learned that the 'Assyrian Church of the East' has a new Catholicos-Patriarch got elected and consecrated. We have been invited by His Beatitude Mar Aprem the *Locum Tenens* Catholicos-Patriarch; as much as I wanted to participate in the blessed ceremony, our commitment in the Church has prevented me from being personally present.

Your Holiness, it is quite evident that you are assuming the Office of the Primate of the Church in an utmost difficult time. In the whole of the West-Asia, in particular, and in the rest of the world, in general, the Christian Churches are facing displacement and persecutions. Irrespective of religions or creeds the people of West-Asia are undergoing dislodgements. Amidst of all these insecure situations, we are looking with greater hope in your leadership. Long thirty-five years of your fruitful episcopal ministry in vulnerable and sensitive areas ought to be now counted as the providentially given training grounds for your new responsible ministry of leading the Church. Please be assured of our Church's committed prayers for Your Holiness' challenging ministry.

The long-standing heritage of Syriac Liturgy and Theology of the Assyrian Church of the East had been wonderfully preserved by the Church over these centuries. With the humble responsibility we hold in leading a Church from the sister tradition, we earnestly looking forward in meeting and associating with Your Holiness. Please do accept this as an invitation letter in advance to our Church.

The Holy Episcopal Synod, Clergy and the faithful of our Church join me in offering our prayerful greetings and wishes in your new Office. May the love, grace and indwelling of the blessed Holy Trinity be with Your Holiness and your Church.

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in Syriac script, which appears to read 'Baselios Marthoma Paulose II'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Baselios Marthoma Paulose II



GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Prot. No. 1936/2015

22 September 2015

**His Holiness
Mar Gewargis III
Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East
P.O.Box 577500 Modesto
California 95367-7500 (USA)**

Your Holiness,

It gives me great joy to know that you have been elected Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East by your Holy Synod. Even though I do not know you personally, by the very fact that the Synod of Bishops has placed great confidence in you, you will be able to guide the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit. I wish and pray for the success of your high-priestly leadership.

I am quite aware that the times are highly challenging in the west Asian countries, where are present the vast majority of the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East. So I hope and pray that the Lord may give you strength to face these challenges of the times.

As you know, the Mar Thoma Christians of India had hierarchical leadership from your Church for many centuries and our liturgy is in the tradition of your Church. We are sister Churches. The last Metropolitan, Mar Abraham, who governed us, is inhumed in St Hormis Church, Angamaly of my own my Archdiocese.

The presence of the Metropolitan Eparchy of your Church in Trichur, presently headed by the Metropolitan Mar Aprem, also is a factor of friendship and communion for us here in India. I will be happy to welcome you to my house when you come over to Trichur to meet the people of Mar Aprem.

Let us hope and pray that there will come a day when our Churches will be in full communion. Once again congratulating you on your election as Patriarch and praying for God's blessings on you,

Yours fraternally in Christ,

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



THE SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL CURIA

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Indian Church News

Holy Qurbana in Sharjah on 9 October 2015

Holy Qurbana was celebrated in the Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Sharjah, UAE by Bishop Mar Awa Royel. Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis of Arizona, USA as well the three prelates from India were on the altar. The two priests and deacon of UAE Marth Mariam parish assisted. Indian members and the Assyrians members were present.

It was reported that a request has been submitted to the Ruler of Sharjah for a plot of land to be given to our Church in Sharjah to build a small church. Now we have rented the chapel in the St. Martin Anglican Church every Friday from 7.15 to 9.30 a.m.

The congregation is using Aramaic language in part for the Assyrians to follow. This congregation was formed by Mar Aprem Metropolitan ten years ago with the permission of the late Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch. The present Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Gewargis III had celebrated Holy Qurbana for this congregation some three years ago when he went to visit the Sir Baniyas Island Monastery.

Sir Baniyas Island Monastery

Assyrian Church of the East Synod Members and Mart Mariam Parish UAE faithful total (120 persons) visited our forefathers excavated Monastery in Sir Baniyas Island (500km away from Dubai) Abu Dhabi, UAE on Saturday 10 October 2015 as a special guests of the Tourism Development Authority of Abu Dhabi.

The bishops were Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Aprim Khamis (Bishop of Arizona), Bishop Mar Awa Royel (Bishop of California and Secretary of Holy Synod), Mar Yohannan Yoseph and Mar Awgin Kuriakose (Bishops of India).

Mission Parish in Kuwait

On Friday 23 October 2015 members of the Church of the East in India gathered together at the Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Kuwait. Mar Yohannan Yoseph, the bishop in charge of the UAE Mart Mariam Parish gave leadership for worship. It is believed that we will have arrangements in future for a mission parish in Kuwait.

New PhDs

Dr. Joeal Subash, PhD., son of Leela Subash and Subash John Thazhatha, Ernakulum received a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Aston University, Birmingham, UK at the Degree Congregation held on 31 March 2015.

After doing BE in Electronics & Communication Engineering from Anna University, he took an MS in Avionics Engineering from Sheffield University, Sheffield.

He has worked as Post Graduate Demonstrator at Aston University, Research Assistant at Newcastle University and currently working as Research Associate at University of Bath, UK. Email: joelsubash@gmail.com

Dr. K.V. Vinosh Peter, PhD., son of Kanimangalathukaran Varghese and Gurley and the member of Mar Yohannan Mamdana Parish, East Fort received PhD from Bharathiar University.

H.B.Mar Aprem's visit to Canada etc

November 2nd Monday arriving Toronto. Qurbana in Toronto on Sunday November 8. November 15 Qurbana in Detroit. Going to Chicago on the same day to attend dinner in honour of H. H. Mar Gewargis III. On Sunday 22 doing Qurbana in Chicago. On Friday 27 doing Qurbana for the Indians in Qatar. On the same day returns to India.

Those who are interested please contact to hgmraprem@gmail.com.



Pictured before the funeral of Deacon P.D. Kunjuvareed at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East Fort, Thrissur on 9 October 2015



Assyrian Prelates with New Patriarch H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa after the consecration



H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa reading the gospel lesson during the consecration at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Cathedral, Erbil on 27 September 2015

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