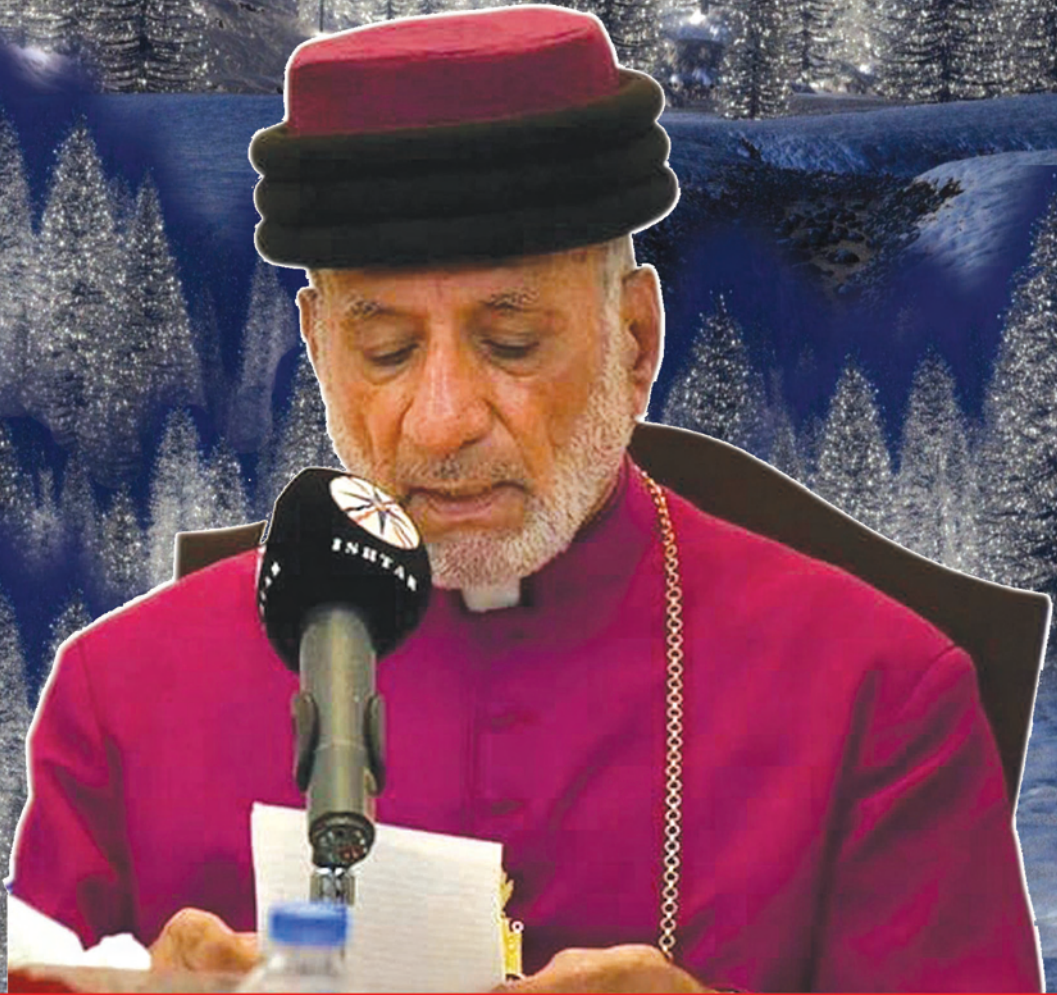


# ܡܘܨܘܒܐ ܕܡܪܝܚܐ

Vol 63 November - December 2016 Nos.11 & 12



His Holiness Mar Gewargis IIISliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East leads the Holy Synod convened November 7 - 12, 2016 in the Church of Saint John the Baptist, Ankawa, Erbil, (Kurdistan Regional Government), Iraq.

# VOICE OF THE EAST



**Catholicos-Patriarch His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa visits His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican on 17 November 2016**



**Patriarch and prelates of the dialogue committee of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church of the East meet Pope and their Bishops on 17th November 2016 at Vatican**



**His Holiness Pope Francis receiving His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa on 17 November at Vatican City**

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)  
(Private Circulation only)  
November-December 2016

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](http://www.news.assyrianchurch.org)**

**Archdiocese of India & UAE: [www.churchoftheeastindia.org](http://www.churchoftheeastindia.org)**

**Archdiocese of Australia & New Zealand: [www.assyrianchurch.org.au](http://www.assyrianchurch.org.au)**

**Diocese of California: [www.acoecalifornia.org](http://www.acoecalifornia.org)**

**Diocese of Europe: [www.assyrianchurch-europe.org](http://www.assyrianchurch-europe.org)**

**Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation: [www.theacero.org](http://www.theacero.org)**

**Unofficial: [www.nestorian.org](http://www.nestorian.org)**

***Contents***

1. Editorial (Holy Synod 2016)
2. Patriarchal Epistle

***International Church News***

3. ACERO Australia's Inaugural Luncheon
4. The Second Holy Synod of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, Catholicos Patriarch
5. Assyrian Church To Consecrate Bishops in 2017
6. Catholicos-Patriarch Meets Pope in the Vatican
7. Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan Meets Lebanese President
8. Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan Visits ACERO Dohuk Apartments
9. Ordination in Tehran, Iran
10. Aleppo, Syria
11. Northern Iraq's Village of Sarsing Mourns the Death of Rev'd Patros Younan

***Indian Archdiocese News***

12. Qatar Mission Parish
13. Sunday School Rally
14. YMCA National Convention
15. Mar Gabriel Church, Mumbai
16. Calendar - 2017

---

# Voice of the East

---

**Vol. 63**

**November-December 2016**

**Nos. 11 & 12**

---

**Editorial**

## **Holy Synod 2016**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Synod of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, Catholicos-Patriarch was held in November 2016 at Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Synod followed the short Holy Synod held in September 2015 following the Patriarchal consecration in Erbil on 27 September 2015.

As the construction of the Patriarchate at Ankawa in the city of Erbil is not yet completed, the Holy Synod commenced at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Patriarchal Cathedral in Ankawa on Monday 7, November 2016. All prelates except Bishop Mar Isaac Joseph Episcopa of Dohuk and Russia attended all sessions. Bishop Mar Isaac was undergoing a surgery in Moscow at that time.

During the ten days in which the prelates from different countries gathered there were occasions to hear about our activities in different parts of the world. The President of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) received all prelates in the Presidential Palace. The Prime Minister of K.R.G. Honourable Nechervan Berzani also met all of the prelates in his official residence. He, like the President, His Excellency Masoud Barzani offered all support to our Church. The Prime Minister expressed his happiness at the news of the liberation of the town of Bashiqa, close to Mosul, which was liberated by the Kurdish Peshmerga the day prior to our meeting. The operation for the liberation of Mosul is continuing with many ancestral Assyrian towns and villages having already been retaken in the process.

Various important decisions have been made. Some commissions have been constituted to study and report back to the Holy Synod. Two celibate priests were selected to be consecrated as bishops. They are The Rev'd Fr Dr Tyari Awshalem, the present parish priest of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Cathedral in Ankawa who will be consecrated as Bishop of Erbil, Iraq. The Rev'd Fr Ninos Elya, the present parish priest of Ss Peter and Paul Church in Sydney will be consecrated as the Bishop of Melbourne (Australia) and New Zealand. Let us hope and pray that the Assyrian Church of the East is in the path of progress.

One important decision was the appointment of a committee to study the sainthood of two prelates in the history of the Church of the East, namely Mar Yosip Khananisho Metropolitan (died in July 1977 in Baghdad, Iraq) and Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan (died in March 1945 in Thrissur, India). Another decision was the removal of an earlier decision of the 1976 Holy Synod preventing non-Assyrian prelates becoming the Catholicos-Patriarch of our universal Church.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan





*International News*

## **ACERO Australia's Inaugural Luncheon**

The Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization (ACERO) is the international aid agency of the Assyrian Church of the East. ACERO Australia is the Australian arm of the international aid agency, and is established to provide benevolent aid and relief to refugees, the displaced and other victims of persecution, war or natural disaster.

On Sunday 9th October 2016, ACERO Australia's NSW Chapter held a luncheon as a gesture of the Charity's appreciation for the overwhelming generosity extended by its various business and association sponsors during times of intense need. The blessed occasion was presided over by His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia A M, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, and Founding Chairman of ACERO and ACERO Australia. Attending as guest of honours was the NSW Ecumenical Council, represented by the Council's General Secretary, the Very Reverend Fr Shenouda Mansour.

The occasion was a resounding success and saw in excess of 40 businesses and associations gather to offer their collective support to the Charity and its aid and relief works.

## **The Second Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East Convened under His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, Catholicos Patriarch**

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East convened under the presidency of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos Patriarch of the East, on November 7-12, 2016 in the Church of Saint John the Baptist in the city of Ankawa, the Province of Erbil, (Kurdistan Regional Government), Iraq. Prelates present in the Holy Synod are as follows:

1. His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India and United Arab of Emirates
2. His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon
3. His Grace Mar YousifS argis, 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 Oraham, Bishop of Europe
7. His Grace Mar Afram Athneil, Bishop of Syria
8. His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod
9. His Grace Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Bishop of India
10. His Grace Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Bishop of India
11. His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin, Bishop of Iran
12. His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern USA

His Grace Mar Isaac Yousip, Bishop of Nuhadra (Dohuk) and Russia was unable to attend the Synod due to health reasons. The Very Reverend Archdeacon William Toma was the recording secretary of the acts and minutes of the Holy Synod.

## **The following are the decrees of the Holy Synod:**

### **Election of New Bishops:**

1. The Holy Synod elected the Reverend Father Tyari Johnson, rector of St. John Patriarchal Cathedral in Erbil, Iraq, to the sublime rank of the episcopacy as bishop of Erbil and Auxiliary to His Holiness, the Catholicos Patriarch.
2. The Holy Synod decreed elected the Reverend Father Ninos Elya, rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Sydney, Australia, to the sublime rank of the episcopacy for the newly erected Diocese of Melbourne and New Zealand.

### **Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization (ACERO):**

1. The Holy Synod decreed that all dioceses of the Assyrian Church of the East must establish ACERO sub committees in their dioceses and do their charity works according to the local laws of their countries. These committees should coordinate their work with the Central Committee of ACERO.
2. The Holy Synod affirmed that dioceses are to make regular contributions per request of the Central Committee of ACERO that is under the Presidency of His Grace Mar Aprim Athniel. The ACERO organization is permitted to plan and fulfill its projects worldwide in all the dioceses of the Assyrian Church of the East, without distinction.

### **Liturgical Matters:**

1. The Holy Synod decreed to establish a liturgical committee to carry out a liturgical reform and ensure the unification of the liturgy in all the dioceses of the Church worldwide. His Grace Mar Awa Royel was appointed as President of the Committee, and Their Graces Mar Emmanuel Joseph and Mar Awgin Kuriakose were selected as members of this committee. Additional members will be selected by the bishops who comprise this committee.
2. The Holy Synod decreed that it is not allowed to introduce new liturgical hymns and anthems into the Eucharistic Liturgy (the Holy Qurbana) and all official liturgical celebrations without the express approval of the Holy Synod. The Synod stressed the importance of diligently observing all the ancient hymns and anthems of the Church.
3. The Holy Synod decreed that prelates and priests should not wear the liturgical vestment of the cope (*ma'pra*) during the celebration of the Rite of Marriage.
4. The Synod decreed that the Commemoration of all Catholic Patriarchs of Selucia Ctesiphon shall be observed by the Church on the first Sunday of June. This commemoration is to be included in the annual liturgical calendar beginning in 2017.





H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and H.L. Mar AwginKurikose Episcopa with the members of Immanuel Mar Thoma Church in Doha, Qatar on 18 November 2016



Rev. Fr. Michael Pazhumalil with the Mumbai parish members on 17 December 2016 in connection with the free distribution of snacks boxes



**Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan Meets Lebanese President General Michel Aounat in the Presidential Palace at Baabda – Beirut on 17 November 2016**



**His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon speaks at ACERO Australia's NSW Chapter luncheon on Sunday 9 October 2016**



Supporter of the Church of the East in India Mr. Joseph Haweil Inaugurates the St. Alphonso Syro-Malabar Cathedral Parish Day in Melbourne, Australia. Bishop Bosco Puthur (from Trichur) presided over the meeting.



Metropolitan Mar Meelis Zaia Visits the ACERO Dohuk Housing Complex on 16 November 2016



Flag-off by Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa for Mar Aprem Sunday School Day procession starting from Mar Yohannan Mamdhana church to the Metropolitan Palace, Trichur on 4 December 2016



Mar Aprem Sunday School Day procession lead by Rev. Fr. Sijo Johny on 4 December 2016 at Trichur

5. The Synod recommended that an official letter be sent by the Catholicos Patriarch to all the heads of apostolic Churches worldwide proposing to unify the date of the observance of the Feast of the Resurrection (Easter) on the second Sunday of April every year.

6. The Holy Synod decided to establish an investigation committee to be concerned with advancing the cause of sainthood. The Synod appointed His Beatitude Mar Aprem metropolitan to be the head of the committee, with two members: His Graces Mar Aprim Khamis and Mar Yohannan Yoseph.

### **Diocesan Administrative Matters:**

1. According to the request of His Grace Mar Odisho Awraham, the Synod confirmed that the diocese of Europe shall be divided into two separate dioceses, and it will have another proper bishop. This shall take place in the future in the future.

2. The Holy Synod accepted the resignation of His Grace Mar Yousip Sargis from all official ecclesiastical responsibilities as a bishop, submitted to the Synod in his own writing on November 10, 2016. The Synod prayed for the well being of His Grace, and prayed the Lord reward him for his labors in our Holy Church.

3. The Holy Synod decreed that the Indian archdiocese to be named as the ‘Archdiocese of India and the United Arab of Emirates,’ as these parishes and missions of the Gulf countries are officially given under the pastoral care of the metropolitan of India.

4. The Holy Synod confirmed the ‘Episcopal Council of the Archdiocese of India and the United Arab Emirates,’ consisting of the Metropolitan and two auxiliary Bishops. The authority of the Episcopal Council is derived from the Holy Synod under the presidency of the Catholicos Patriarch. The responsibility of the ‘Episcopal Council’ is to designate the responsibilities of each Bishop and his purgatives. The general rules governing this Episcopal Council are to be confirmed by the Catholicos Patriarch.

5. The Holy Synod unanimously agreed to repeal the following canon of 1976 (decreed under the late Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV) in regards to the election of the Catholicos Patriarch: “For the election and consecration of an Assyrian bishop to the rank of the Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East.” Therefore, the Holy Synod affirmed that any metropolitan or bishop, regardless of race, ethnicity or nationality may be elected to the sublime rank of Catholicos Patriarch of the East.

6. The Holy Synod modified the canon number 8 of the Holy Synod of 1990 in Baghdad, held under the presidency of the late Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV. Therefore, the Holy Synod decreed that a priest who reaches the age of 67 must obligatorily submit his retirement from active pastoral ministry. If his diocesan bishop is still in need of his ministry, as the particular priest is in good health, his bishop may ask him to continue in his ministry. The Synod stressed that for the priest who will be retiring, his diocese is obliged to provide him with a retirement plan/payment.

### **Youth Ministry**

1. The Synod decreed to establish a Commission for Youth Ministry to be administered by a bishop. He will be responsible for all youth ministries worldwide. As there is no bishop to fulfill that position as present, the Reverend Father Narsai Youkhanis of the diocese of Australia will be responsible for this commission. Rev. Youkhanis will have the permission to execute his responsibilities in all dioceses.

## **Ecclesiastical Canons**

1. The Holy Synod decreed to establish a Canonical Commission to classify and categorize all canonical canons of our Church. The Synod nominated His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin to head this canonical commission and will be in charge of appointing members.

## **Assyrian Church To Consecrate Bishops in 2017**

The Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, headed by His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa convened in the city of Erbil, Iraq commencing on Monday the 7th November till Saturday 12th November 2016. The Synod opened the meeting with the offering of the Holy Oblation in St Youkhana Mamdhana Cathedral (St John the Baptist) in Ankawa, Erbil.

The Holy Synod elected two priests to be consecrated bishops in the year of 2017, namely; Reverend Father Dr Tyari Jonsen for the Diocese of Erbil and Patriarchal Vicar and Reverend Father Ninos Elya for the Diocese of Melbourne (Australia) and temporarily New Zealand.

### **Biographies**

#### **1- Reverend Father Dr Tyari Jonsen**

Reverend Tyari was born in Erbil, Iraq in the year of 1978. He was ordained a deacon by Metropolitan His Beatitude Mar Gewargis (currently His Holiness) in Baghdad on the 23rd November 2002. He was ordained a priest once again by the Metropolitan at the time in Kirkuk's St George's Church on the 14th January 2007. Rev'd Tyari received his Bachelor Degree in Political Science from the University of Baghdad in 2007. Rev'd Tyari also received his Masters Degree of Theology in 2011 from Alphonsian Academy in Rome, Italy. And finally, received his Ph.D. from the same institute in 2016. He was appointed as the parish priest of Erbil's cathedral on the 3rd May 2016.

#### **2- Reverend Father Ninos Elya**

Reverend Ninos was born in Baghdad, Iraq in the year 1985. He was ordained a deacon in 2002 by Metropolitan His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia A M in Sydney's St Hurmizd's Cathedral. He was ordained a priest in 2012 once again by His Beatitude Mar Meelis. Rev'd Ninos received his Bachelor Degree from the Australian Catholic University in 2013. He also received his Masters Degree from the same institute in 2015. Currently Rev'd Ninos is the chaplain of the Assyrian Schools (St Hurmizd Primary and St Narsai High Schools), concentrating on the Christian Studies of the schools. Also, he is currently the parish priest of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Sydney.

### **Revised Dates for the Consecration of Bishops:**

**May 7, 2017 at Erbil, Iraq**

**July 16, 2017 at Melbourne, Australia**

## **Catholicos-Patriarch Meets Pope in the Vatican**

His Holiness Pope Francis warmly welcomed the Catholicos Patriarch Mar Gewargis Sliwa III on the morning of Thursday 17th November along with select few prelates in the Vatican City's Redemptoris Mater Chapel.

The Pope pressed great emphasis on the zeal and faith of the Christians in the Middle East during this time of turmoil, and applauded the Church for its support and aide during this time.

The Pope expressed the great delight the Catholic Church has had with its dialogue with the Assyrian Church of the East, since its initiation with the Catholic Church by the Late His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV with the Late Pope John Paul where the declaration was signed and a door of peace and communication was opened.

Further, the Pope spoke on the roots of the Churches and their ancestry dating back to the early age of the establishment of Christianity, where the apostles spread the Word to all four corners of the world reaching Rome and Mesopotamia – being the 'cradle of civilization' as mentioned by the Pope.

In closing, the Pope thanked Mar Gewargis III for their third visit to the Vatican City, praying together for the Lord's protection and to fulfill His will, amen.

## **Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan Meets Lebanese President**

During the latest visit to their diocese, His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia A M met with the Lebanese President General Michel in his presidential palace Baabda-Beirut.

His Beatitude conveyed his sincere congratulations and well wishes to the President, on behalf of the Assyrian Church of the East's Holy Synod and the Assyrian community in Lebanon in its entirety for the presidential elections of the Republic, and prayed for Lebanon and its people to live in peace and harmony.

Upon His Beatitude's visitation, a thorough update on the living conditions of the Assyrian community who have been displaced from their homeland and are currently seeking refuge in Lebanon was presented. The great sufferings of these families was brought to the attention of the President, and a recount of their traumatic experiences in Iraq and Syria.

His Beatitude Mar Meelis was accompanied by Rev'd Chor-Bishop Yatron Kilyana and Mr. Essam El-Assaad.

## **Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan Visits ACERO Dohuk Apartments**

*15 November 2016*

ACERO's Dohuk Chapter today had the immense honour of welcoming His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon to ACERO's Dohuk Housing Complex.

Commencing the visit at 10 a.m., the Metropolitan led prayers at the Complex and was given a tour of the facilities by Mr Odisho Dawood, care-taker of the site and Chairman of the Dohuk Chapter.

Accompanied by a number of reverend priests and other dignitaries, His Beatitude made time to visit with all residents and pray over those suffering from illnesses and other conditions.

ACERO's UK Headquarters and the ACERO family around the world offer our thanks to His Beatitude for making the time to visit and for his ongoing support of ACERO's work in the Middle East.

## **Ordination in Tehran, Iran**

His Grace Mar Narsai Benjamin, Bishop of Iran, has ordained Sub-Deacon Samson Davidolf as Deacon on 9 December 2016. He is 28 years old and had served the Church as a Sub-Deacon during the past three years. The ordination service was at the Mar Gewargis Church, Tehran, Iran.

## **Aleppo, Syria**

The newspapers on December 12 reported the glad news that the Syrian Government has recaptured complete control of the city of Aleppo which was under the grip of the Islamic State. We hope and pray that the whole of Syria is liberated from the troubles of the Islamic State. We pray for peace on earth.

## **Northern Iraq's Village of Sarsing Mourns the Death of Rev'd Patros Younan**

On Wednesday 16th November 2016, the village of Sarsing in Northern Iraq mourned the death of Reverend Father Patros Younan, parish priest of St Matthew's Church.

The Late Rev'd Fr Patros Younan was born in the year of 1969, was married with four children; two boys and two girls. He was ordained a priest on the 18th February 2012 by His Grace Mar Iskhag Yousip, bishop of the diocese of Northern Iraq and Russia. He served at St Matthew's Church in the village of Sarsing and other surrounding churches.

The funeral service was held at 1:00 pm on Friday 18th November 2016 in St Matthew's Church. The Church in its entirety conveys its condolence to his family and parishioners, and pray that the Lord grants him His Eternal Kingdom as a faithful servant.

### **Indian Archdiocese News**

## **Qatar Mission Parish**

The Second Holy Qurbana of the Mission Parish at Qatar was held on 18 November 2016 at Immanuel Mar Thoma Church in Doha, Qatar. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa who were returning after the Holy Synod in Erbil spent 3 days visiting the members of our Church in Doha. 36 members including children attended the Holy Qurbana on Friday November 18, 2016.

The first Holy Qurbana was held in the Jacobite Syrian Church in Doha by Mar Aprem Metropolitan in November 2005 when he was returning after visiting the late patriarch Mar Dinkha IV in Chicago. About 30 people attended at that time including a Chaldean from Iraq Mr. Daniel with his family.



Mr John Edakalathur and his wife Jasmine and Mr. Samuel Henry and his wife Anly who had taken initiatives for both Qurbanas in 2005 and 2016 and the Church is blessed with their hospitality. We visited the home of Mr. Elvish Antony and his elder brother and their families.

A brief meeting was arranged after the Holy Qurbana. Vicar of Mar Thoma Church and Fr. Santhosh, Vicar of the Indian Orthodox church attended this meeting and offered their support for the future of our mission parish in their felicitations. Our prelates remembered with gratitude the head of the Mar Thoma Church Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan for granting us permission to conduct Holy Qurbana at their Mar Immanuel Mar Thoma church at Doha. As there is no resident priest in this area the congregation unanimously selected both Mr. Melvin Mangalam and Mr. Elwish Antony Kaiparamban as organising secretaries of this Mission Parish.

The Metropolitan discussed the long history of our Church in Qatar before the Islamic period where we had a well-known Metropolitan named Gewargis Qatraya. The parish priest of the Anglican Church also visited us during the Holy Qurbana.

## **Sunday School Rally**

A colourful Sunday school rally was held on 4th December 2016 in Thrissur, Kerala, as usual on the first Sunday of the month of December. The rally from Mar Yohannan Mamdhana parish to the Metropolitan Palace had almost all the parishes of our Church in India. Colourful tableaux depicting Bible events attracted the attention of the public of Thrissur. Prizes were distributed to the best teams in the procession.

Not only the Sunday school students and teachers, but also the faithful including people above the age of 80 were seen walking the one mile long procession shouting slogans such as **Long Live Mar Aprem Sunday School, Long Live Patriarch Mar Gewargis III, Long Live Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Long Live Mar Yohannan Episcopa and Long Live Mar Awgin Episcopa.**

## **YMCA National Convention**

An Annual National Convention was held in Mar Thoma Youth Centre in Adoor on December 3, 2016. Dr. Lebi Philip Mathew, President of the YMCA, India presided. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan inaugurated the National Convention attended by YMCA leaders from all over India.

## **Mar Gabriel Church, Mumbai**

Youth of Mar Gabriel Church, Mumbai organized the free Distribution of snacks boxes as a Christmas Gift to 207 cancer patients.

The distribution was held on 17 December 2016 at 4 p.m. in Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. Tata Memorial is one of the largest hospitals treating cancer in India. Youth Secretary, Geo George Kangappadan introduced the Chaldean Syrian Church of the East to the Tata Hospital staff. Youth member, Mr. Anish Timothy, Mr. Francis Emmatty, Mr. Joseph Thekegara and Mr. Shelly Paul, trustees of the church were also there in this function. Rev. Fr. Michael Pazhumalil presented the first gift hamper to the male ward patients with prayers. Mrs. Princy Francis, Mrs. Jismi Geo & Mrs. Sanila Shelly are the lady members of our Church who shared the Christmas joy in the women's ward.

Mar Gabriel Church members sponsored gift boxes and all the expenses of this Christmas activity at the Tata Cancer Hospital.

**January**

- 4. Mar Zaia
- 6. Epiphany
- 6. Memorial of Mart Mariam
- 13. Memorial of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana
- 20. Memorial Pathros & Paulose
- 27. Four Evangelists

**February**

- 3. Mar Esthapanose Sahda
- 6-8 Ba'utha of Ninevites
- 9. Kubalthaibutha
- 10. Syriac, Greek Malpans
- 12. Mar Yonan
- 17. Mar Awa Catholicos
- 24. Friday of Departed (Aneedhe)
- 26. Lent Begins

**March**

- 3. Fourty Martyrs Crowned in Ghieda
- 22. Mid Lent

**April**

- 2. Mar Michael, Friend of Angels
- 7. Friday of Lazar
- 9. Oshana
- 13. Pis'ha of our Lord (Maundy Thursday)
- 14. Good Friday
- 15. Holy Saturday
- 16. Easter
- 16. Mar Bennyamin Shimun, Martyr (1918)
- 21. Confessor's Day
- 21. Mar Shimun Barsabbae
- 23. New Sunday
- 24. Memorial of Mar Gewargis

**May**

- 1. Rabban Hurmizd
- 12. Mar Sargis, Mar Bachos
- 14. Mar Addai Shleeha
- 23. Shmoni & Her Children
- 25. Sulaqa (Ascension)

**June**

- 4. Pentecost
- 4. Memorial of Patriarchs of Selucia Ctesiphon
- 7. 1st Holy Qurbana by Mar Yakob
- 9. Friday of god

**July**

- 2. Mar B'hisho
- 3. St. Thomas Day
- 9. Mar Pithyon
- 11. Mar Yosip Khananisho (d.1977)
- 15. Mar Kuriakose and Mother Yolethe
- 21. Memorial of 72 Apostles
- 23. Nusardail & Memorial of 12 disciples
- 28. Mar Yakob of Nisibis

**August**

- 1. Beginning of 15 Day Fast
- 4. Mar Mari Shleeha
- 6. Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor
- 11. Mar Eyyob Hdayyavaya
- 15. Death of Mart Mariam (Shunaya)
- 25. Shmone and her Children

**September**

- 1. Rabban Hurmizd
- 1. Mar Shimun Barsabbae
- 8. Mar Qardagh Sahda
- 8. Birth of Mart Mariam
- 13. Festival of Cross
- 14. Mar Bhisho
- 18. Remembrance of Yonakhir & Hanna, Mother of Marth Mariam
- 19. Mar Shallitha
- 27. Consecration of H. H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa

**October**

- 1. Mar khananya, who baptised St. Paul
- 6. Mar Elia Prophet
- 12. Three Hundred Saints of Shigar
- 22. Mar Moshe Nwiya
- 25. Mar Pithyon

**November**

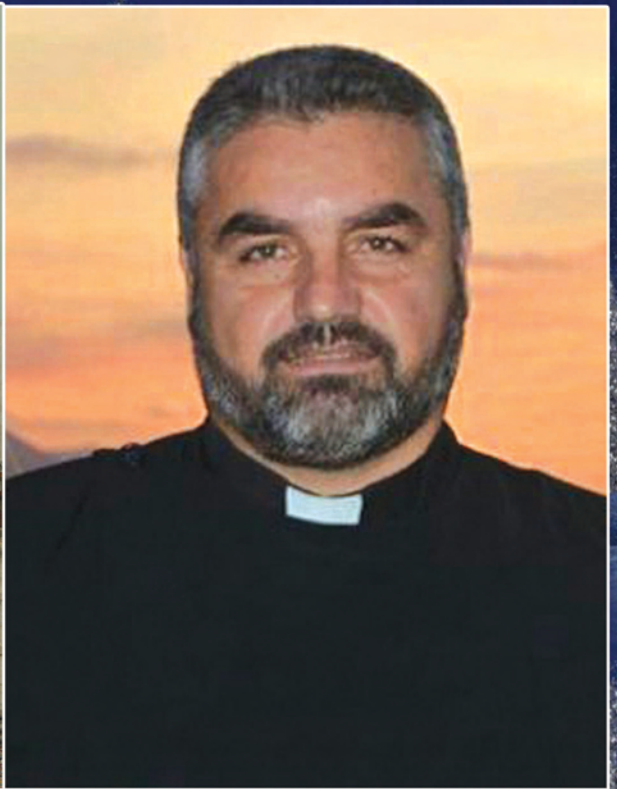
- 5. Hallowing of the Church
- 6. Mar Gewargis Sahda
- 10. Mar Augin Thoovana
- 12. Day of Tithes
- 15. Memorial of All Saints
- 19. Mar Yaqob M' pasqa

**December**

- 1. Subara (Advent) Begins
- 8. Mar Gabriel of Karsa,
- 8. Mar Abdisho Armaya
- 22. Memorial of 12000 Martyrs
- 24. Mar Awa of Nineveh
- 25. Christmas



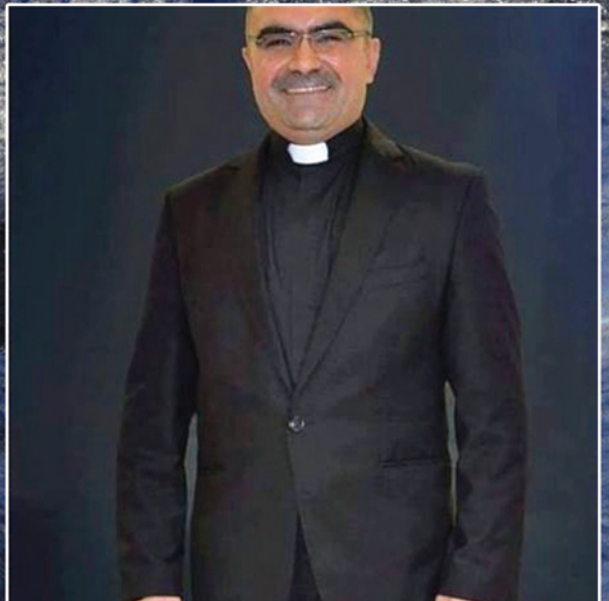
His Grace Mar Narsai Benjamin, Bishop of Iran with Sub-Deacon Samson Davidof after the ordination on 9 December 2016 in the Mar Gewargis Church, Tehran, Iran.



Late Reverend Father Patros Younan, Parish Priest of St Matthew's Church, Sarsing in Northern Iraq, died on 16 November 2016



**Reverend Father Ninos Elya,** proposed as Bishop at the recent Holy Synod will be consecrated in 2017



**Reverend Father Dr Tyari Jonsen,** proposed as Bishop at the recent Holy Synod will be consecrated in 2017



Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa with the prelates of Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East pictured during the Holy Synod of November 7-12, 2016