

# صوت الشرق

Vol 64

July - August 2017

Nos. 7 & 8



**Following the Consecration of Mar Benyamin Elya at Mar Abdisho Church, Melbourne – 16 July 2017**

Left to Right: H. G. Dr. Mar Abris Youkhanan (Bishop of Erbil), H. G. Mar Narsai Benyamin (Bishop of Iran), H. G. Dr. Mar Awa Royel (Bishop of California, USA), H. B. Mar Meelis Zaia AM (Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon), H.G. Mar Benyamin Elya (Episcopa of Victoria and New Zealand), H. H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa (Catholicos Patriarch), H. B. Dr. Mar Aprem Mookan (Metropolitan of India), H. G. Dr. Mar Emmanuel Yosip (Bishop of Canada), H. G. Mar Paulus Benyamin (Bishop of Eastern USA)

## VOICE OF THE EAST



**Bishop Mar Benyamin Elya Celebrating the Holy Qurbana after the Consecration as Bishop at Mar Abdisho Church – 16 July 2017**



**His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch pictured with Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Rev Dr Sister Jincy Othotil of India at the Closing Ceremony of the Youth Conference in Sydney – 9 July 2017**

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

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

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

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

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# Voice of the East

**Vol. 64**

**July - August 2017**

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## **Editorial**

### **New Bishop for Diocese of Victoria & New Zealand**

Assyrians were migrating to Australia from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Assyrians settled down in Sydney and Melbourne mainly. The late Archdeacon Yonan Kiwarkis was the first priest in Sydney. In 1984 the first bishop was consecrated by the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV for Australia and New Zealand. That was Mar Meelis Zaia. He was only 28 years old at his consecration. The young bishop by hard work built up the Diocese of Australia and New Zealand. He built the St Hurmizd Cathedral in Sydney. St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School and St Narsai Assyrian Christian College are some of his major achievements. In 2007, the Australian Government awarded him the prestigious *Member of the Order of Australia Award* and post-nominal title AM under Australia's order of chivalry. He was elevated to the post of Metropolitan in December 2008.

On 16 July 2017 the first bishop of the new Diocese of Victoria & New Zealand was consecrated. The new name of the new bishop is Mar Benyamin Elya. We all know that we had a brave Catholicos-Patriarch by the name of Mar Benyamin Shimun. He was assassinated by Simko Agha, a Kurdish rebel in 1918 after the First World War. Historically, we do not know if there was a bishop by the name of Mar Benyamin.

Bishop Mar Benyamin Elya is a clergyman of many talents. He is fully occupied with his studies for a Ph.D. degree. Prof. Rifaat Ebied is his research supervisor at the University of Sydney. The new Bishop served as a School Chaplain and Parish priest in Sydney since his initial ordination. The new Diocese has purchased a Bishopric in Melbourne where the new Bishop has made his headquarters.

The Assyrians in Melbourne are hoping that the new Bishop will replicate the efforts of the Sydney community by establishing an Assyrian school and other services. Currently many of our children go to the Coptic Orthodox Church school and other religious schools. If we start our own school we can teach our language and keep our children close to the church.

At present we have a good choir at Mar Abdisho Cathedral in Melbourne. There are Bible classes and other activities for the youth and the old. We pray that the consecration of a new bishop will speed up the growth of the new Diocese as with the progress made in Sydney. We have also a young member from our Church namely Joseph Haweil who was elected last year to the Hume City Council in Melbourne. He has been very active in our church affairs. He is also involved in the ecumenical activities of our church.

We wish our new Bishop every success.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

## **Catholicos-Patriarch Consecrates Mar Benyamin Elya as Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand in Melbourne**

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017 by the grace of Almighty God, the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon under the leadership of His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM was blessed with the consecration of His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya as the first Bishop of the newly-created Diocese of Victoria and New Zealand.

Visiting from the Patriarchate of the Assyrian Church of the East in Iraq, His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch was assisted in the consecration which commenced at 8 a.m. on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July at St Abdisho's Cathedral, with the following prelates present alongside His Holiness;

- His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem Mooken (Metropolitan of All India)
- His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM (Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon)
- His Grace Dr. Mar Emmanuel Yosip (Bishop of Canada)
- His Grace Dr. Mar Awa Royel (Bishop of California, USA)
- His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin (Bishop of Iran)
- His Grace Mar Paulus Benyamin (Bishop of Eastern USA)
- His Grace Dr. Mar Abris Youkhanan (Bishop of Erbil)

After the Consecration the new Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand celebrated the Holy Qurbana. More than 1500 faithful were in attendance for both services. The church services were attended by the following representatives of sister churches:

- His Grace Mar Amel Shamon Nona  
Archbishop – Chaldean Catholic Church
- His Beatitude Mar Yacoob Daniel  
Metropolitan – Ancient Church of the East
- His Grace Mar Bosco Puthur  
Bishop – Syro-Malabar Catholic Church
- The Right Reverend Philip Huggins  
Bishop – Anglican Church of Australia and President of the National Council of Churches in Australia
- The Right Reverend Peter Danaher  
Bishop – Anglican Church of Australia and President of the Victorian Council of Churches
- The Reverend Professor Emeritus Robert W. Gribben  
Uniting Church in Australia

Clergy of the above noted churches were also in attendance accompanying their relevant Head of Church.

At the conclusion of church services a private breakfast was hosted for the prelates and clergy along with the newly consecrated bishop's family.

Later in the evening, a Testimonial Dinner was held at Lakeside Banquet and Convention Centre where more than 700 faithful celebrated the historic occasion. It is noteworthy that the dinner was well attended by representatives of Federal, State and Local Government along as well as many guests from social, cultural and political organizations. Of particular note was the presence of:

## *Voice of the East*

- The Honourable [Chris Bowen](#) MP (Shadow Treasurer)
- The Honourable [Marlene Kairouz](#) MP (Victorian Government Minister)
- Mr Nazih Elasmr MP (State Member)
- Cr [Drew Jessop](#) (Mayor of Hume City Council)

Prelates and clergy of the Chaldean Catholic Church and Ancient Church of the East were also in attendance.

His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya will lead the newly created Diocese of Victoria and New Zealand which includes three churches, namely St Abdisho's Cathedral in Coolaroo, St George's Church in Reservoir and St Mary's Church in Auckland (New Zealand). A Mission Parish is also active in Wellington. The new Diocese has 4 full-time priests and more than 20 deacons. The Diocese's membership includes more than 1200 registered families (households) who make up part of the thriving Assyrian community in Victoria and New Zealand.

### **Letter from Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis**

Beloved brother in Christ

H.B. Mar Aprem Metropolitan of India

Your Beatitude:

Greeting you, The Prelates, The Clergy, The Central Committee and all the faithful of your blessed Archdiocese of India in The Holy Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and beseeching him to richly bless all of you and guide you for the great glory of his holy Name: Amen.

I am pleased to inform your beatitude that last week I sojourned our St. Mary's Church of Los Angeles parish. Sunday, second of summer, July 30, 2017. Prior to the Holy Eucharist, I ordained five young men, three Readers, a sub-deacon, and a deacon. It is worth mentioning that the Reader, The Sub-Deacon, and the Deacon are brothers "Siblings". All parishioners were extremely happy and praised the Lord especially for sibling ordination. (Photos enclosed). Following the Holy services, warm welcome to the diocesan bishop by parishioners at Church hall, then breakfast was served by women's committee to all the faithful.

God willing, two deacons, namely, Dr. Deacon James Darmoo, and deacon Nenos Pera holds of Master Degree. Both deacons passed examination and are qualified to be elevated and ordained priest. There is around 100 families of our Church living in Venetia a suburb of Los Angeles. It has been over a year since we adopted Venetia to be a mission parish. God willing, we plan to elevate this mission to be parish by ordaining Dr. Deacon James to be official priest to this new parish. Deacon Nenos will be assistance to cor-bishop and serves St. Mary Church of Los Angeles parish. We intend their ordination to take place in the Holy Land the coming October 2017.

Praise our Heavenly Father for His guidance, and all marvellous things which are taking place in His Church for the glory of His Holy Name. Please, Your Beatitude, remember our mentioned deacons in your prayers and to serve him faithfully. May our Lord grant to you good health, strengthen, and bless your endeavours offered in His Vineyard for His glory. May He shower His heavenly blessings upon your blessed archdiocese.

In His service,

+Aprim Khamis

By Grace

Bishop Western USA

## **International Youth Conference, Sydney – Australia**

July 5-9, 2017

Opening Ceremony of 2017's International Youth Conference, Sydney - Australia.

The conference officially commenced with evening prayers at St. Peter and Paul Church lead by His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa Catholicos-Patriarch, His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, His Grace Mar Narsai Benjamin, His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan along with our clergy.

The opening was followed by a scrumptious dinner courtesy of Nineveh Lounge Catering. The program included presentations by youth representatives of Iraq, Lebanon and India.

The keynotes by His Holiness and His Beatitude were the highlights of the evening.

On the second day of our conference, workshops were held by our beloved prelates and clergy; the youth rotated throughout all workshops which were run by 1) Their Graces Mar Narsai Benjamin and Mar Abris Youkhanan, 2) Archdeacon Ninos Elya, 3) Chor-Bishop Narsai Youkhanis, 4) Rev'd Fr Narsai Youkhanis, 5) Dn Morris Daood and 6) Sister Jincy Othottil. After a spiritually educational day, our delegates enjoyed a scrumptious dinner in Brighton Le Sands along with some traditional folkloric dancing.

On the third day of our conference, lectures were presented by prelates and an academic; His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, HB Mar Aprem (India), HG Mar Narsai, HG Mar Abris Youkhanan (Iraq) and Professor Rifaat Abied. After lectures, Luna Park was graciously visited by our delegates for a fun afternoon followed with dinner in Circular Quay. [Professor Rifaat Ebied begins today's YC17 lectures at UTS, dissecting St Ephraim's Alphabetical Admonitions. The second lecture for today was presented by His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Erbil. The lecture was titled 'The Birth of Christianity on the Assyrian Church of the East (from the beginning of the Apostolic Age to the 4th Century AD). The third lecture, the appointment of individuals for the service of the Church and the Grace of God by His Grace Mar Narsai Benjamin, Iran. The fourth lecture for the day was presented by His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India and the UAE. The lecture was titled 'Monasticism in the Church of the East: from the 4th till the 9th Century'. And the last session was His Holiness Mar Gewargis' lecture titled 'South East Turkey: History and Relevance' concluded lectures at UTS.

On the fourth day of our conference, we were exposed to God's glorious creation via the Coogee to Bondi Coastal Walk; ending with a well deserved lunch at Bondi Beach. In the evening, we attended prayers at St Mary's Cathedral in Hyde Park followed with our final dinner with our prelates in Darling Harbour.

On the fifth and last day of our conference, we attended Razeh Qadisheh at St Hurmizd Cathedral co-celebrated by His Holiness Mar Gewargis and His Grace Mar Abris. Afterwards, the closing ceremony Breakfast was held in Edessa Hall where further talks were presented and medallions awarded.

Until next conference, we pray that God almighty protects you under His loving grace and mercies. Please keep the gospel close to your hearts and support the church by attending bible studies and Raza on a weekly basis. Let's commit to Him so that we can enjoy in His eternal blessings.

*Continued from Previous Issue ...*

## **Sam Higginbottom University**

### ***The Young Samaritan***

A century ago, a young American in his late 20s stood on the southern banks of the Yamuna River near the holy Triveni confluence at Allahabad, contemplating a patch of badly eroded soil, which had not been tilled for centuries. He looked at the neighbouring farms' poor crops and famished livestock. As he surveyed the scene he was convinced that the only way India could progress was through modernization of agriculture. He resolved to do something about it. This young man was Dr. Sam Higginbottom, a teacher whose birth date always recalls a life dedicated to that resolve.

### ***The Decision***

He became a familiar figure in the surrounding villages and observed the living conditions and agricultural Practices of the villagers. He was deeply concerned about the ancient system of agriculture which contributed to low productivity and thus led to extreme poverty amongst them. He was also genuinely disturbed by the vast gulf between the urban Christians and the rural masses. For several months he contemplated upon the Christian neglect of the villages and ultimately by the end of 1909 he decided to bridge this gulf by establishing an agricultural school, which he envisioned would educate the village boys, introduce improved agricultural methods and co-operate with the local farmers in solving their practical agriculture related problems.



***Dr Sam Higginbottom***  
***A Farmer***  
***A Teacher***  
***A Servant of God***

The evolution of an agricultural school was much more complex. Dr. Sam Higginbottom wished to establish a school that would train young men to work in villages as well as do research in practical agricultural problems of the villagers. His experiences as a teacher in economics and later in agriculture, his studies about India and his association with Col. Hudson, Superintendent, Naini Jail helped him to develop this school. 1910 was the year of decision when Agricultural Institute was established under the leadership of Dr. Sam Higginbottom, as an ecumenical Institution of the Christian Churches and Church organizations in India. Convinced that India could only progress by modernizing agriculture, Dr. Sam Higginbottom, a young American teacher, raised funds in the United States to install Allahabad Agricultural Institute. Over first four decades the institute has done pioneering work for the advancement of agriculture, including introducing pest-resistant high yielding-seeds, improved farm implements and extension programs for farmers under

the leadership of Dr. Sam Higginbottom.

### ***The Mission***

The gift of Bible sparked in him the desire to seek education at Mount Hermon in the United States, the country that he adopted. Completing High School at age 24, Higginbottom worked his way through Amherst and Princeton University for a career of helping others. A set of fortuitous events led this former cattle-puncher to accept an offer by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, New York, to teach economics at the Christian College in Allahabad. However, soon after his arrival in 1903, Higginbottom discovered to his dismay that the economics that he had learned and now was to teach had no relevance and provided no clues that could relate to the Indian agrarian economy. Undeterred, he found an ingenious solution to his predicament: What better way could there be to relate the pedagogical concepts of economics to concrete reality than to take his students to nearby villages? he asked himself.





**Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Celebrating Holy Qurbana in Canada.  
Metropolitan Mar Thoma Gewargis (Old Calendar) Next to the Bishop**



**Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Visiting London in Canada  
Mr. Wilson Padavan of Trichur is on the extreme right**



**Convocation Ceremony of the Mission & Evangelism Meeting of the Church of the East in Thrissur (2nd Batch Advanced Course) – July 2017**



**Bishop Dr. Bosco Puthur, Syro-Malabar Catholic Bishop of Melbourne with Metropolitan Mar Aprem – 21 July 2017**

## **Obituary**



**Mr. N.V. Rappai  
Nellangara House  
Trichur**



**Dr. Sunny Joseph  
Chackola House  
Trichur**



**Mahila Samajam General Secretary Mrs. Jessy Timothy (mother of Fr. Sachin) handing over the collection of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Parish for the renovation of the Mahila Samajam Building which is a historical site as Mahatma Gandhi with his wife Kasturba visited in 1927**



**Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis after Ordination Service at St Mary's Church, Los Angeles on 30 July 2017**

### Syriac poem and it's English translation (Rev. Fr. P K Varghese)

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P.K. VARGHESE QASHA - Mob: 919061806036

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١٦. خَدَّابُ وَبَلْرَسُ خَبْرِيحُ : خَدَّابُ أَب : خَبْرِيحٌ خَبْرِيحٌ  
١٧. خَدَّابُ وَبَلْرَسُ مَضْبُوحٌ : خَدَّابُ أَب : مَضْبُوحٌ مَضْبُوحٌ

١٨. خَدَّابُ وَبَلْرَسُ مَلِيحٌ : خَدَّابُ أَب : مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ  
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٢٠. خَدَّابُ وَبَلْرَسُ مَلِيحٌ : خَدَّابُ أَب : مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ  
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٢٢. خَدَّابُ وَبَلْرَسُ مَلِيحٌ : خَدَّابُ أَب : مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ  
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٢٦. خَدَّابُ وَبَلْرَسُ مَلِيحٌ : خَدَّابُ أَب : مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ  
٢٧. خَدَّابُ وَبَلْرَسُ مَلِيحٌ : خَدَّابُ أَب : مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ  
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٢٩. خَدَّابُ وَبَلْرَسُ مَلِيحٌ : خَدَّابُ أَب : مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ مَلِيحٌ

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## **My Lord and My God**

(A Lyric for Worship)

*Lyrics Translated from Syriac by Qasha P K Varghese*

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| 1. My Lord and my God the helper<br>Merciful be to me Oh! the Most High<br>My Lord and my God the guardian<br>A ransom be to me O! Lord                      | 11. My Lord and my God calling all<br>Invigilator be to me O! the energetic<br>My Lord and my God inviting all<br>Bearer be to me as just as possible |
| 2. My Lord and my God the Saviour<br>A Quickener be to me Oh! the Almighty<br>My Lord and my God O! the Excellent<br>The Good be to me Ooh! the Evangelistic | 12. My Lord and my God searching all<br>Finder be to me the lost one<br>My Lord and my God setting all apart<br>Rest-giver be to me forever           |
| 3. My Lord and my God the Warrior<br>The ruler be to me in mercy<br>My Lord and my God Oh! Victorious<br>The Providence be to me in grace                    | 13. My Lord and my God full of mercy<br>Strengthened be to me O! Prince<br>My Lord and my God exalting all<br>Resurrector be to me at last            |
| 4. My Lord and my God the Highest<br>Trust worthy be to me in affection<br>My Lord and my God the Heavenly<br>The Helper be to me always                     | 14. My Lord and my God loving all<br>Sponsor be to me in affection<br>My Lord and my God gazing all<br>Gracious be to me in modesty                   |
| 5. My Lord and my God the Spiritual<br>A guide be to me Oh! the great<br>My Lord and my God the Reality<br>A restorer be to me greatness                     | 15. My Lord and my God giving to all<br>Donor be to me the rich<br>My Lord and my God the jealous<br>indicator be to me a worm                        |
| 6. My Lord and my God in the day<br>Shade be to me and cloud<br>My Lord and my God in every night<br>Torch be to me and enlightener                          | 16. My Lord and my God the Trinity<br>Father be to me forever<br>My Lord and my God the Son of God<br>Professor be to me forever                      |
| 7. My Lord and my God every time<br>Expositor be to me in every manner<br>My Lord and my God<br>Fashioner be to me the great                                 | 17. My Lord and my God the <i>Paraclete</i><br>The Spirit be to me forever<br>My Lord and my God the Glorious<br>Celestial be to me the Eagle         |
| 8. My Lord and my God the justifier<br>Omnipotent be to me and the renewer<br>My Lord and my God the powerful<br>Moderator be to me in cheerfulness          | 18. My Lord and my God the Habitation<br>Bless be to me forever<br>My Lord and my God the Habitation<br>Full of strength be to me for generation      |
| 9. My Lord and my God the Omniscient<br>Deliverer be to me in greatness<br>My Lord and my God Lord of all<br>Admonisher be to me in diligent                 | 19. My Lord and my God the Paradise<br>Abode be to me forever<br>My Lord and my God glory to You<br>Informer be to me every day                       |
| 10. My Lord and my God Shepherd of all<br>Reprover be to me the fearful<br>My Lord and my God the benefactor<br>Mendor be to me in justice                   | 20. My Lord and my God the Lord of all<br>Sovereign be to me the loving<br>My Lord and my God the Creator<br>Merciful be to me a creature             |

*News from the Archdiocese of India*

## **Student Education and Scholarships**

Inspired by the teaching of His Holiness the late Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of blessed memory, the Indian Archdiocese of the Assyrian Church of the East established a Youth Association for young women in 2004. Each parish has its own branch of the Association and a Central Committee for the organisation exists.

The Central Committee started a long-term project entitled “Education Helping Project” in 2009 in order to help the poor families in the education of their children. The Indian Archdiocese has two orphanages for the children but faithful of the church did not like to send their children to the orphanages even though they are in a very poor financial situation. So the Church has a responsibility to help these poor people for their kid’s education. The youth is the future of our Church so we should support them in order to build the future of our church.

Each year, 25 students were admitted to this project for their 5 year studies from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard from poor families of various parishes of our church. We are very proud to say that all our students passed in their education especially in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Standard. They are getting good marks in their public examinations too. This year we have **125 students from various parishes** studying under this project. We are also supporting very disabled students. Our education plan is up to 12<sup>th</sup> standard (aged 17/18 years) but sometimes we want to continue to support their further education because of our family situations. We are visiting all students’ houses to learn more about their family situation and sometimes we want to support them by giving various forms of assistance. With the help of many we built a house for an impoverished family and distributed food aid to other families. The latter was through the kind assistance of the Metropolitan and Archdiocese of Australia. The support from the Marth Mariam Parish of our church in Sharjah, UAE has also been remarkable.

We are appointing 35 caretakers (ladies from various parishes) to support this education project. We are giving them 3 or 4 students each and they will communicate with these students and support them in their physical and mental welfare. They are doing great work and they motivate our students to excel in their studies and their lives.

The “Education Helping Project” costs approximately 5000 Indian Rupees (\$U80 USD) each year for one child.

For this purpose we have opened a specific bank account:

**Bank: South Indian Bank, High Road Branch, Thrissur, Kerala, India**

**Account Name: Students Education Fund**

**Account Number: 0860 053000010711**

## **Youth Conference in India – August 2018**

Greetings from the Archdiocese of the Assyrian Church of the East – Thrissur!

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Youth Conference in archdiocese of India. The conference will take place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 in Thrissur.

In the last two Youth Conferences (2014 & 2016) we got delegates from our archdiocese of Australia, three dioceses in USA, London and Russia. In this third International Youth



Conference the youths from Indian Archdiocese would like to invite the young people from various diocese of our Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East and it will be a great experience for everyone.

This year we expect a minimum of 100 Youth Delegates from overseas preferably at least 2-5 from each parish. We also welcome the well wishers and family members from our Dioceses abroad. Around 300 youth delegates from Indian archdiocese will participate in this upcoming conference. Expecting Your esteemed presence and the blessing in person throughout this conference.

We invite Your Grace whole heartedly to this Youth Conference. We request Your Graces to handover this information to our youths in Your diocese and parishes and also like to get the email id of the youth organizers of each Parish for further communication. We would like to know the number of Youth Delegates who would like to come to India and participate in this conference as early as possible.

\*Please ask tourist visa from the Indian consulate to come over here without specifying the Youth Conference which is going to be held at Thrissur in August. Our nearest International airport is at Cochin.

### **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Thomas Church**

On 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 the St. Thomas Church, Ernakulum, Cochin, celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its consecration. Cochin was the only church built in India during the 7-year period when we had no Metropolitan in India. Despite this, the Indian Church with the priests and Trustees gave leadership in constructing the first church outside Trichur district.

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose celebrated Qurbana assisted by Fr. N. J. Abraham and Deacon Lijo Johnson Thazhatha (Vicar and Assistant Vicar) at 7.30a.m on 20<sup>th</sup> August. In the meeting afterwards Fr. Thomas Thermadom, Vicar of Mar Sleewa Church, Cochin also spoke.

### **Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Abroad**

Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph visited and conducted Qurbana in various parishes in Canada and Arizona in July and August 2017. He is visiting San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco area before he returns to the Gulf area in September. He is scheduled to return to India in October.

### **Mar Yonan Parish, Thirur**

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan laid the foundation stone for the second Auditorium in the premises of the Mar Yonan Parish. There is demand for booking the present Hall not only by our church remembers, but also by Roman Catholics and Hindus.

### **Representative Council Meets**

A representative Council, the apex body of all representatives from all the parishes of the Church in India, was held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School. Mar Aprem Metropolitan presided over the meeting. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Central Trustees and Vicars of parishes were present.

## **Rest of Mr. N. V. Rappai**

A leading layman of the Church in India Mr. N. V. Rappai died in August 2017. He was 82 years old. He is an author of our church history. He was an expert on our church calendar. He was sent from Trichur to Bombay to escort Mar Aprem Metropolitan when he arrived in Bombay in October 1968 after his consecration in Baghdad Metropolitan in September.

## **Rest of Surma Kunnikuru**

Surma Kunnikuru, aged 82 died in Chennai on 22 August 2017. She is one of the founding members of the Mar Qardagh Parish, Chennai. Her elder sister Dr. Thresia Kunnikuru was a leading lady in forming a Mission parish for our church for the first time outside Kerala state. May her soul rest in peace.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Visit to Australia**

Mar Aprem Metropolitan visited Sydney and Melbourne from 5 July until 24 July 2017. He was in Sydney to attend the International Youth Conference. After the Youth Conference Mar Aprem accompanied His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa to Melbourne for the consecration of the new bishop Mar Benyamin Elya.

## **Mar Timotheus Charitable Society**

The annual General Body Meeting of the Society was held at 3pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 under the presidency of Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan. The General Body re-elected Mr. P. K. Kochanthy (Retired General Manager of South Indian Bank) as the Secretary of the Charitable Society. The two activities of the Mar Timotheus Charitable Society are the Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital and Home for the Aged. This was inaugurated by late Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV in January 1991.

## **A New Dialysis Machine for Charitable Hospital**

The Kidney Foundation of India under the guidance of Fr. Davis Chiramel has donated a dialysis machine to the Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital in August 2017. This is the fourth dialysis machine in our hospital. The first two machines were donated by the *Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisations* (ACERO) two years ago. The third machine was donated by a Roman Catholic friend. We are grateful to all those who have assisted this Charitable Hospital to survive a previous financial crisis. This hospital is run in honour of Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan from Mar Bisho

## **Mar Timotheus Fellowship**

The 16<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of the Mar Timotheus Metropolitan was commemorated in Trichur on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. The retired Archbishop of Trichur Mar Jacob Thumkuzhy aged 87 inaugurated the function. Mar Aprem Metropolitan presided. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose gave a speech. A revised edition of the book written by Prof. K.A. Ignatius in 2010 entitled *The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East – A Short History* was released at the function by Mar Aprem Metropolitan presenting the first copy to Archbishop Jacob Thumkuzhy. This book has a Foreword by the present Catholicos-Patriarch His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa. The book has 263 pages and the cost is Rs.200 plus postage.

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**Mar Aprem Metropolitan reading his paper on 'Monasticism' at the Youth Conference in Sydney. Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Bishop Mar Abris of Erbil, Bishop Mar Narsai of Iran, Archdeacon Elya (later Bishop Mar Benyamin) are listening  
6 July 2017**



**Rev. Dr. Sr. Jincy Othotil of India speaking at the Youth Conference Sydney. H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Mar Narsai of Iran, Archdeacon Elya (later Bishop Mar Benyamin) present**



After Holy Qurbana at Mar Abdisho Church, Melbourne on 23 July 2017. Indian faithful standing in the back row. H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan pictured in front row with parish clergy. Rebecca Grey, niece of the Metropolitan is standing behind the Metropolitan. Iyunny David is standing at the left end



Youth Conference in Sydney – 7 July 2017  
Front row – L-R: Bishop Mar Abris of Erbil, Mar Aprem Metropolitan of India,  
H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Mar Narsai of Iran, Prof. Rifaat Ebied of Sydney University