



MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH

July 2024

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Vicar Message

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

(Rom. 12.9-13)

May the name of Almighty God be exalted.

In Romans 12:9-21, Paul teaches that love is the guiding principle of Christian living. This chapter reveals the diverse ways love manifests in Christian life: through joyful hope, endurance in suffering, perseverance in prayer, supporting fellow believers in need, and practicing hospitality. As we reflect on these teachings, let us exercise love as the cornerstone of our faith, guiding our actions and interactions with others. May our lives reflect the love of Christ, showing compassion and kindness to all.

As June concludes, we reflect on the completion of the Apostles' Fast. Looking ahead, July holds

significant events in our church calendar. On July 3rd, we commemorate the life and martyrdom of St. Thomas, the Apostle, and also remember him on December 21st. The church lectionary this month emphasizes Christian giving, reminding us of the importance of generosity in our faith. The second Sunday of July marks Clergy Sunday, highlighting the crucial role of pastoral ministry. Let us remember and pray for all clergy members who have guided and inspired us on our spiritual journeys. May we continue to nurture future generations in Christ, fostering a vision of shepherding the church.

During the third week of July, our parish will hold elections after Sunday service. This longstanding tradition calls for respectful conduct and graceful participation as we elect leaders for various roles: Vice President, Secretary, Lay Ministrants (4), Karunya Secretary & Treasurer, and MMDF Convenor. May Almighty God guide us with wisdom and unity during this process.

Looking forward to upcoming events, the Junior Retreat for Sunday School children (Prep to Year 6) will be held on July 13th at St. Hilary's North Balwyn Church. Parents, please encourage your children to participate. Also, we are preparing for the Senior Camp scheduled for the first week of October; let us keep these gatherings in our prayers.

I am pleased to share that the recent Musical Workshop for Sunday School students held on June 29th was a great blessing. My heartfelt appreciation to Sharmila George and the Sunday School family for their initiative and dedication.

Looking ahead, the Australian Youth Camp 2024 will take place in Sydney from December 6th to 9th. I encourage all youth to begin preparing and register early for this enriching experience.

I am once again reminding you to consider initiating satellite services to meet the needs of our faithful community. If members residing in the north and northwest zones are interested in having worship services and starting Sunday School, please share your thoughts and concerns with me. Kindly communicate your interest via email to vicarmmtc@gmail.com.

A warm welcome to our new members: Arav Mahesh, Lija Mariam Varghese, Solomon Benny, Kelvin Thomas & Family. May their journey with us be abundantly blessed as they become part of our community.

We offer our heartfelt prayers for the bereaved families who have lost their beloved members, especially the families of Santhosh & Annie, and Vineeth & Manjari. Our thoughts and support are with them during this challenging time of loss. We also extend our prayers to all those facing difficult situations, particularly those with family members suffering from serious illness. May the healing hand of our Lord Jesus bring comfort, strength, and peace to them in their time of need.

As we enter on a new financial year, I extend a warm welcome to our new office bearers, leaders, and committee members. We express heartfelt gratitude to those who have faithfully led our church with trust and sincerity. Also I acknowledge the service of Mr. Johny Kunnumpurathu Varkey, who assist the auditors and trustees in the audit process of our church accounts. Let us join in prayer, asking God to grant wisdom and understanding to each one, enabling them to fulfil their roles effectively for the year 2023-24. May this year be filled with blessings, growth, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our endeavours.

In our journey of faith, may the teachings from Romans 12:9-21 inspire us to embody the true marks of a Christian community—love without hypocrisy, dedication to good, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Let these virtues guide our actions as we seek to glorify God together. Amen.

Shalom,

Shoji Varghese Kasseessa

Vicar

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Marks of the True Christian

Rom. 12: 9-21

- ⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
- ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.
- ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.
- ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
- ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
- ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
- ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
- ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- ²⁰ If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
- ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Lectionary

07 JUL	ദശാംശ സമർപ്പണ ഞായർ: മനഃപൂർവ്വമായി ദാനം ചെയ്യുക (പെന്തക്കൊസ്റ്റിനു ശേഷം 7-ആം ഞായർ); Tithe Sunday: Giving from the heart (7th Sunday after Pentecost)	Lessons	1Chr 29:10-18
			Acts 5:1-11
		Epistle Gospel	Phil 4:10-20
			Luke 16:19-31
		Evening Reading	Mal 3:6-10
			1Tim 6:17-22

14 JUL	വൈദിക ഞായർ, വൈദികർ: ഇടയപരിപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷകർ (പെന്തക്കൊസ്റ്റിനു ശേഷം 8-ആം ഞായർ); Clergy Sunday, Priests: Servants in Pastoral Ministry (8th Sunday after Pentecost)	Lessons	Ezek 33:1-9
			2Tim 2:1-13
		Epistle Gospel	1Pet 5:1-7
			John 10:1-11
		Evening Reading	Gen 14:15-24
			Heb 5:1-10

21 JUL	ദൈവജനം: ദൈവരാജ്യ നിർമ്മിതിയിൽ പങ്കുവഹിക്കേണ്ടവർ (പെന്തക്കൊസ്റ്റിനു ശേഷം 9-ആം ഞായർ); People of God: Co-workers in building up the Kingdom of God (9th Sunday after Pentecost)	Lessons	Exod 19:1-6
			1John 4:7-21
		Epistle Gospel	Rom 14:13-19
			Luke 10:25-37
		Evening Reading	Zeph 3:17-20
			2John 1:1-13

28 JUL	പരിശുദ്ധാത്മ വരങ്ങൾ: ദൈവജനത്തിന്റെ ആത്മീയ പരിപോഷണത്തിന് (പെന്തക്കൊസ്റ്റിനു ശേഷം 10-ആം ഞായർ); Gifts of the Holy Spirit: For the spiritual nourishment of the people of God (10th Sunday after Pentecost)	Lessons	2Chr 15:1-8
			1Cor 12:4-12
		Epistle Gospel	1Cor 12:27-31
			John 20:19-23
		Evening Reading	Joel 2:28-32
			Rom 12:3-8

Parish Election

21 July 2024 Sunday

After 8:30am Holy Communion Service to 5pm

List of Candidates submitted Nomination

List of Candidates withdrawn Nomination

July Services & Events

MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

7

Jul

MAL HOLY QURBANA 8:30AM

- No Sunday School

ENG HOLY QURBANA 3PM

- The Ave Uniting Church Blackburn

13

Jul

SUNDAY SCHOOL JUNIOR
RETREAT 9:30AM - 3PM

- St Hilary's Church North Balwyn

14

Jul

ENG HOLY QURBANA 8:30AM

- Youth Service
- No Sunday School

20

Jul

KARUNYA ED AVAKA MISSION
PRAYER 4:30PM

21

Jul

MAL HOLY QURBANA 8:30AM

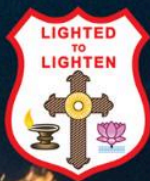
- Sunday School Mid Year Exam
- Parish Election 2024

28

Jul

ENG DIVINE SERVICE 8:30AM

- Sunday School



* Changes to any of the above schedule will be intimated closer to the date of each service.

Please contact Assistant Secretary if you wish to bring Altar Flowers



MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH
NORTH-WEST PRAYER GROUP

PRAYER MEETING- JULY 2024

DATE: **13 JULY 2024 (SATURDAY)**

TIME: **4:30PM**

RESIDENCE OF
JOBBY & SHERYL
5 SANTARI ST, TRUGANINA
VIC 3029

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7)

Sunday School

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

7th July 2024:

- *Term 2 Holidays (No classes at Parkville)*
- Sunday School AGM after service
- Satellite Service Sunday School commences (2pm)

13th July 2024 (Saturday):

- *Junior Retreat*

14th July 2024:

- *Term 2 Holidays (No classes)*

21st July 2024:

- *Start of Term 3 (Mid-year Exam)*

28th July 2024:

- *Regular Classes*

Satellite Service - Sunday School - Expression of Interest

We are commencing classes on **7th July 2024 at 2pm**. Thank you to all who have registered interest so far.

We are continuing to invite expressions of interest in attending the Sunday School at South Eastern Suburbs Satellite service of the Melbourne Mar Thoma Church. Kindly use the link below to register and it helps us plan.

[Register interest - Click here to register](#)

Sunday School Choir

The Sunday School Choir which started in October 2023 has around 40 children currently. The children form the choir every fourth Sunday during the Sunday School led Communion service.

On the 29/6/2024, the choir held its first music workshop where children worshiped together, heard testimonies from teachers, learnt about the history of certain hymns, participated in music based activities and will be composing their own song to be sung during World Sunday School Day.



MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL JUNIOR RETREAT

 Theme
"Be holy, because I am holy"
1 Peter 1:16 

 **13 JULY 2024**
9:30AM - 3 PM

 **ST HILARY'S
NORTH
BALWYN**
16 OSBURN AVE,
BALWYN NORTH VIC 3104

 **PREP - YEAR 6** 



Registrations are Open [CLICK HERE](#)

Sevika Sanghom

Events	When
Online intercessory prayer	8pm on Thursdays
Monthly catch up at church	3rd Sunday after 2nd service
Annual General Meeting	14th July

Young Family Fellowship

Next YFF meeting will be held on Saturday 20th July at 6.30pm at Parkville Church

Birthdays

Mrs.Sheryl Susan Mathew	Mrs.Manjari Kuppayil Saji
Master.Ron George Roy	Miss.Isabelle Ann Mathew
Mrs.Leena Mariam Mathews	Miss.Faythe Lucia Alvin
Mrs.Manju Abraham	Mr.Nathan Abraham Mathew
Mr.John Kirubakaran	Miss.Elise Maria John
Master.Hanoch Zen Thomas	Mrs.Rini Simon
Mrs.Neeta Ann Mathew	Mr.Jacob Alex
Mr.Bino Thomas	Dr.Leena Cherian
Mr.Rohit Mathew Roy	Mrs.Milan Susan Elias
Miss.Annika Mary Varughese	Miss.Mia Ann Thomas
Miss.Sarah E Philip	Miss.Neha Annie Mathew
Mr.John Thomas	Miss.Ivana Philip
Miss.Evelyn Sara Johnson	Miss.Neeshu Sarah Mathew
Mr.Jophy P Varghese	Mrs.Jemi Moni
Mr.Thomas K Verghese	Master.Darren Jino Cherian
Miss.Jeffy Susan Biju	Miss.Liz Leya Ninu
Mrs.Manju Ann Pramode	Mrs.Deepa Thomas Kunnutharayil
Miss.Adele Ann Varughese	Mr.Dan Alexander
Mr.Jayden John Joji	Mr.Melvin Kuruvilla Alex
Mrs.Rina Raju	Mr.Binsu George Thomas
Mrs.Betsy Philip	Miss.Anuja Aleyamma Mathew
Mr.Tony Koshy	Mrs.Priana Joseph Panackal
Mrs.Kathreena Roy	Master.Liam Thomas Mathew
Master.Jovan Thekkattil Cijo	Mr.Blessy Samuel Thomas
Mrs.Vinita John	Mrs.Sharon Mary George
Master.Airen Abraham	Mr.Joseph Iype

Mr.Michael Mammen	Mrs.Julie Rajesh John
Master.Jeremy Sajan Samuel	Mrs.Annie George
Mr.Jeffin George	Miss.Rhea Mary Thomas
Dr.V K Varughese	Mrs.Shimi Annies Thomas
Master.Christen Benny Binsu	Master.Albin S Shaiju
Mr.Siju Varghese Palakara	Master.James Ranjith
Master.Ivin Pulikkottil Saiju	Mrs.Lisa Biju
Miss.Ruth Alice Renjan	Mr.Abraham Cherian
Miss.Izel Marie Thomas	Mrs.Sharon Elizabeth Mathew
Mr.Christopher Paulose	Master.Vinay Parappat
Mrs.Reena Simon	Mr.Renin Thomas
Mrs.Ansu Annie George	Mrs.Chinnu Rani Mathew
Mrs.Chinnu Elizabeth Varghese	Mr.Richin Mathew
Master.Samuel Zak Saju	Mr.Sangeeth Tom Varghese
Mrs.Susan Thomas	Mr.George Alex
Mrs.Sneha Susan Varghese	Mr.Mabin Thomas George
Miss.Neha Sarah David	Mr.Shijo Thomas
Mrs.Anju Selex	Mr.Alex Sen Varghese
Master.Alexander Ivan Nevin	Mr.Verghese George

Wedding Anniversary

Alex & Sheela
Rajani Sajeev
Satish & Serene
Johnson & Jisha
Sunil & Bindhu
Anith & Maria
Mahesh & Akku
Johny & Pameela
Anup & Deepa
Jabin & Cherish
Bobby & Annie
Subash & Soby
Praveen & Lincy
Anoop & Irin
Roshan & Anpu
Sony & Jackmol
Sunil & Riya
Johny & Shiga
Prinu & Rubi
Ashok & Jolly
Roshan & Seena
Jino & Preethi
Mathew & Mary
Aby & Shiny

The History of the Mar Thoma Church

Post Reformation Period

Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church otherwise called as Mar Thoma Church in a shorter form, which is a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, is one of the ancient Churches in the world. It is traditionally believed that St. Thomas (*Mar Thoma* in Syriac), the disciple of Jesus Christ came to India in AD 52 and established the Church in the Malabar Coast. Kerala is known as Malankara in those times. Being rooted in the Bible, the Church maintains its Episcopal heritage and value oriented democratic form of administration.

The Church believes in Jesus Christ, the God incarnate for the redemption of humankind, and in the Triune God revealed by him, who himself is one among the Trinity. The Church cherishes its Oriental heritage and Episcopacy as a gift of God. The Church accepts Holy Bible as the basis for all matters of faith and doctrine, and the Nicene Creed formulated in accordance with the Holy Scripture. The Church is regarded as a 'bridge' church in the Ecumenical world.

The Church identifies its goal and function as: to be the repository of the divine doctrines revealed by Jesus Christ and proclaimed by His Apostles; to maintain these doctrines in their purity; to promote the spiritual life of its members through the administration of the sacraments and by the ministry of the Word. The Church affirms that the people of God are sent all over to the world and they partake in the soteriological mission of God, to unite everything in Jesus Christ through the ministry of reconciliation begun in Jesus Christ. The Church is blessed and enriched by the leadership of Metropolitan, Bishops, ordained Clergy and deacons. Metropolitan is the Supreme head of the Church. The Laity has full participation in the Priestly ministry, given through the Church, by Christ. They are called to profess and practice Christian truths and teachings in their daily life and avocations. The laity shall take active part in the life and ministry of the Church and co-operate in the general administration of the Church.

The Church is at present blessed by the able leadership of twelve Bishops and is headed by Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan who is the 22nd Malankara Metropolitan to occupy the Holy Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas. The Church is served by 1184 clergy through fourteen dioceses to 1.6 million people (approx.). The headquarters is located at [SCS Campus, Tiruvalla, Kerala, India](#) and has over a million adherents spread worldwide

Post Reformation

Though the reformists succeeded in introducing the revised order of worship and successfully discontinued many practices, they had to pay a heavy price for achieving the desired result and had to face serious mental and financial strains arising out of the prolonged legal battles. In pursuance of the judgment handed out by the Royal Court of Appeal, Bishops consecrated by the reformists group lost control of the Malankara Church and had to vacate the Syrian Seminary at Kottayam, considered as the headquarters of the Malankara Church.

Our forefathers, however, did not lose heart. On the contrary, the material loss and humiliation suffered

by them infused renewed vigour and hope in their minds and gave them the confidence to start rebuilding the Church from scratch, laying their trust in God almighty. There has been a phenomenal expansion of the Church during the last six decades, widening its frontiers to various countries of West Asia, Africa, North America and Western Europe.

The Church has now 1246 parishes including congregations, divided into fourteen dioceses. There are 12 Bishops including the Metropolitan. It has a democratic pattern of administration with a representative assembly (Prathinidhi Mandalam), an executive council (Sabha Council) and an Episcopal Synod.

The Church has been active in the field of education and owns Colleges, Higher Secondary Schools, Vocational Higher Secondary School, High Schools, Training School and other educational institutions owned and managed by individual parishes.

The Church has social welfare institutions, destitute homes and Hospitals. The Mar Thoma Theological Seminary (Estd: in 1926) and other Theological Institutes cater to the theological education of both the clergy and the laity. Further, there are Study Centres, for arranging regular study programmes and to provide opportunities for creative dialogue between church and society on various ethical, moral, social and religious issues. The religious education of children is looked after by the Christian Education Department – the Sunday School Samajam (organized in 1905) and the work among youth is carried on by the Youth Department – the Yuvajana Sakhyam (organized in 1933). The Church has a women's department – the Mar Thoma Suvisesha Sevika Sanghom (organized in 1919) which is vigorously active.

The Ecumenical Nature:

The Church actively participates in the programmes of the World Council of Churches, the Christian Conference of Asia, the National Council of Churches and the Kerala Christian Council. It is in full communion with the Anglican Church, The Church of South India and the Church of North India and has cordial relations with the various denominations of the Christian Church. The Church actively cooperates with the C.S.I. and the C.N.I. through CCI (Communion of Churches in India).

The Mar Thoma Church is financially independent and maintains its indigenous nature. Its regular work as well as special projects are almost entirely financed by contributions from its members at home and abroad.

While the history of the Church especially during the last century shows advance and growth in various directions, it will be admitted that there is little room for complacency. In the life of the individual as well as the community, we lag far behind the standard set by our Lord. The Church is in need of renewal in Spirit in order to become more effective and useful instrument in His hands for the extension of His Kingdom. As members of the Church let us therefore surrender ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt us and use us for His glory in the years to come.

(Source: <https://marthoma.in/the-church/heritage/>)

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