



MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH

June 2024

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Vicar Message

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

May the name of the Almighty God be exalted.

The Cost of Discipleship

What is the cost of discipleship? Simply put, it is giving up one's own way and being ready to take up the risk of the cross in our day-to-day life. The cross is not merely about sufferings; it signifies our willingness to suffer for a divine cause. It is for the Kingdom of God and its glory. The nature of the cross may differ from person to person, but the ultimate goal remains the same: the glorification of God. Jesus went through a path of sufferings; He was targeted, isolated, marginalized, beaten, judged, and finally murdered. This murder turned into the divine sacrifice of the Son of God for the salvation of all humanity. Until that moment, the truth was hidden and interpreted by others for their convenience. But the truth revealed on the cross has set everyone free. The time between the cry of "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" and the chorus of resurrection, "He is risen," is the most painful and darkest time in human history. This may repeat and reflect in each individual's life.

Once again, we enter into a period of Apostolic Lent. The theme for this period is 'Discipleship: The Call to Bear the Cross.' This season reminds us that the cross is not the end; resurrection and glorious appearances will follow.

The month of May was enriched with the Feast of Ascension, Pentecost, and the teachings of the Trinity and the Holy Spirit. The nature, gifts, manifestations, fruits, and roles of the Holy Spirit were discussed.

This year, Choir Sunday will be celebrated on the first Sunday of June. We acknowledge the dedicated leadership and participation of our choir members in regular services and other events of the parish. I pray that their efforts to grow further in a more systematic and well-ordered manner may reach their goal through the collective efforts of all members.

During the last general body meeting, we discussed overcoming the space constraints of our parish and encouraged starting one or two satellite services based on members' interest in each area. If our members living in the north and northwest zones are interested in having worship services and starting Sunday School, please let me know your concerns. These will be brought to the executive committee for planning without burdening families in any particular area. These initiatives will always be part of our parish and its ministry, and all members will remain part of the same parish and administrative structure. I hope the discussions within the concerned prayer groups will result in good proposals.

We are in the process of electing our office bearers, prayer group leaders, and organization committees. The parish congratulates all those elected in the general body meeting held on May 26, 2024: Mr. Mathew Thomas, Mr. Subi John Abraham, Mrs. Roshan Elizabeth John, Mr. Abraham Mathew, and Mr. Philip Easaw as trustees, assistant secretary, and auditors, respectively. The election for all other positions will be arranged within one month and will be published with the guidance of our executive committee. I request you to continue to uphold everything in your prayers.

A warm welcome to our new members: Monu Philip Mathew, Sony Chacko & Family, Jicky Chakkalamannil Joseph & Family, Merlin Ann Saju, and Michael Thomas (S/o Deepu & Ninu). 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 Jones & Jessy and Aby & Tincy. 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.

Discipleship calls us to give up our own ways and embrace the path of the cross, reflecting the sacrifice and love of Jesus in our daily lives. As we journey together as a parish, let us support one another in our spiritual growth, fostering a community rooted in faith, compassion, and service. May we continue to uphold each other in prayer, striving to glorify God through our collective efforts and individual commitments to His Kingdom.

Shalom,

Shoji Varghese Kasseessa

Vicar

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Voters List of Mar Thoma Church Melbourne

Lectionary

<p>02 JUN</p>	<p>ശ്രീപത്മനാഭൻ, ദിവ്യസംഗീത ഞായർ, കർത്താവിനായി പാടുക (പെന്തക്കൊസ്തീനു ശേഷം 1- ആം ഞായർ); Thirty Sunday; Sing to the Lord; Sacred Music Sunday (2nd Sunday after Pentecost)</p>	<table border="1"><tbody><tr><td>Lessons</td><td>Deut 18:17-20</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Gal 4:1-7</td></tr><tr><td>Epistle Gospel</td><td>2Cor 13:11-14</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Matt 28:16-20</td></tr><tr><td>Evening Reading</td><td>Isa 44:1-8</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1Jm 2:18-25</td></tr></tbody></table>	Lessons	Deut 18:17-20		Gal 4:1-7	Epistle Gospel	2Cor 13:11-14		Matt 28:16-20	Evening Reading	Isa 44:1-8		1Jm 2:18-25
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	Matt 28:16-20													
Evening Reading	Isa 44:1-8													
	1Jm 2:18-25													
<p>09 JUN</p>	<p>പരിസ്ഥിതി ഞായർ, സൃഷ്ടിയുടെ സമഗ്രത ക്രിസ്തുവിൽ (പെന്തക്കൊസ്തീനു ശേഷം 3- ആം ഞായർ); Environmental Sunday; Integrity of whole creation in Christ (3rd Sunday after Pentecost)</p>	<table border="1"><tbody><tr><td>Lessons</td><td>Isa 65:17-20</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Rev 21:1-8</td></tr><tr><td>Epistle Gospel</td><td>Rom 8:18-25</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>John 3:16-21</td></tr><tr><td>Evening Reading</td><td>Ps 104:1-35</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Eph 1:3-12</td></tr></tbody></table>	Lessons	Isa 65:17-20		Rev 21:1-8	Epistle Gospel	Rom 8:18-25		John 3:16-21	Evening Reading	Ps 104:1-35		Eph 1:3-12
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<p>16 JUN</p>	<p>ശുദ്ധൻമാർ ആരംഭം ക്രിസ്തു ശിഷ്യന്മാകാനുള്ള വിളിയും നിയോഗവും (പെന്തക്കൊസ്തീനു ശേഷം 4-ആം ഞായർ); Beginning of Fast of the Apostles; Call and commission to be Christ's Disciples (4th Sunday after Pentecost)</p>	<table border="1"><tbody><tr><td>Lessons</td><td>Jer 1:1-12</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>2Cor 4:1-6</td></tr><tr><td>Epistle Gospel</td><td>Acts 9:10-17</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Matt 4:17-22</td></tr><tr><td>Evening Reading</td><td>Isa 56:1-8</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>2Cor 11:23-33</td></tr></tbody></table>	Lessons	Jer 1:1-12		2Cor 4:1-6	Epistle Gospel	Acts 9:10-17		Matt 4:17-22	Evening Reading	Isa 56:1-8		2Cor 11:23-33
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Evening Reading	Isa 56:1-8													
	2Cor 11:23-33													

23
JUN

ശിഷ്യത്വം: ക്രൂശ് വഹിക്കാനുള്ള
വിളി (വെള്ളക്കൊമ്പിനു ശേഷം
5-ആം ഞായർ); Discipleship: the call to
bear the Cross (5th Sunday after
Pentecost)

Lament Dan 6:10-23

2Cor 6:1-10

Epistle Gospel Col 1:24-29

Luke 9:23-27

Evening Reading Isa 6:11-10

2Cor 11:15-33

June Services

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

2
Jun

MAL HOLY QURBANA 8:30AM

- Choir Sunday (Led By Choir)
- Sunday School

ENG HOLY QURBANA 3PM

- The Ave Uniting Church Blackburn

9
Jun

- Sunday School 8am

ENG HOLY QURBANA 9:30AM

- Youth Service
- Special General Body

15
Jun

KARUNYA EDAVAKA MISSION
PRAYER 4:30PM

16
Jun

MAL HOLY QURBANA 7:30AM

- Sunday School

ENG HOLY QURBANA 10:45AM

23
Jun

ENG HOLY QURBANA 7:30AM

- Sunday School

MAL HOLY QURBANA 10:45AM

30
Jun

MAL DIVINE SERVICE 8:30AM

- No 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

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

The month that is June

2nd June 2024:

- *Regular Classes*

9th June 2024:

- *Regular Classes (SS starting at 8 am)*

16th June 2024:

- *Regular Classes*

23rd June 2024:

- *Regular Classes*

30th June 2024:

- *Term 2 Holidays (No classes)*

Satellite Service - Sunday School - Expression of Interest

We are inviting expressions of interest in attending the Sunday School at South Eastern Suburbs Satellite service of the Melbourne Mar Thoma Church.

We are expecting to commence classes in July at Satellite Service. All those who have registered so far will be contacted in due course on next steps.

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



Registrations are Open -> [CLICK HERE](#)

Sevika Sangam

Events

Online intercessory prayer

Monthly catch up at church

When

8pm on Thursdays

3rd Sunday after 2nd service

Young Families

Events

YFF meeting

Speaker: Renee George

Theme: Christian family life

When

22nd June Saturday

Home

Birthdays

Mr.Biju John
Mr.Justin
Mr.Mammen Mammen
Mrs.Neetu Abraham
Mrs.Susan Thomas
Master.Aaron Nomis
Miss.Emily Mary Thomas
Mrs.Annamma Abraham
Mr.Boby Thomas George
Mr.Amal John Varghese
Miss.Evelyn Ann Varughese
Mrs.Shalin Mary George
Mrs.Sneha M Kuriyakose
Mr.Aswin Kurian Korah
Miss.Emily Mary Thomas
Mrs.Neethu Ann Joseph
Dr.Ashwin George Koshy
Mrs.Jerin C Varghese
Mr.Mohan Varkey
Miss.Abigail Mariam John
Miss.Ava Paulose
Mr.Sony Abraham
Master.Brian K Linu
Mrs.Simi Abraham
Mrs.Anuja
Mrs.Jisha Christopher
Mr.Joseph George
Mr.Raji Thomas
Mrs.Constance Varughese
Mr.Alexander George
Mrs.Gethi George
Miss.Sharon Ann Mathew
Mrs.Ashlyn Subin Tom
Mr.Binosh V Thomas
Mrs.Susan George
Mrs.Joby George
Master.Sachin Thomas Mathews
Mr.Jackson Thomas
Miss.Rhea Mariam Koshy
Mr.Manu Sam
Mr.Thomas K Leem
Mrs.Akshatha Nyarse Parashuram
Mr.Roshi Thomas Thariyan
Master.Shaun Thomas George
Mr.Joshua Binu Samuel
Mrs.Shobha Philip
Mrs.Susan Abraham
Mrs.Leena Smitha Borgavi
Mr.Koshy Mathew
Miss.Catherine Blessy Samuel
Mrs.Betty Thomas
Mrs.Sini George
Mrs.Irene Alisha Abraham
Mrs.Sheena Jacob
Mr.P M John
Miss.Jaclyn Binu Samuel
Master.Immanuel Alan George
Mr.Ajith George Jacob
Mr.John Simon
Mrs.Blessy Mathew
Mr.Varghese David Kolath
Mrs.Anu Koshy
Mr.Jomy Jose
Master.Sean Samuel Varghese
Mrs.Veena Varghese
Miss.Amy Maria Benny
Mr.Praveen George Thampi
Mr.Justin Jubert
Miss.Eva Mary Joseph
Mr.Roney Varughese
Mrs.Susan Abraham
Miss.Rebecca Thankam Varughese
Dr.Vidya Susan Jacob
Master.Jeremy George Koshy
Mr.Jacob George
Mrs.Seena Joseph
Mr.Abraham C Abraham
Miss.Merlin Ann Saju
Mrs.Susan Mathew
Master.Edwin Rejoy
Miss.Elisha Vini Alexander
Miss.Michelle Mary Edel
Mr.Shiju Varughese
Miss.Aniyah Abraham Mathew
Mr.Thomas Mathew
Master.Joel Aby Mathew

Dr Mrs. Annie Bobby
Mr. Johny Valiyaveetil Thomas
Mr. Jacob Varghese

Mr. Eric Thomas Leem
Mrs. Tara Maria Alexander
Mrs. Tincy Annie Thomas
Miss. Jesslyn Sara James

Wedding Anniversary

Selex & Anju
Biju & Ambily
Raju & Suja - Bentleigh
Biju & Neethu
Kurian & Sumitha
Stani & Anuja
Sajan & Lini
Jeevan & Chinnu
Jerry & Roshni
Bobby & Alina
Renin & Mareena
George & Joby
Happy & Pinkle
Sen & Reena
Binu & Anu
Zac & Finu
Shaji & Beena

Circulars & Notices

[Reply Letter from Diocesan Bishop for the letter sent as per AGM Decision](#)

[Minutes of the AGM on 26 May 2024](#)

The History of the Mar Thoma Church Reformation Period

The history of the Mar Thoma Church is divided into three main eras:

1. Pre-Reformation
2. Reformation
3. Post Reformation

Palakkunnathu Abraham Malpan from Maramon and Kaithayil Geevarghese Malpan from Kottayam who spearheaded this movement, never wanted to start a separate Church. They wanted the reformation,

staying within the Church. This group gradually became vocal and approached Col. Fraser, the British Resident, with a memorandum in 1836. But since nothing came of it, Abraham Malpan decided to take action in his own parish of Maramon which was sympathetic towards his ideas of reform. He translated the liturgy of the Holy Qurbana into local language Malayalam from Syriac and also eliminated from it the prayers for the dead and invocation of saints etc. He celebrated Holy Qurbana in his church using the revised St. James liturgy on a Sunday in 1836. This was tantamount to firing the first shot of the reformation. He later on removed from the church the wooden image of a saint reputed to have miraculous powers, and in whose honor an annual festival was held that brought in huge income to the Parish. Both at Maramon and at the Syrian Seminary at Kottayam, and in the neighboring Parishes of Pallom and Kollad, Abraham Malpan popularized Bible teaching and preaching. Abraham Malpan and Geevarghese Malpan had to give up their service in the Seminary, in 1840. Since then Abraham Malpan concentrated his attention on the work of reform, holding Bible classes and prayer meetings and instructing the deacons who were loyal to him.

Most prominent elements in the Reformation were:

- Return to the gospel message of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ;
- Cleansing of wrong ways of life, and
- Taking up responsibility to be witnesses of Jesus Christ to other;
- All importance be given to the primacy of the Word of God.

Thus the reformation movement was started. It was a return to the purity of the life and practice of the early Church. The emphasis on preaching the word of God led to revival meetings, which were led both by the clergy and laymen. The domination of the clergy as custodians of grace became a thing of the past. Emphasis was given to the sole mediation of Christ, importance of laity and priesthood of all believers. More and more groups were formed for Bible study; and conventions for preaching and hearing the Word of God became common.

Metropolitan Chepat Mar Dionysius was not prepared to accept such changes. So he refused to ordain the deacons who had undergone training with Abraham Malpan. He also excommunicated Abraham Malpan. So Abraham Malpan went to his mother-parish at Maramon. He stood strong in faith and convictions when faced with serious challenges and great difficulties. However the whole parish stood with him. Others who favoured the reforms went to hear his preaching and were strengthened by his exhortations. Some other parishes also decided to adopt the programme of reformation. Abraham Malpan realized that unless he had the support of a bishop who was sympathetic towards his reforms, there was little prospect of the movement gaining ground. So he sent his nephew Deacon Mathew, who was then studying in Madras, to the Patriarch at Mardin in Syria. The Patriarch, being impressed with the character and ability of the deacon, in due course ordained him as priest and consecrated him as Metropolitan, with the name Mathews Mar Athanasius. The new Bishop arrived in Cochin in 1843 with credentials received from the Patriarch.

The new Metropolitan went to Trivandrum and tried to obtain the Royal proclamation declaring him as the Metropolitan of the Malankara Church. Chepat Mar Dionysius opposed this. Mathews Mar Athanasius got the royal proclamation in 1852 declaring him as the Metropolitan of the Malankara Church. Abraham Malpan died at the early age of 49 years in 1845. Having received the Royal proclamation, Mathews Mar Athanasius made himself more active and involved in the cause of reformation. Years later a group led by Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysius who was consecrated by the Patriarch of Antioch worked vigorously against him and his attempts to continue reformation. Mathews Mar Athanasius, consecrated his cousin Abraham Malpan's son, as Thomas Mar Athanasius in 1868. The reformed party had possession of the Syrian Seminary as Mathews Mar Athanasius had been declared as the Malankara Metropolitan. The Patriarch of Antioch himself came to Kerala in 1875. A prolonged litigation followed, as to who was the

rightful Malankara Metropolitan. Mathews Mar Athanasius died in 1877 and Thomas Mar Athanasius had to carry the burden of conducting the court cases, for the possession of the Syrian Seminary and Church property. This case was decided in the royal court of appeal in Trivandrum, in 1889. Two judges decreed that Joseph Mar Dionysius was the rightful Metropolitan of the Malankara Church as he expressed allegiance to the Patriarch of Antioch. One Christian Judge gave the verdict in favour of Thomas Mar Athanasius because of his conviction that the Malankara Church has been an independent Church from the beginning. The majority view prevailed and Thomas Mar Athanasius had to leave the Syrian Seminary and the properties there, because he upheld the autonomy of the Church. It was suggested that Thomas Mar Athanasius would be recognized as Malankara Metropolitan, if he agreed that future consecrations of Bishops should be by the Patriarch of Antioch. He did not agree to this proposal as it was against the autonomy of the Church.

Again, litigation continued for the possession of individual churches. The reform party got only Maramon and Kozhencherry churches by court decision, and the Kottarakara church without contest. Five churches were to be used by the two parties on alternate Sundays. They put up small sheds in other places to hold worship services.



Maramon church

Even though the reform party lost their hereditary and rightful possession, it became the occasion for the people to turn to God and to go forward in faith, trusting in the power of God. This led to a spiritual revival and great joy in spite of difficulties. It was this spiritual fervour which sustained the people. The Maramon Convention (Evangelistic Meeting) was started about this time in the year 1896. The famous Maramon Convention which we have been holding annually for over a century, is a source of great spiritual power and inspiration for innumerable people. The losses were forgotten in the zeal of spiritual fulfilment. The

concern for the spread of the Gospel gave momentum to the reformation movement. The successive Metropolitans of the Church also continued in the same spirit, with the help of dedicated clergy whose leadership and sacrificial lives have been deeply appreciated by the people in the Church.

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



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