

MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH
February 2024

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Vicar Message

"But the people who trust the Lord will become strong again. They will rise up as an eagle in the sky; they will run and not need rest; they will walk and not become tired". (Isaiah 40:31)

May the name of the Almighty God be exalted. Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Trusting in God transforms our entire lives. God, who reigns on high, envelops His people with His protective arm, so let us not grow weary or fearful. God is our ultimate strength. Even the strongest among us may falter, but those who place their trust in God will be renewed, soaring like eagles. Our God neither faints nor grows weary, and His understanding is beyond measure.

As we bid farewell to the month of January and welcome February, it marks not only the start of a new academic year, but currently, our Sunday school embarks on its journey in the same month. Let us join our hearts in prayers for all those involved in the education ministry within and outside our parish.

As we seek the blessings of the Almighty for the success of this academic year, let our collective prayers encompass all the students, imploring that they may achieve not only knowledge but also wisdom. Let us always bear in mind that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. In this season of learning and growth, let us strive to instill the values of faith, wisdom, and understanding in the hearts of our youth. May the pursuit of knowledge be accompanied by a reverence for the Lord, laying the foundation for a truly wise and blessed life.

I express gratitude for the prayerful participation of our families in the three-day fasting prayer. This experience was a profound blessing, fortifying our commitment to obedience, repentance, and redemption.

As we approach the season of fifty days Lent and prayer, encompassing the forty days mirroring Jesus's fasting and the subsequent days marking His passion, we reaffirm our faith that through His sacrifice, we find salvation. I urge your active involvement in the Lenten prayer arrangements, seeking prayers for those opening their homes and delivering messages.

Kindly join me in praying for upcoming events, including the harvest festival (Feb 11), the 50-day Lenten prayer (Feb 12 - March 31), Metropolitan's visit and first communion service, the conclusion of our jubilee celebration (March 17), and the parish convention (March 22-24).

I want to specially acknowledge the formation of the Sunday school choir, leading every fourth Sunday in our church services. This initiative by our Sunday school is commendable. I appreciate the dedicated leadership of Sunday school principal Sharmila George and express gratitude for her past years of service. A warm welcome to the new principal, Karol Thomas Kunutharayil. May Almighty God strengthen him and his team to guide the Sunday school family with divine wisdom, practicing our true faith and learning from the Scriptures.

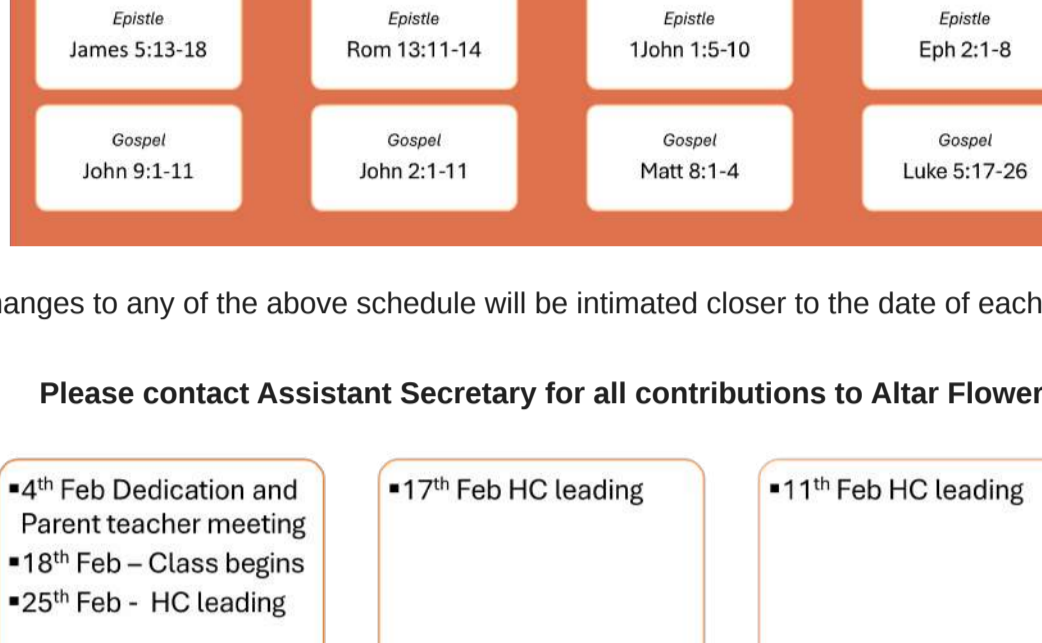
Let us warmly welcome our new members, Cinal Anyan & Sneha M Kuriyakose, Anuja Aleyamma Mathew, Tessa Thomas (D/o Serin & Tina) and Alexander Thomas John (S/o Anish & Teena). May their journey with us be abundantly blessed by the Divine.

In remembrance, let us lift our prayers for the families who have lost dearly beloved members. May our heavenly Father, God Almighty, comfort them with His peace. We extend our condolences and share in their eternal hope.

SHALOM

Shojjachien

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04 Feb	11 Feb	18 Feb	25 Feb
Holy Communion 8:30 AM - Malayalam 9:30 AM - English (Online Service) Lessons 2Kgs 20:1-11 Acts 14:8-15 Epistle 1 John 5:13-18 Gospel John 9:1-11	Holy Communion 7:30 AM - English Lessons Ezek 18:21-32 2Cor 5:17-21 Epistle Rom 15:11-14 Gospel John 21:1-11	Holy Communion 4:30 PM - English (17) 8:30 AM - Malayalam (18) Lessons 2Kgs 5:1-14 Acts 10:34-43 Epistle 1 John 15:10 Gospel Matt 8:1-4	Holy Communion 7:30 AM - English 10:40 AM - Malayalam Lessons 2Kgs 4:18-37 Acts 12:1-16 Epistle Eph 2:1-8 Gospel Luke 5:17-26

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

Please contact Assistant Secretary for all contributions to Altar Flowers

4 th Feb Dedication and Parent teacher meeting 18 th Feb - Class begins 25 th Feb - HC leading Sunday School	17 th Feb HC leading Karunya	11 th Feb HC leading Youth
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ZONAL PRAYERS	3 Feb	10 Feb	24 Feb
4.30 PM	North A	North West	Central A
7.00 PM	South	North B	Central B



HOLY QURBANA 7:30 AM
FOOD STALLS | KIDS GAMES | AUCTION



CLICK ABOVE to access Melbourne Mar Thoma Church LENTEN PRAYER 2024 SCHEDULE.
We invite each of you to host the prayer or give a message - Please fill your details in the venue/ speaker section of the above file to register your interest.



Sunday School

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

As we step into this new year, we do so with hearts full of gratitude and eyes lifted towards the boundless grace of our Lord. Reflecting on 2023, we are immensely thankful to God for all the blessings, lessons, and moments of joy He has bestowed upon us. The verse from Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us of God's unwavering promise for our lives - a promise of prosperity, safety, and a bright future. As the Sunday School team, we are thrilled and deeply committed to teaching our children about God. We earnestly hope and pray for His guidance as we endeavour to help each child discover and strengthen their beliefs in Christ.

Upcoming Reminders

- 4 February 2024:**
- **Students and Teachers Dedication Prayer:** During our service we will be conducting a student and teachers' dedication.
 - **Parents Meet and Meet:** Following this service, we will be having an opportunity for all the parents to meet the teachers of their children and attend a Parents' Teachers Meeting.
- 11 February 2024:**
- **Harvest Festival (Sunday Schools program):** Our church will be celebrating the Harvest Festival on the 11th of February. Post the Communion service, children will gather for a special Worship session dedicated to this joyous occasion. There will be no classes on this day.
- 18 February 2024:**
- **Commencement of Sunday School classes:** We are excited to announce that our regular Sunday School classes and lessons will commence on the 18th of February 2024. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and spiritual development.
- Reminder:**
- Parents who still have not registered their children for Sunday School in 2024, please do so at the earliest using the google link below:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5F0iz924noXzWTOCRppShJuJshb5StnGw5Si1omvr7FmJ/viewform?usp=sharing>
 - Parents who have completed the Registration for 2024, and have yet to pay the registration fee, please make the \$10 payment to the Melbourne Mar Thoma Sunday Account: **BSB: 063 593 Account number: 1060 1080 Ref:** Child's name.

This year, we look forward to exploring the depths of God's Word together, building lasting friendships, and experiencing the joy of faith in new and profound ways. Let us journey into this year with the assurance that God is guiding us every step of the way, crafting a story of hope and love in each of our lives.

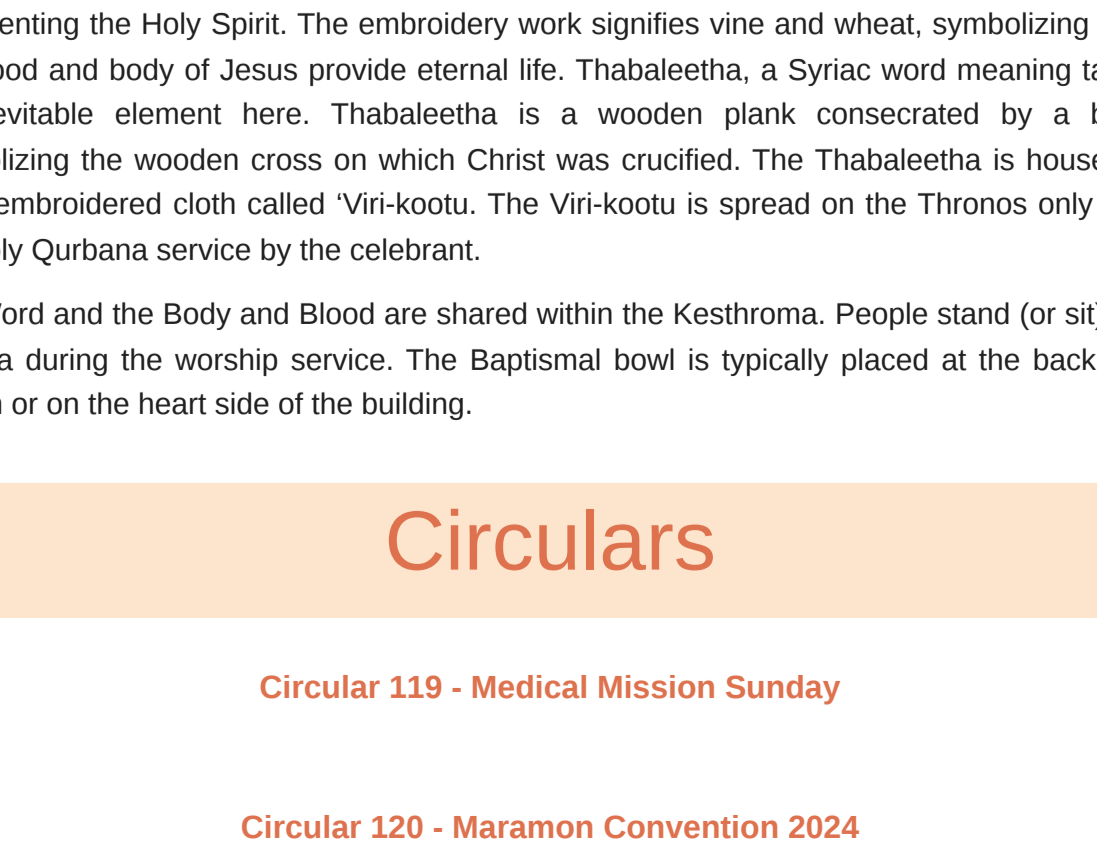
Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mrs. Merin Kochummen | Mr. Sanjo Eapen |
| Mr. Jirice Mathew Philip | Master Abel Alex Jubin |
| Mrs. Anu Thomas | Mr. Manoj V Thomas |
| Miss. Athena Ann Abraham | Mrs. Rochan Elizabeth |
| Master Zach George Renju | Master Eric Samuel Jacob |
| Mrs. Usha Thomas | Mrs. Jessy B |
| Mrs. Doanna Wilson Johnson | Mr. Bvin Thomas Mathew |
| Master Josh Kachora Johnson | Mr. Abraham K Roy |
| Mrs. Doanna Wilson Cheruvallil | Master Akarsh Jacob Manoj |
| Miss. Susan S Thomas | Mrs. Ruby George |
| Mr. Jeevy Mathew | Mr. Jubin Aby Alex |
| Mrs. Binzy Philip | Mr. Aaron David George |
| Master Aiden | Mr. Chacko Varghese Samuel |
| Mr. Hayden Mathew Sen Varghese | Miss. Tiana Hyma Kurien |
| Mr. Jeevan Jacob | Miss. Jewel Liz John |
| Miss. Ashly Ann Saju | Miss. Mia Nomis |
| Mr. Ranjith Mathews | Mrs. Anina Joseph |
| Mrs. Michelle Liz Varghese | Mr. Stanley George |
| Mrs. Anu Rajan | Mr. Tony Varghese |
| Mr. George Thomas | Master Jeffin Sam Biju |
| Mr. Sajeev Philips Abraham | Mr. Prince Zacharia Philip |
| Mr. Kevin K Roy | Mr. Thomas Oommen C |
| Mr. Tibin Tonson | Mr. Biju Abraham Korah |
| Miss. Leya Ann Jaison | Mrs. Aksha Thomas |
| Mr. Serin Varghese Thomas | Mr. Pramode Varghese |
| Master Edwin John Aji | Miss. Jenny Jacob |
| Miss. Raelynn Rose Romy | Mrs. Kiran Vijoy |
| Mr. Darren Thomas | Mr. George Alexander |
| Mrs. Anina Alexander | Mrs. Anpu Anna George |
| Mr. Aashish Thomas Abraham | Mrs. Sherin Philip |
| Mr. Jerin Thomas | Mr. Anith George Thomas |
| Mrs. Milu Darily Varghese | Mr. Sandeep Varghese George |
| Master Edwin John Aji | Master Jaiden Liju |
| Mrs. Marilyn Mary Mathew | Miss. Jessica Sara Ajan |
| Mr. Philip Cherian | Master Ryan Thomas |
| Master Daniel Mathew David | Mr. Joselin Varkey Jacob |
| Mr. Sajo Mathew | Mr. Biju George M |
| Master Auren Joe Mathew | Mr. Jason Thomas |
| Mr. David Koshy | Mr. Pramode Varghese |
| Miss. Rihanna Rudhin | Master Aiden Cherian Anoop |
| Miss. Hazel Sudhin | |

Wedding Anniversary

- Mr. Jacob Alexander , Mrs. Anina Alexander
 Mr. Biji George M, Mrs. Bindhu C Oommen
 Mr. Jacob Varghese , Mrs. Veena Varghese
 Mr. Vinoy George Mathew, Mrs. Sherin Anu Mathew
 Mr. Oommen Thomas, Mrs. Susan Thomas
 Mr. Varun Reddy Kommiath, Mrs. Anish Mary Philip
 Mr. Manmen Eapen, Mrs. Resnu Manmen
 Mr. Sajan P J, Mrs. Annie Sajan
 Mr. Justin, Mrs. Simi Abraham
 Mr. Tony Kurian, Mrs. Anisha Mary Mohan
 Mr. Abhilash Mathew, Mrs. Savitha Abhilash
 Mr. Kirian Abraham , Mrs. Susan Abraham
 Mr. Shibu Varghese, Mrs. Shyini Shibu
 Mr. Shijo Thomas, Mrs. Sindhu Shijo
 Mr. Pramode Varghese, Mrs. Manju Ann Pramode
 Mr. Abraham K Roy, Mrs. Ajitha Roy
 Mr. George Kurian, Mrs. Sobhana George
 Mr. Prince Ninan Philip, Mrs. Anubi Prince
 Mr. Lejo Thomas, Mrs. Sneha Thomas
 Mr. George Alex, Mrs. Ann Alex
 Mr. T S Abraham, Mrs. Annamma Abraham
 Mr. Ashwin Thomas Jacob, Mrs. Anna Ashwin
 Mr. Tony Koshy, Mrs. Maneesha Jacob
 Mr. Ashish george paracken, Mrs. Deepti Jacob
 Mr. Johnson Joseph Simon, Mrs. Marien Binu Johnson
 Mr. Sony Abraham, Mrs. Anisha Maria Shaji

Church - The Worship Place



The church is a sacred space where the people of God gather for worship. It is a designated area consecrated solely for praising God. During the church consecration, the celebrant uses holy oil, known as Mooron, which is also employed in the sacrament of baptism. Scripture teaches us that the Israelites experienced the presence of God in the sanctuary, and thus, we gather in the church to encounter the divine presence.

The interior of a church building, referred to as the sanctuary, is divided into the Madbaha (Chancel - The Madbaha is the sanctum sanctorum, the meeting of the divine presence of God), Kesthroma (Kesthroma is the transitional space between the nave and the altar), and Haikala (Nave - this is the longest part or the main hall, where all the faithful worship, called Hykala or Prakararam). The Achen (priest) celebrates Holy Communion in the Madbaha, a space we hold as sacred.

The Thronos is the most significant part in the sanctuary. It usually has three deacons representing the Holy Spirit, with a cross in the center representing the Lord Jesus Christ and doves symbolizing the Trinity. The embroidery work signifies vine and wheat, symbolizing life, as the blood and body of Jesus provide eternal life. Thabaleetha, a Syriac word meaning table, is an inevitable element here. Thabaleetha is a wooden plank consecrated by a bishop, symbolizing the wooden cross on which Christ was crucified. The Thabaleetha is housed in a richly embroidered cloth called "Viri-kootu. The Viri-kootu is spread on the Thronos only during the Holy Qurbana service by the celebrant.

The Word and the Body and Blood are shared within the Kesthroma. People stand (or sit) in the Haikala during the worship service. The Baptismal bowl is typically placed at the back of the church or on the heart side of the building.

Circulars

- Circular 119 - Medical Mission Sunday
- Circular 120 - Maramon Convention 2024
- Circular 121 - Old Catholic Church

Our mailing address is:
149 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052
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