



MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH April 2024

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"Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD." (Amos 8.11)

May the name of the Almighty God be exalted.

As we joyously enter the fourth month of this year, 2024, filled with the spirit of Easter, we celebrate the triumph of light over darkness, hope over disappointment, and life over death. It is a time of anticipation for Jesus' ascension, following His resurrection and appearances. In each service, we reaffirm our faith through the creed, professing our belief in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who descended from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, suffered, died, rose again, ascended into heaven, and will come again in glory.

We express our gratitude for the recent visit of our Metropolitan, Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma, and the esteemed presence of Anglican Archbishop Dr. Philip Freier. Our prayers are extended for the 29 children who have joined our communicant family. We extend heartfelt thanks to all who led us in the Lenten prayers and Passion Week services, with special appreciation for Rev. Sandy Boyce for her exemplary leadership during the Good Friday service. We also acknowledge the valuable presence and contributions of Bishop Philip Huggins, our leaders-

Lintu & Deepthi, convenors, office bearers, and all who participated in this year's Vacation Bible School. To all our members, we offer our sincere gratitude for your active involvement in the Lenten prayers, Palm Sunday, Passion Week, and Easter services. We deeply appreciate the seamless effort and contributions of the families and friends of our first communicants in organizing food and all arrangements with grace and dignity.

We continue to seek your prayers for our parish as we address the needs of our growing community, especially with the influx of new members from various parts of the world. Your prayers and support are essential as we navigate through new challenges that confront us.

We invite you to a special general body meeting on the 14th and 28th of April 2024, with the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 26th May. Your participation and prayers for these meetings are appreciated.

In the midst of life's struggles, let us remember the words, "No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar or puts it under a bed; rather, one puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light." Let us shine forth with the light of Christ, revealing all that is hidden and bringing forth peace and hope to those in need.

A warm welcome to our new members: Laby & Juno, Joji & Joyce, Shiby Varghese (w/o Jerry Jacob John), and Jennifer Ellen Daniel. May their journey with us be abundantly blessed.

We offer prayers for the bereaved families who have lost their beloved members and for all those facing difficult situations, especially those with family members suffering from serious illness. May the healing hand of our Lord Jesus strengthen them in their time of need.

As we celebrate Easter and anticipate the ascension, let us embrace the gospel of peace, sharing the mighty presence of the resurrected Christ with all, especially those in fear, struggles, loneliness, and oppression.

Shalom,

Shojiachen

Vicar, Melbourne Mar Thoma Church

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0401311688



07
Apr

Jesus Christ the Lord and God,
New Sunday

Lesson 1 Gen. 32: 22-32 

Lesson 2 Acts 9: 1-18 

Epistle Colo. 3: 12-17

Gospel St. John. 20: 24-29

14
Apr

Jesus Christ who Restores

Lesson 1 Hos. 14: 1-9 

Lesson 2 Heb. 6: 9-12 

Epistle Gal. 6: 1-5

Gospel St. John. 21:1-14

21
Apr

The Resurrected Christ who
Encourages the Dispirited

Lesson 1 Isa. 41: 8-20 

Lesson 2 Acts. 27: 27-37 

Epistle 2 Cor. 4:7-15

Gospel St. Luke 24:13-35

28
Apr

Marriage- Call and Commission

Lesson 1 Gen. 2: 18-25 

Lesson 2 Eph. 5: 21-33 

Epistle 1 Cor. 13

Gospel St. Mat. 19:1-12



MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

4-7
Apr MMTC VBS 2024
Templestowe Secondary College
7 Cypress Ave, Templestowe Lower

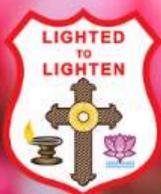
7
Apr ENG HOLY QURBANA 8:30AM
• Templestowe College (VBS)
MAL HOLY QURBANA 8:30AM
• Parkville
ENG HOLY QURBANA 4PM
• The Ave Uniting Church Blackburn

14
Apr ENG HOLY QURBANA 8:30AM
• INSPIRE Sunday & Youth Service
• Special General Body

20
Apr KARUNYA EDAVAKA MISSION
PRAYER 4:30PM

21
Apr MAL HOLY QURBANA 8:30AM
• Sunday School Scripture Bee
• Choir General Body

28
Apr SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE BEE 8:00AM
ENG HOLY QURBANA 9:00AM
• Special General Body



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



**MELBOURNE
MAR THOMA
CHURCH
2024**

VBS

	Bible Point	Bible Story	Bible Verse
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; padding-right: 5px;">day 1</div> </div> <p>Tad</p>	God is a friend who's real.	God shows himself to Elijah through ups and downs. (1 Kings 18-19)	"We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:69)
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; padding-right: 5px;">day 2</div> </div> <p>Finnley</p>	God is a friend who loves.	God shows compassion to the people of Nineveh. (Jonah 1-3)	"Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." (John 13:34)
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; padding-right: 5px;">day 3</div> </div> <p>Fisher</p>	God is a friend we can trust.	Jesus calms a storm. (Mark 4:35-41)	"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart." (John 14:27)
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; padding-right: 5px;">day 3</div> </div> <p>Waylon</p>	God is a friend forever.	Jesus dies and comes back to life. (John 18-20)	"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." (John 11:25)
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> </div> <p>Octavia</p>	God is a friend for everyone.	Lydia believes in Jesus. (Acts 16:11-15)	"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

A heartfelt thank you to each member of our incredible SCUBA team for making this year's Vacation Bible School an unforgettable journey! 🌊💙

The VBS theme for this year was **SCUBA: Diving into friendship with God**

We had 150 registered students and 33 teachers and around 60 volunteers for VBS 2024

We had so many exciting firsts this year:

🏠 First time in a school setting

📅 First time extending VBS to 4 days

🏠 First time organizing houses instead of classes, fostering amazing bonds among the children

📖 First time featuring stations like Sticky Scriptures (Bible Verses), Imagination Station (Science Experiments), and Reef Rec (Games)

🐾 First time hosting an animal tour

💧 First time engaging in a thrilling water fight

👥 Directors Lintu & Deepti Mathai for leading our children on a journey to befriend Jesus, their true companion in life.

Day 1 Theme: "God is a friend who is real."

To keep the conversation going at home, here are some prompts and follow-up steps for engaging with your child daily:

1. "Tell me about the Bible story you heard today." Encourage them to share and assist with details if needed.
2. "What are some of your Favorite things in creation?" Feel free to share your favourites too.
3. "What are some ways our family cares for the earth and God's beautiful creation?"
4. Pray with your child, using the provided prayer starter. This is also a perfect time for them to recite the Bible memory verse from the day.

Activities Recap:

- Inaugural Session: Bishop Philip Huggins (Bishop of Anglican Church) inaugurated our VBS with a brief, inspiring message for the children and presided over by Rev Shoji Varghese.
- Opening Session: The day kicked off with an energetic session introducing the theme. Through songs, dances, skits, and discussions, children learned about the importance of friendship with God. The main bible study was 1 King 18 & 19 - The story of Elijah.
- Interactive Learning: Children explored the Bible through interactive stations and engaging activities, akin to their classroom experiences. They met their Bible buddy Tad.
- Water-Based Games: Kids enjoyed fun water games, learning that God's love isn't based on reputation.
- Snack & Lunch Time: Meals provided a chance for fellowship and energy renewal, with children enjoying delicious food outdoors, appreciating God's love and deepening their friendship with Him.
- Animal Tour: Led by knowledgeable college students, children got up close with various animals, fish and reptiles, experiencing the wonder of God's creation.

Closing Session:

The day concluded with a reflective session where children shared their insights and favourite moments, ending with a prayer of gratitude for God's friendship.

Highlights:

- Active participation and engagement from all children.
- Meaningful Bible study, with children sharing personal insights.
- Display of creativity and teamwork during station activities, fostering a sense of community.

Day 2 Theme: "God is a friend who loves" & "God is a friend we can trust."

Activities Recap:

- Opening Session: The main bible study was Jonah 1-3 - The God shows compassion to the people of Nineveh and Mark 4: 35-41 Jesus calms the storm.
- Interactive Learning: Children explored the Bible through interactive stations and engaging activities, akin to their classroom experiences. They met their Bible buddies Finnley & Fisher
- Games: Treasure Hunt & Water Games: Kids enjoyed treasure hunt, learning how God loves you to work as a team. During the session, they acquired teamwork skills and learned to respond spontaneously to solve riddles together.
- Tidal Treats: The provision of snacks and pizza for lunch created opportunities for fellowship and rejuvenation, as children enjoyed delicious treats outdoors. This allowed them to savour the flavours while fostering a deeper connection with God and appreciating His abundant love.

Closing Session:

The day wrapped up with a reflective session, where children shared their thoughts and cherished moments, concluding with a prayer expressing gratitude for the friendship of God. At the end of the day, there was a feedback session for teachers to share their insights and reflections.

Highlights:

- The day's standout experience was undoubtedly the Scientific Experiments session, where children delved into the fascinating topic of water pollution, gaining valuable insights into its impact on our planet.
- The Treasure Hunt proved to be both challenging and conducive to team building, guided by our exceptional teachers and game coordinators.
- Thoughtful exploration of the Bible, with children offering their own interpretations and reflections.
- Demonstration of creativity and cooperation in various station activities, nurturing a feeling of togetherness.

Day 3 Theme: "God is a friend forever" & "God is a friend for everyone".

Activities Recap:

- Opening Session: The main bible study was John 18-20 - Jesus dies and comes back to Life and Acts 16:11-15 Lydia believes in Jesus.
- Interactive Learning: Children explored the Bible through interactive stations and engaging activities, akin to their classroom experiences. Meet their Bible buddies Waylon & Octavia.

- Tidal Treats provided a delectable array of snacks and chicken pasta for love feast lunch, igniting moments of fellowship and rejuvenation among the children as they indulged in delicious fare outdoors. This culinary experience not only tantalised their taste buds but also facilitated a deeper connection with God, fostering gratitude for His abundant love amidst the flavoursome delights.

Highlights:

- The children thoroughly enjoyed a heartwarming love feast, where they celebrated the birthdays of the month. It was a joyous occasion filled with laughter, camaraderie, and shared appreciation for one another's presence.
- The children delighted in a lively and engaging family fun water balloon game. Laughter filled the air as they enthusiastically participated, splashing and giggling in the refreshing excitement of the game.
- The children enjoyed in a plethora of outdoor games, including the exhilarating "water relay race," the strategic challenge of "tic-tac-toe," the coordination test of "ping pong ball pass," the teamwork-focused "longest group," and the energetic "passing the ball relay."

Day 3 Theme: Holy Communion, Dedication, Rally, Grand Finale

- Holy Communion was led by VBS students
- Children dedicated their life to Jesus and offered their Dedication Pledge and offertory
- Children and Parents participated for the VBS rally right after the service.
- The 5 Houses performed well with their Bible story and also their presentation on Mar Thoma Mission Centres in India
- House Championship was awarded to Dashing Dolphins
- Rev Thomas John led the Holy Communion Service & Grand Finale Message
- Lintu Mathai delivered the sermon for Holy Communion Service

 MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH
INSPIRE SUNDAY
SUNDAY, 14 APRIL 2024 AT 8:30 AM



A
THANKSGIVING
WORSHIP
SERVICE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS ON
INSPIRE'S 5TH
ANNIVERSARY

MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH
149 ROYAL PARADE, PARKVILLE
MELBOURNE, VIC 3052

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' PATHWAY INTO REWARDING EXPERIENCE
INSPIRE
Career Aid for International Students
A Melbourne Mar Thoma Church Choir initiative



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' PATHWAY
INTO REWARDING EXPERIENCE

INSPIRE

**TALENT
TIME**

SATURDAY, 13 APRIL 2024 AT 5 PM
MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH
149 ROYAL PARADE
PARKVILLE- 3052

INSPIRE - *A Melbourne Mar Thoma Church Choir Initiative*



MELBOURNE MAR THOMA
SEVIKA SANGHOM

**ONLINE INTERCESSORY
PRAYER**

EVERY THU 8PM

MONTHLY MEETING
3RD SUN AFTER SERVICE

Melbourne Mar Thoma 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 (NIV)

14th April 2024:

- **Term 1 Holidays (No Sunday School)**

21st April 2024:

- **Start of Term 2 – Scripture Bee**

28th April 2024:

- **Scripture Bee (contd.)**

Portions for the Scripture Bee has been sent to all SS Parents' WhatsApp groups. Please encourage kids to learn and come prepared.



Mrs.Reny Annie George
Ms.Jillyan Jackmil Sony
Mrs.Jobey Allen Baby
Miss.Michelle Christard
Mr.Ajay Jacob Alexander
Miss.Joella Philipose Daniel
Mrs.Cynthia Elizabeth Mathew
Miss.Rebecca Sara Bobby
Master.Jojo Thomas
Mrs.Remya Nevin
Master.Daniel Jacob John
Mrs.Mareena Renin
Mr.Binu Koshy
Mrs.Mimy Elizabeth George
Miss.Grace Verghis
Mrs.Priya Rajan
Mrs.Bindhya Mariam Mithren
Master.Ruel Abraham
Miss.Ann Alice Benny
Mrs.Emelieta Thomas
Master.Alwin George Philip
Mr.Abraham Mathew
Master.Matthew Verghis
Mrs.Rinku Elizabeth Regi
Master.Aiden Mathew Aby
Mrs.Lincy Cherian
Mr.John Mathew
Mr.Bincy John Varughese
Miss.Juan Isabel Jubin
Miss.Anna S Thomas
Mrs.Silvy John
Master.Pranav Arun
Master.Kriston Nomis
Master.Noble Mathew
Mr.Viby Vinny
Mr.Rajan P Thomas
Mr.Philip Daniel
Master.Johann Idiculla
Mr.Titus Jubel Kurien
Miss.Angel Mary Sujith
Mr.Mathew Thomas
Mr.Joshua John Mathew
Dr.Mathen Koshy Mathew
Master.Simeon J Sajan
Mrs.Reeja N Samuel

Mr.Biju John Joseph
Miss.Zoe Sara Thomas
Mrs.Susan Zachariah
Mr.Varughese Easow
Mr.Sefy John Vinod
Mr.Sanoj Mathew Thomas
Master.Daniel Renin
Master.Nathaniel Philip
Master.Liam Verghese Thomas
Miss.Anika Saly George
Mr.Biju Philipose
Mrs.Reenu Mammen
Master.Immanuel K Gini
Mrs.Preethi Mathew
Mrs.Lincy Elizabeth Zachariah
Miss.Atarah Maria Abhilash
Master.Reuben Thariyan Thomas
Mr.Jiji Abraham George
Mrs.Susy Mathew
Master.Mateo Joh Alvin
Mr.Ashok V S
Mr.James George
Master.Ayush Abraham Simon
Mr.Happy Varghese
Mrs.Anupama Mary Roshi
Mrs.Chris Sara Cherian
Mr.Subash Mathews Thomas
Mrs.Grace Mathew
Mrs.Esther M Philip
Mrs.Josephine Thomas
Mrs.Rekha Mathew
Mrs.Reeba Sumit Mathew
Mr.Simon Kunjukunju
Mr.Sharjan Thomas
Miss.Ruanna Rachel Abraham
Mr.Navin Parappat
Master.Simeon Abraham Subi
Miss.Susan Alex
Mr.Joshua Philipose Daniel
Mrs.Shirley Mathew
Miss.Rachel Alex Mathews
Mr.Rejoy Mathew
Mr.Ben Christopher John
Mr.Shreyas Thomas Kannutharayil
Mrs.Roshni Mariam Philip

Mr.Easaw John	Master.Nathaniel Mathew Mammen
Mr.Christopher G Luke	Mrs.Liny Anna Abraham
Miss.Evana Rejoy	Miss.Linda Mary John
Mrs.Saumya Varghese	Mr.Pradeesh Varghese
Mr.Jeeson George Sajeev	Miss.Jennifer Renin



Mr. John Varkey, Mrs. Tara Maria Alexander	Jithu & Tara
Mr. Jobson George, Mrs. Bini John	Jobson & Bini
Mr. Binsu George Thomas, Mrs. Joemol Thomas	Binsu & Joemol
Mr. Edwin Alexander, Mrs. Sushma Vini Alexander	Edwin & Sushma
Mr. Christopher Paulose, Mrs. Jisha Christopher	Christopher & Jisha
Mr. George Alex, Mrs. Asha Mary Alex	Bobby & Asha
Mr. Arun R, Mrs. Jovita C Chandi	Arun & Jovita
Mr. George Giju Thomas, Mrs. Mary Verghese	Giju & Moni
Mr. Sudhin Aby Mammen, Mrs. Lintu Sudhin	Sudhin & Lintu
Mr. Jobby John Mathew, Mrs. Sheryl Susan Mathew	Jobby & Sheryl
Mr. Jeorly George, Mrs. Jerin C Varghese	Jeorly & Jerin
Mr. Sajin George Abraham, Mrs. Blessy Mathew	Sajin & Blessy
Mr. Jacob Kurien, Mrs. Hyma Kurien	Viju & Hyma
Mr. Manu SAM , Mrs. Anju George Thomas	Manu and Anju
Mr. Laby O Thomas, Mrs. Juno Susan Mathew	Laby & Juno
Mr. Cherian Thomas, Mrs. Melanie Elizabeth Biji	Cherian & Melanie
Mr. Vijoy Mathew Varghese, Mrs. Kiran Vijoy	Vijoy & Kiran
Mr. Stanley George, Mrs. Liny Anna Abraham	Stanley & Liny
Mr. Jacob Thomas, Mrs. Josephine Thomas	Vijayan & Josephine
Mr. Nithin Mathew Idiculla, Mrs. Bindhya Mariam Mithren	Nithin & Bindhya
Mr. Roy Jacob, Mrs. Mary Jacob	Roy & Mary
Mr. David Thomas John, Mrs. Suzanne Ann Pothen	David & Suzanne
Mr. Ranjith Rajasekharan, Mrs. Sneha Elizabeth Abraham	Ranjith & Sneha
Mr. Biju John, Mrs. Jemeni Elizabeth Thomas	Biju & Jemeni
Mr. James George, Mrs. Betsy Philip	James & Betsy
Mr. Sangeeth Tom Varghese, Mrs. Nisha Mariam Thomas	Sangeeth & Nisha
Mr. Abraham Varghese, Mrs. Reeby Abraham	Manoj & Reeby
Mr. Ranjith Mathews , Mrs. Deepa Mathews	Ranjith & Deepa
Mr. Subin Tom Mathews, Mrs. Ashlyn Subin Tom	Subin & Ashlyn
Mr. Titus Jubel Kurien, Mrs. Elizabeth Zachariah	Jubel & Tara
Mr. Jinu Philip, Mrs. Hridya Izael	Jinu & Hridya
Mr. Prince Zacharia Philip, Mrs. Suby Mathew	Prince & Suby
Mr. Jomon Kunjumon Samuel, Mrs. Roshni Anna Samu	Jomon & Roshni



Madbaha (Sanctuary)

Madbaha means place of sacrifice. Holy Qurbana, ordination of deacons and priests, and consecration of bishops are conducted here.

In the Madbaha we have a consecrated place known as “thronos”(altar), it is the throne of God that is our Lord is reigning as king on His throne He is offering Himself as a sacrifice. Hence Thronos is altar. In Isaiah 6:1 and in Revelation 4:5; 7:9-11 we see the heavenly worship where the Throne of God is in center. So in our worship also “thronos” is the important place of the Madbaha and it also reminds us the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the thronos we see different articles like cross, light, incense; chalice and paten etc and all these symbolize the Heavenly worship. The articles placed on the thronos including the altar spread must be consecrated before use except the cross. It is because other things are consecrated with the cross.



The Curtain or Veil

The curtain with a cross in the middle hiding the Sanctuary is the symbol of the sky separating heaven and earth. The Madbaha signifies heaven and the haickala signifies earth. According to the Eastern churches earthly worship symbolizes the heavenly worship. So the door of the Madbaha is always made in the shape of the ark. Veil indicates the sanctity of the Madbaha, the mystical nature of the Holy Qurbana and the invisibility of God.

Cross

It is an important symbol in the Christian worship. When we dedicate the church, Thirumeni places the Cross at the center of the thronos. It symbolizes the presence of God through the crucified and resurrected Christ. In our worship also we use the sign of the Cross many times.

When the celebrant gives the blessing he puts the sign of the cross, the worshippers, as a sign of accepting the blessing put the sign of the cross. This is also done at the time of the declaration of the Trinity and also at the time of indication of the Cross. Since Cross symbolizes peace, love and the new life through the self emptying act of Christ, we should try to understand meaning, hidden in the sign.

When we put the sign of the cross we remember the salvific act of the Lord, that is Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven to earth brought us from left to right The line drawn from the head to the chest signifies the coming down of the Son from heaven to earth. Then we draw another line from the left shoulder to the right shoulder, signifying our transference to the sacred ones on the right hand side from the left hand side through His cross. We draw the sign of cross with three fingers representing the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Making the sign of the cross is a speechless prayer reminding us of the presence of our Lord in our hearts, a symbol of receiving the merits of our Lord's sacrifice and a symbol our identification with the crucifixion of our Lord. But many of our people do not know the meaning of the sign of Cross and do not draw the sign of the Cross.

Tableetha (Table-let)

It holds significant symbolism in Eastern Christian traditions, particularly within the context of the Holy Qurbana or the Eucharistic Liturgy. It serves as a crucial element during the celebration of the Holy Qurbana and carries deep theological meaning. The Tableetha is placed on the thronos. It is consecrated by bishops or metropolitan, signifying its sanctification for its sacred purpose.

The Tableetha, being a wooden plank, symbolizes the sacrificial nature of the Holy Qurbana without the shedding of blood. It serves as a reminder of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, rather than an animal sacrifice upon stones. Positioned under the "virikkuttu," which is where the paten and chalice are placed on the thronos, the Tableetha plays a foundational role in the Eucharistic celebration. The blessing of the Tableetha is exclusively performed by the Bishops.

The Tableetha is indispensable for the celebrant during the Holy Qurbana. Without it, the celebrant is not permitted to conduct the Eucharistic Liturgy, emphasizing its crucial role as a portable altar. The Tableetha holds deep theological symbolism and practical importance within Eastern Christian worship, serving as a tangible representation of Christ's sacrificial death and essential for the celebration of the Holy Qurbana



Chalice, Paten, Kablana and Sosappa

Chalice is the vessel used to keep the wine mixed with water and **Paten** is the small plate used to keep the bread at the time of Qurbana. **Kablana** is a small cloth used to cover the vessels.

Kablana is said to represent the 'shekinah'(light) above the mercy seat in the ark of covenant in the Jerusalem temple "As the priests were leaving the Temple, it was suddenly filled with a cloud shining with the dazzling light of the Lord's presence, and they could not go back in to perform their duties"(1Kings 8:10-11).

Sosappa is also a white cloth with beautiful work and it is also used to cover paten and chalice after the preparation of Qurbana. This reminds us of the light believed to be present above the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant, placed in the Holy of Holies of the Jerusalem temple. This also reminds us of the bright cloud that appeared on the mount of transfiguration.



Spoon (tharvodo)

It is used to take the Holy Qurbana represents the tong with which the live coal was given to the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:6-7). There is a small cushion on the right side of the Thableetha to wipe the hands of the celebrant after touching the holy body and holy blood, and is called "Gmurtho."

Censer (Doopakutti)

Incense is an important factor in our worship. It was used in ancient days to pay honor and respect. It denotes the offering of a sweet smelling sacrifice to God " Your life must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave his life for us as a sweet smelling offering and sacrifice that pleases God."(Ephesians 5:2).

Incense always stands for the invisible presence of God. In the Old Testament times incense

was used as a sin offering, and it is believed that the prayers go up to God with incense. The use of incense in worship is referred to in several biblical passages. “And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar, before the throne and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God”.



Candles

Light is the symbol of God’s presence. We use candles in the liturgy as the continuation of the ancient practice. In the New Testament times lamps were used in the worship “Many lamps were burning in the upstairs room where we were meeting”,(Acts 20:8; Reve.4:5),especially when they worshiped in the caves and combs.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life”. Since Jesus is the light of the world, we, the followers of Christ should walk in light. So light has an important place in the worship.



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Our mailing address is:

149 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052

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