

### MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH

#### SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

#### BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO FIND WISDOM AND GAIN UNDERSTANDING

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# Vicar's Message

- 1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
  - 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law, he meditates day and night.
- 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; in whatever he does, he prospers.
  - 4 The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

#### **Psalms 1:1-6**

May the name of Almighty God be exalted.

Being righteous in an unrighteous world is a difficult task. Sometimes, truth is obscured by half-baked

stories. The wicked, scoffers, and sinners might appear to have a pleasant presence in the world surrounding us. How can we be righteous? The answer is simple: live according to the Law of God. If we do so, we will be firmly rooted and will bear fruit in due season. Psalm 1 presents us with two paths: the way of life and the way of doom, urging us to choose wisely. Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

In September, we celebrate Sevika Sangham Day and Senior Citizens Day. Both of these organizations and their members have been major contributors to the history of our church. The Mar Thoma Suvishesha Sevika Sangham (Women's Wing) was inaugurated during the Maramon Convention in 1919 under the leadership of Abraham Mar Thoma Suffragan Metropolitan, who provided the Sangham with continued support and inspiration. Mrs. Kandamma Varghese, as the organizing secretary for over 20 years, travelled far and wide, organizing branches in parishes and doing evangelistic work among Christians and non-Christians. Every woman of the Mar Thoma Church, from the age of 18, is a member of the Sevika Sangham.

The Senior Citizens Fellowship is the newest organization in our church. However, it has been an active fellowship in several of our parishes. This organization reminds us of the sacrificial efforts of our forebears in the formation and growth of our church and parishes.

In September, we also celebrate the Onam festival. It reminds us of the need to foster righteous leadership and a community that values truth, unity, and prosperity. While Onam is a myth in the socio-cultural-historical context of Kerala, only God can make it a reality. The God of Heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44). That is why our Lord Jesus taught His followers to pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth. We can be confident that God's Kingdom will soon bring a new order of hope and peace.

We have already completed a financial year in June and have passed through two months since then. Our annual general body meeting was supposed to be held before the end of August. Although it has not yet happened, the newly elected executive committee will be inducted into office with the permission of the Diocesan Episcopa. I would like to appreciate all our organizations and committees for holding their committee meetings and annual meetings within the designated timeframe and for responsibly handing over their duties to the new office bearers on time. May God Almighty guide the newly elected committees to continue His ministry more fruitfully.

Our Sunday School is organizing the Senior Camp on October 4-6 at Upper Plenty Conference Centre. I encourage you to motivate our senior Sunday School students to participate in this event. I also take this opportunity to appreciate our Sunday School for their leadership during the Fourth Sunday services at church and for conducting Sunday School classes with satellite services at Blackburn.

As dedicated members of the parish, please strive to be regular in attending church services and encourage our children to do the same. We should always remember how the Israelites followed

the Ten Commandments and the Law in the wilderness and succeeded in the difficult situations they faced in the wilderness and in Canaan. We need to grow with a sense of freedom combined with responsibility in our Christian life.

A warm welcome to our new members:

- Georgia Niby Mathew (Daughter of Subi & Niby)
- Hope Anna Arun (Daughter of Arun & Jovita)
- Ivanna Susan Kevin (Daughter of Kevin & Leena)
- Joella & Nicholas
- Kevin & Serena
- Families of Rony & Neenu, Sobin & Deepthi, Vigil & Sanu, Honey & Blesson.

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 Rony & Megha, Late Liju & Beena, Shinu & Neethu, Pramod & Manju, and Pradeesh & Nikitha. 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 illnesses. May the healing hand of our Lord Jesus bring comfort, strength, and peace to them in their time of need.

Over the past year, Diya Cherian, our Assistant Secretary, has been responsible for the monthly newsletter. She has fulfilled her duties with dedication and commitment. We express our sincere gratitude to Diya and welcome Roshan John, our new Assistant Secretary, to continue this ministry with renewed spirit and hope.

As we continue our journey of faith, let us strive to be witnesses of the Gospel in all that we do. May our lives be a model for the generations to come, reflecting the love, grace, and truth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us also remain steadfast in prayer, maintaining constant communion with God, who is our source of strength and guidance. Amen.

Shalom,

Shojiachen

Vicar

**Melbourne Mar Thoma Church** 

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# **Lectionary**

	സ്ത്രീകൾ: സുവിശേഷത്തിന്റെ സാക്ഷീകൾ (പെന്തെക്കൊസ്ലിനു ശേഷം 15-ആം ഞായർ), Women Witnesses of the Gospel (15th Sunday after Pentecost)	Lessens	Ruth 4:1-12
1992 1973			Acts 16:11-15
		Epitele Gospel	Gal 3:26-29
		Evening Reading	Luke 8 1-3
SEF			Prov 27:1-11
			Rom 16:1-5
	ദൈവിക സത്യത്തിലേക്ക് നയിക്കേണ്ട വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം (പെത്തെക്കൊന്നിനു ശേഷം 16-ആം ഞായർ), Education Sunday: Education that leads to Divine truths (16th Sunday after Pentecost)		
		Lessons	Prov 4.1-11
00			1Cor 1:18-25
08		Epintle Gospel	Rom 11:33-36
SEP			John 14 5-14
		Evening Reading	Prov 1:1-10
			Jas 3:13-16
	പ്രാര്ത്ഥന: ദൈവവ്യമായുള്ള നിരന്തര സംസര്ഗ്ഗം (പെന്തെക്കൊസ്കിനു ശേഷം 17-ആം ഞായർ); Prayer: Constant communion with God (17th Sunday after Pentecest)	Lessons	Prov 30.4-9
~ =-			Acts 12:1-12
15		Epistle Gospel	Eph 3:14-21
The second second			Matt 6:5-15
SEF		Evening	J00 42 1-17
		Reading	Jas 5 13-20
2			
	വിശുദ്ധ കൂർബ്ബാന: ദൈവരാജ്യ മൂന്നാസ്വാരനം (പെന്തെക്കൊസ്ലിന്നു ശേഷം 18-ആം ഒതായർ); Hely Qurbana: Foretaste of the Kingdom of God (18th Sunday after Pentecost)	Lessons	Exod 12:21-26
12.33			Acts 2:42-47
22		Epistle Gospel	1Cor 11:23-30
SEP			Matt 26:26-29
		Evening	Gen 22:1-19
		Reading	1Pet 2:1-12
*	മുതിർന്ന പൗരരുടെ ഞായർ, മുതിർന്ന പൗരർ തലമുറകളുടെ മാതൃക (പെന്തെക്കൊന്നിനു ശേഷം 19-ആം ഞായർ), Senior Citizens Sunday: Senior Citizens – Model for the generations (19th Sunday after Pantecost)	and the same of	
		Lestons	Gen 48 1-22
29 SEP			Phil 2:12-18
		Epintle Gospel	27km 4:1-8
			Luke 2:25-38
		Evening Reading	Prov 16:29-33
			Eph 6:1-4

# **September Services and Events**



\* 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





Expression of Interests are Open -> CLICK HERE

# PRAYER MEETING

PRAYER ZONE	DATE	VENUE	
North A	7th September, Saturday 4:30pm	268 Marathon Boulevard, Craigieburn Hosted by: Binu & Anu	
South	7th September, Saturday 7:00pm	26 Hanrahan Wynd, Lynbrook  Hosted by:  Blessy & Reni	
North West	14th September, Saturday  4:30pm	The Grange Community Centre 260-280 Hogans Rd Hoopers Crossing Hosted By: Asha Edel & Irene Jerin & Merin Shinu & Neethu	
North B	14th September, Saturday 7:00pm	7 Robern Parade, View Bank Hosted by: Benny & Regina	
Special Prayer	22nd September, Sunday 6:00pm	1/ 31 Surrey Drive, Keilor East Hosted by: Saju & Roshan	
Central A	28th September, Saturday 4:30pm	25 Rosline Avenue, Mt Waverley  Hosted by:  Navin & Seena	
Central B	28th September, Saturday 7:00pm	26 Cathies Lane, Wantrina South  Hosted by:  David & Rohini	

# **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

## **Sunday School schedule**

## 1st September 2024:

- 8:00am at Parkville
- 2:00 pm at Blackburn Satellite Service

## 8th September 2024:

- Regular classes between services in Parkville
- Father's Day Special Worship Session after 1st service in Church

## 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (last class of Term 3):

Regular classes between services in Parkville

# 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 (Term 3 Holidays):

No Classes

## 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Term 3 Holidays):

No Classes

# **Satellite Service - Sunday School - Expression of Interest**

Sunday School classes are held in Blackburn at 2pm prior to satellite service.

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

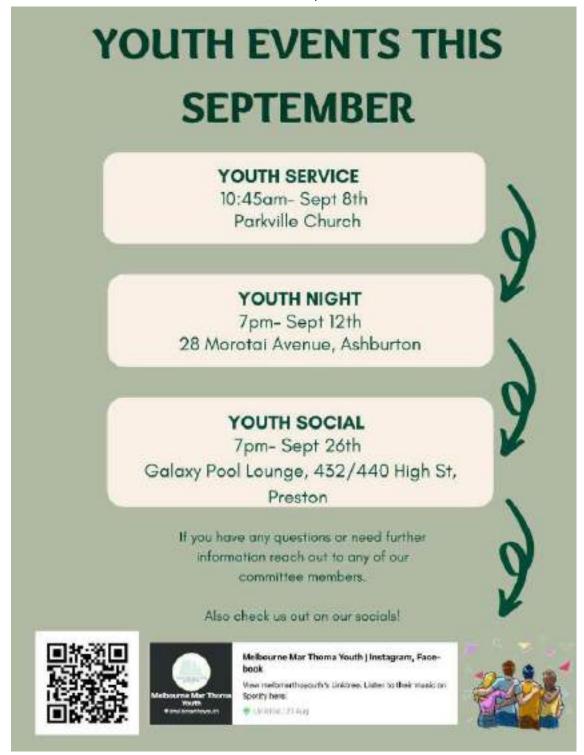
# **Senior Camp**

This year's Sunday School Senior Camp for grade 7-12 will be held at Upper Plenty Conference Centre on 4th-6th October.



Registrations are Open -> CLICK HERE





# Sevika Sangham



SEVIKA SANGHAM EVENTS	DETAILS	
Online intercessory prayer	8:00 pm on <b>Thursdays</b>	
	<b>22nd September</b> 5:00 - 6:00pm	
Monthly Online Bible Study	Speaker: Sheeba Kochamma	
	"The Messianic Promise in the Old Testament Books"	
	29th September after service	
Monthly Catch Up at Parkville	Speaker: Dr Kuruvilla George	
	Stress Management	

# **Birthdays**

Master.Ethen Senthil Miss.Leia Annalisa Mathew Dr Mrs.Sneha Elizabeth Abraham Mr. Manu Mathew Mr.Sam Joy Chirackal Master Rafael Zack Praveen Mr.Sudhin Aby Mammen Mrs.Suzanne Ann Pothen Mrs.Rena Verghese Miss.Sanjana John Mrs.Shinju Sahiju Mrs.Jaimy Elizabeth Cheriyan Miss.Crissa Maiam John Mr. Sujith Thomas Abraham Mr.Rejo Varghese John Mrs.Anisha Mary Mohan Mrs.Leena Cicil Master.Abel j Mathews Mr.Alan Mathew Abraham Mrs.Dona Maria John Mrs.Sanu Elsa Paul Master.David John Jubin Master.Melvin Georgy Pramode Mrs.Ninu Joseph Mr.Tony Kurian Miss.Irene Binu Miss.Jeslin Anna Joji Mr. Sobin Varghese Koshy Dr.Lyza sara Varghese Mrs.Reeby Abraham Mr.Mathew George Abraham Mr.Robin Joseph Koshy Mr.Jean Jacob Master.Robin Joseph Koshy

Miss.Charlotte Suzann Nevin Miss.Melissa Thomas

Dr.Thomas Vadil Master.Ryan Thomas Mathew

Miss.Evanya Shinu Master.Nikil Abey

Mr.Sajin George Abraham Master.Jordan Subin Mathew

Master.Nikhil John Miss.Lija Maria Varghese

Mr.Philip Rajesh John Mr.Steven A George

Mrs.Jeny Mary Samuel Miss.Asha James

Miss.Mariam Elizabeth Roy Miss.Hazel Sally Sanjo

Mrs.Rita Varughese Miss.Lisa R George

Mr.Anish John Mrs.Cherish Marisa Philip

Mr.Ben George Abraham Mrs.Lin Ding

Miss.Isabel Mary Gini Mr.Jacob Kurien

Mr. John Thomas Mr. Anup Jacob Abraham

Mrs.Deepa Mary Joseph Mr.Cherian Thomas

Miss.Irene Susan Cherian Miss.Ciana Anit

Mr.Binu Samuel Dr.Sneha Achamma Mani

Mrs.Rebecca Varkey Mrs.Divya James K

Mrs.Alison Abraham Dr.Mary Jacob

Mrs.Beena Mathew Mr.Job Kurian George

Mrs.Ann Alex Mrs.Shirley Verghese

Miss.Shirel Miriam Mathew Mr.Thomas Joseph

Mr.Ashok Jacob Miss.Zara Susan

Miss. Elsa Thomas Mrs. Kunjamma Samuel

Mr.Thomas George Miss.Ritu Eliza Ashok

Master.Bryan Thomas John Master.Ethan Anil Fred

Master.Eden James Mr.Ryan Thomas Leem

Mr.Winson George Master.Johal Thomas

Mrs.Sarah Cherian Mr.Binil Varghese Benson

Mrs.Miriam George Abraham Miss.Charlotte Rachael John

Mrs.Rekha Sara Philip

Mrs.Merril Susan Mathew Dr.George Alex

Mrs.Anju Jacob Mr.Edel George Jacob

Miss.Davina E John

Mr.Vinodh Samuel

# **Wedding Anniversary**

- Mr. Stani Tom Varghese & Mrs. Saumia Ann Shenji
- Mr. Biju Samuel Mulamuttil & Mrs. Biji Biju Samuel
- Mr. Jerry Jacob John & Mrs. Shiby Varghese
- Mr. Vinodh Samuel & Mrs. Rexi Ninan
- Mr. Joseph lype & Mrs. Seena Joseph
- Mr. Saju K Skaria & Mrs. Roshan Elizabeth John
- Mr. Binosh V Thomas & Mrs. Jessy B
- Mr. Senthil Kumar Selvan & Mrs. Bincy Philip
- Mr. George Thomas & Mrs. Leela Thomas
- Mr. Sanjo Eapen & Mrs. Dona Maria John
- Mr. Pradeesh Varghese & Mrs. Nikitha Pradeesh
- Mr. Ashish Thomas Mathew & Mrs. Merril Susan Mathew
- Mr. Simon Kunjukunju & Mrs. Susan Simon
- Mr. Jerin P Abraham & Mrs. Gethi George
- Mr. Rohit Varghese Samuel & Mrs. Benita S Samuel
- Mr. Cinil Aniyan & Mrs. Sneha M Kuriyakose
- Mr. Manoj Alex & Mrs. Sharon Elizabeth Mathew
- Mr. Sajo Mathew & Mrs. Saumya Varghese
- Mr. Preshanth J Joseph & Mrs. Kathleen Anna Oommen
- Mr. Joby Mathew & Mrs. Beena Mathew
- Mr. Thomas K Leem & Mrs. Susan Zachariah
- Mr. Vineeth George Varughese & Mrs. Manjari Kuppayil Saji
- Mr. Subi John Abraham & Mrs. Anju Shine Koshy
- Mr. Joshua Philipose Daniel & Mrs. Priana Joseph Panackal

# THE HISTORY OF MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH AND REVIVAL MOVEMENT

Christianity was brought to India by St. Thomas an Apostle of Jesus Christ. St. Thomas landed on the Malabar Coast in 52 A.D. and converted many high caste Hindus and established 7 Churches. We do not know much about the history of the Christian Church in the first few centuries. Many visitors had recorded in their travel

records the existence of a very active church in Malabar. Records are available about the visits of many church leaders from Asia Minor, Palestine and Persia during this period of time. The Malabar Church always welcomed foreign leaders without enquiring much about their faith and practices. But the Church in Malabar remained an isolated church in terms of evangelism.

The Malankara Church was an Independent Church even though it had relationship with the Syrian churches. It was not under the supremacy of any foreign Bishop or Church. The Portuguese sailor, Vasco de Gamma, arrived in Malabar in 1498. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church which owed its allegiance to the Pope in Rome. The Portuguese people under the leadership of the Archbishop named Alexio de Menezes convened a meeting of all church leaders in a place called Diamper (Udayamperoor) near Ernakulam in 1599. The Archbishop succeeded in bringing the Malankara Church under the domination of the Pope. This state of affairs continued for 54 years. But the people who objected this movement - those who wanted the church to remain independent assembled in a Church compound in Mattancherry (Cochin) in 1653 and took the oath severing all connections with the Roman Church. This oath ceremony is known as the "Oath of the Coonen Cross". Thus, once again the Church became independent, but a portion of it remained with the Roman Catholic Church. After the Oath of the Coonen Cross, the Malankara Church continued its relationship with the Patriarch of Antioch.

### Visit of Claudius Buchanan, Chaplain of the East India Company

Claudius Buchanan, a chaplain of the East India Company, visited Travancore and Cochin in 1806-1807. He was very interested in the ancient Church of Malabar and published a book in England entitled "Christian Researches in Asia". It was by reading this book that CMS missionaries got interested in the Malabar Church. Buchanan took the initiative to translate the four Gospels into Malayalam. These were printed in Bombay in 1811. (Ramban Bible)

#### **Help from the Church Missionary Society (CMS)**

The Church Missionary Society (CMS) is an organization established on 12 April 1799, in London for the propagation of the Word of God around the world. Colonel Munro (Resident of Travancore from 1810 to 1819) requested the CMS to improve the religious condition of the Kerala Christians. The first CMS Missionary, Rev. Thomas Norton, came to Alleppey in 1816. At this time Alleppey was a famous seaport, known as the Venice of the East. Three more missionaries, Rev. Benjamin Bailey, Rev. Joseph Fenn and Rev. Henry Baker came after Rev. Norton. With the help of these foreign missionaries, the Bible was translated into Malayalam. The New Testament was published in 1829, the Old Testament in 1835 and the complete Bible in 1841. Reading of the Scriptures in their own language enlightened the common man. Missionaries even started a Theological College (Old Seminary) in Kottayam to train priests.

Abraham Malpan and Kaithayil Gheeverghese Malpan were teachers in the Old Seminary in Kottayam. Both of them tried to restore the church to its original purity by casting away the wrong teachings and evil practices which had crept in by its association with other churches and religions in the course of time. In 1836, Abraham Malpan and 11 other priests submitted a memorandum to the British resident Col. Fraser, requesting him to do the needful to make the necessary changes in the Malankara Church. But the resident couldn't do anything. As all alternatives lead to a dead end, Malpan decided to lead the reformation in the church without leaving the church. Those who followed the reformation of Abraham Malpan are called 'The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar'.

But due to some disagreement with the Malankara Church, the CMS continued their work independently, among the non-Christians, along with some members of the Syrian Church who supported their reforms. Churches were established in Mallappally and Mavelikkara and the Anglican Diocese of Travancore and Cochin was formed in 1878.

#### **Revival Movement**

Revivalism is a special approach to religion or one's faith that gives importance to individual religious experience rather than the main doctrines. It is always associated with fervent emotional singing, preaching, confessing, dancing etc. We have experienced many revival movements in Mar Thoma Church. Tirunelvelli in the Tamil Nadu state was the birthplace of revival movements in South India. It started in 1860, by CMS Missionaries and came to Travancore through an unknown preacher called Mathai Upadeshi and was carried on by Vidhuwan Kutty Achen (Rev. Justus Joseph). In 1864, Mathews Mar Athanasius Metropolitan allowed Ammal, the daughter of a famous Tamil convert, Vedanayaka Sastri, to visit churches and inspire people through her Christian Songs. In 1873, Vidhuwan Kutty Achen became the leader of this revival movement. By 1894, Tamil preachers David and Wordsworth took over the leadership of revivalism. The Maramon convention started in 1895, by the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. Later the spirit of revivalism was continued by blessed leaders like CMS missionary Rev. Thomas Walker from Tirunelvelli in Tamil Nadu, Punchamannil Mammen Upadeshi and Muthampackal Kochoonju Upadeshi. Through their messages they could help thousands to continue in their spiritual joy and sacrificial living.

(\* from 'Life Story of Mrs. Kandamma Varghese', Published by: Thomas John Philip Nalloor)

# **Circulars**

MTC 229

## Our mailing address is:

149 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052

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