



The Mar Thoma Parish Sharjah

Estd 1978

Parish Bulletin

February - 2016

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2016 February 14 to 21



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Message From Vicar

LORD ALMIGHTY LEAD US

The harvest festival of our parish has come to an end successfully by the grace of God. The weather and circumstances were extremely good. Cooperation of the parishioners and well-wishers from neighborhood community were highly esteemed. Thank God for the colorful experiences. I take this opportunity to appreciate the officials, parishioners and other enthusiasts from outside for the prayer, hard work, and initiation rendered for its accomplishment.



Harvest festival is the continuation of the offering of the first fruit, began by the Jewish community (Deut.26:1-11, Levi.23.10). It insist to bring their first fruit to the temple in which they worshipped which in turn offered themselves to the almighty God. They admit that they did not have anything to possess or hold on, but only a faith that "my father was a wandering Aramian" (Deut.26:5). They were nomadic people, which means they did not own a land or property. Now they have everything; land, cultivation, wealth and health. Through the offering of the first fruit they proclaim that everything they possess is given by God hence God is the owner and they are just stewards for the property they hold. It must be our attitude to the wealth that we possess now. It includes not only the material things but our children, relationship, family etc.

February is the month of our great convention Maramon which is held at the river bed of pampa. Let us pray for all the speakers, bishops, missionaries and clergy men associated with it. Pray for everyone who attend the meetings.

We are now on the footstep of great Lent i.e. 50 days lent which will begin on February 7th and ends on Easter i.e. March 27th. These 50 days are especially devoted for observing fast. We observe 50 days i.e. 40 days fasting of Jesus Christ in the wilderness and the last days of HIS turmoil. The community of believers must travel along the path of suffering through the joy of resurrection. During the period of the Great Lent we meditate on the public ministry, passion, crucifixion and resurrection, identify ourselves with them and live in the same experiences. This helps in the transformation and renewal of individuals and societies.

We observe great lent by restricting our food, our life and restricting everything that we are proud of. We state that all extravagant belongings are nothing for leading a better life. But only limited things are required for a productive and successful life. After all, any other things which we think are meaningless and worthless. I invite all my beloved parishioners to observe lent more keenly and prayerfully. Spent at least 10 more minutes quietly with God every day. Find time for fasting, avoid non-vegetarian foods which provides more calories and restrict our activities and focus towards God. 50 days are like 50 steps. Make an effort to step up one each day so that you can reach the feet of God more closer. Therefore make an effort prayerfully to move towards the feet of the almighty God. This will enable us to get out from all our unwanted materials which cling to our life.

May God almighty bless you and your family abundantly.

Rev. John Philip P.

Vicar

HOLY QURBANA LECTIONARY & AREA ACOLYTES

| Date | Day-Time | Acolytes | Holy Qurbana | First Lesson | Second Lesson | Epistle / Gospel |
|------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| | | From | Theme | | | |
| 04 02 2016 | Thu 7:30pm | DXA | Beginning of Great Lent- Time | Isa. 58:1-14 | Rom. 2:1-10 | 2 Cor. 5:16-21 St. John 2:1-11 |
| 05 02 2016 | Fri 7:30am | DXG | | | | |
| 07 02 2016 | Sun 8:00pm | Parish Mission | Medical Mission Sunday | | | |
| 11 02 2016 | Thu 7:30pm | IM | Christ's Presence with the outcast | Esther. 4:1-17 | Acts. 15:8-21 | Rom. 15:7-13 St.Mark. 1:40-45 |
| 12 02 2016 | Fri 7:30am | KHS | | | | |
| 18 02 2016 | Thu 7:30pm | MC | Release from the Burden of Sin | 2 Sam. 12:1-14 | Acts. 8:9-17 | Gal. 3:10-14 St.Mark. 2:1-12 |
| 19 02 2016 | Fri 7:30am | MM | | | | |
| 19 02 2016 | Fri 7:30pm | Senior Citizen's Forum | | | | |
| 25 02 2016 | Thu 7:30pm | NS | Faith Expression of the Marginalised | Isa. 45:1-8 | Acts. 10:24-33 | 1 Cor. 1:20-25 St.Mat. 15:21-28 |
| 26 02 2016 | Fri 8:00am (English Service) | Sunday School | | | | |
| 03 03 2016 | Thu 7:30pm | RCH | Transforming the Oppressive Structures | Acts. 16:25-34 | Nahum. 1:1-15 | Acts. 4:32-37 St.Luke.13:10-17 |
| 04 03 2016 | Fri 7:30am | RSQ | | | | |
| 06 03 2016 | Sun 8:00pm | Parish Mission | | | | |

LENT SEASON (VALIYA NOMBU) 2016

Valiya Nombu (50-days) starts on 7th February. Daily evening Worship will be at the Church from 8 pm followed by the Area Prayer Group Meeting.

DIOCESE

Request all members to support and participate the Diocese Collection, which is in progress under the leadership of Rev. Joji Jacob.

HOLY MATRIMONY WISHES

Miss. REMI MATHEW (D/o. Mrs. & Mr. George C. Mathew, ID # G-65, UAQ) with Mr. Manu Mathew Jacob (S/o Mrs. & Mr. Mathew Jacob) on 1st February at Chandanappally St. George Orthodox Valiyapally.

WEB SITE

www.marthomaparishsharjah.com

If you have any suggestions or comments please contact:

Webmaster Mr. Aji Thomas ID A-95 Tel. 050-6283036 or webmaster@marthomaparishsharjah.com

Letter from Parish Secretary



Dearly beloved in Jesus Christ,

Greetings to all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is my privilege and pleasure to address you all again. The Harvest Festival for this year was successfully celebrated on January 15th, by the Grace of God. The Deputy Consul General of India in Dubai Mr. K. Muraliedharan, inaugurated the Harvest Festival. His Grace Dr. Yuhanon Mar Chrysostomos Metropolitan (Malankara Orthodox Church - Niranam Diocese) and vicars from various Churches, visited and blessed the occasion. It was a great success by the collaborative effort of all parishioners. Let me thank and congratulate the one and all for the prayerful presence and cooperation in our Harvest Festival.

Also, the Christmas- New Year house visits concluded last month. The Vicars' guidance, the dedicated and sincere efforts of the Parish Officials, Prayer Group officials and Kaisthana Samithi Members deserves special appreciation for the House Visits.

The Parish Kaisthana Samithi has decided to conduct our Edavaka Sanghom Meeting on 26th February 2016 for the election of office bearers for the year 2016-17. All prayer groups and parish organizations are requested to select their representatives for the Edavaka Kaisthana Samithi, and report to the parish secretary on or before 10pm, February 25th.

With Prayers and regards,

BENSON P.V
Parish Secretary
050-4396632

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2015-16



HEARTY WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-------|--|---|----|-----|-------|---|--|
| 1 | SUC | B-295 | Mr. BINOJ SAMUEL St. Thomas, Kurathikad binojsamuel@gmail.com 050-9986103 |  | 6 | IM | M-272 | Mr. MATHEW VARIATHU ABRAHAM Christos M.T.C, Ranny matt_abraham@hotmail.com 052-6480307 |  |
| 2 | ACC | B-296 | Mr. BOBBY JACOB M.T.C, Parakod bobjacob@yahoo.com 055-9251301 |  | 7 | RCH | P-143 | Mr. PHILIP V. MATHEW Elanthoor Mar Thoma Valiyapally lizzy.saramma@yahoo.com 050-7874058 |  |
| 3 | AJC | J-530 | Mr. JINO RAJ Salem M.T.C, Ayur jinosajraj@yahoo.com 056-2161924 |  | 8 | AJC | S-599 | Mr. SHINE ABRAHAM Immanuel M.T.C shineshanky@gmail.com 056-68349356 |  |
| 4 | SCS | J-531 | Mr. JOE ABRAHAM ST.Mary M.T.C, Rubber Board, Kottayam joekavungal@gmail.com 050-2147743 |  | 9 | NS | S-600 | Mr. SHIJU THOMAS MATHEW St. Andrews M.T.C, Pariyaram shijumathew@gmail.com 050-9652992 |  |
| 5 | SUC | J-532 | Mr. JOBY GEORGE St.Paul's M.T.C, Calicut jobygeorge143@yahoo.com 050-1002057 |  | 10 | AJC | S-601 | Mr. SONY P. JOHN Jerusalem MTC, Kannamcode sony.john87@yahoo.com 050-4631169 |  |

KIDS AND TEENS MEET

| Area | Date | Time | Area | Date | Time |
|------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| ABC | 16/02 Tue | 7.30 pm | DXA & DXG | 20/02 Sat | 4.00 pm |
| ACC | 17/02 Wed | 7.30 pm | IM | 23/02 Tue | 7.00 pm |
| AJC | 26/02 Fri | 5.00 pm | KHS | 24/02 Wed | 7.00 pm |
| BMW | 21/02 Sun | 6.00 pm | MM | 28/02 Sun | 7.30 pm |
| CA | 22/02 Mon | 6.30 pm | NS | 29/02 Mon | 7.30pm |

CONTACT DETAILS OF BUS SERVICE FOR FRIDAY HOLY COMMUNION AT 7.30 AM

Coordinator - Mr. Solly Chacko, (S-248) 050-3456995

Route 1 - Ajman-Church - Mr. Koshykunju. V (K-84) 056-9252890

Route 2 - Sonapur-National Paint - Binladen R/A - J&P - Geco - CS - Maza - Al Nadha - Al Khan - Church Mr. Benny Varghese (B-210) 050-1783986

Route 3 - Dubai Satwa Bus Station (6.10 am), Deira Hyatt, Fish R/A(6.30 am), Hor-Al Anz - Al Shaab (6.45 am) Ghusais (7.00 am), Al Nahda NMC Road, Safeer Mall (7.15 am), Al Wahda Road, Church - Mr. Thomas Samuel (T-144) 055-9704700

Route 4 - Sajja Camp, UAE Exchange, Police station Contact Mr.Biju George (B-255), 055-4321887

PICNIC

ABC on 5th Feb from 12 noon at Mamzar Park

AJC on 19th Feb from 12 noon

MEMBERSHIP DATA UPDATION

Parish members who are changing residence, Area Prayer Groups, Post Box or Telephone details may please submit the forms available at Church counter or through WebSite to update our records. Contact Parish Secretary, BENSON P.V (050-4396632), for further information.

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

| Area | Date | Time | Venue | Hosted by | Church ID | Tel. No. |
|------|----------|---------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| ABC | 09.02.16 | 8.30 PM | Church | Mr. Bibin K Baby | B-253 | 055-9506846 |
| | | | | Mr. Rajan Kunjachan | R-116 | 052-9293265 |
| | | | | Mr. Vinod Varghese | V-168 | 055-3280667 |
| ACC | 16.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Church | Mr. Koshykunju V. Jesudas | K-040 | 050-5763164 |
| | | | | Mr. Johnson Koshy | J-322 | 050-4628195 |
| AGM | 26.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Church | Mr. Leejo P. Varughese | L-32 | 055-8912304 |
| | | | | Mr. Shibu Mathews | S-332 | 055-6337105 |
| AJC | 01.02.16 | 8.30 PM | Church | Mr. P C Varghese | V-026 | 050-6288730 |
| ALK | 22.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Church | Mr. Niren K. Abraham | N-021 | 050-7690802 |
| BMW | 08.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Parish | Mrs. Shiny Mathew | A-175 | 050-5237233 |
| CA | 08.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Church | Mr. Chacko Varghese | C-090 | 055-2690418 |
| | | | | Mr. Jose Samuel | J-179 | 050-2656716 |
| DXA | 12.02.16 | 7.00 PM | | Contact Area Secretary | | |
| DXG | 05.02.16 | 7.00 PM | Residence | Mr. Cherian John | C-051 | 050-4592203 |
| IM | 15.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Church | Mr. Dawson Geevarghese | D-036 | 050-9246927 |
| | | | | Mr. Ginu M Baby | G-162 | 055-7937161 |
| | | | | Mr. Reni Ipe Abraham | R-037 | 050-5245880 |
| KHS | 23.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Church | Contact Area Secretary | | |
| MC | 02.02.16 | 8.30 PM | Church | Mr. Sam Cheriyan Mathew | S-038 | 050-6326285 |
| MM | 09.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Church | Mr Babu George. P | B-009 | 050-4094274 |
| NS | 02.02.16 | 8.30 PM | Church | Contact Area Secretary | | |
| RCH | 01.02.16 | 8.30 PM | Church | Mr. Koshy E.C. | K-018 | 055-6889930 |
| RSQ | 23.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Navathi | Mr. Shibu Rajan | S-576 | 050-6724781 |
| SAN | 26.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Church | Mr. Binu A. George | B-174 | 050-7273191 |
| | | | | Mr. Raji Johnson | R-126 | 050-5530943 |
| SCS | 15.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Parish | Mr. Saijumon Thankachen | S-203 | 050-8643249 |
| | | | | Mr. Thampy John Mathew | T-116 | 050-5273608 |
| | | | | Mr. Thomas Mathew | T-081 | 050-5492126 |
| SUC | 15.02.16 | 8.00 PM | Navathi | Mr. Benny K. Jain | B-176 | 050-4517820 |
| | | | | Mr. Shinto Varghese | S-554 | 052-9878177 |

UAQ - 7:00pm on all Fridays except 3rd Friday - Contact Area Secretary Mr. K.B. Mathew B-212, 055-9419157

Area Prayer Group Meeting Dates for March 2016

1st- MC,NS; 4th-DXG; 7th- AJC,RCH; 8th- ABC,MM; 11th- DXA; 14th- BMW,CA;15th- ACC; 21st- IM,SCS,SUC; 22nd- KHS,RSQ; 28th- ALK; 29th- AGM, SAN.

PARISH ORGANISATION EVENTS

PARISH MISSION

Every Sunday at 8:30 pm at Church, except 1st Sunday

Cottage Prayer on 14th February at the residence of Mr. Regi Joseph (R-19; 050-3619730)
Night Prayer will be held as a Praise and Worship meeting on 25th February (Thursday)
immediately after the Church Service. Participate prayerfully and be Blessed.

For more details, Contact Secretary: Mr. George Thomas (G-52) 050-6561876,
Vice President: Mr. Cherian Thomas (C-7) 050-6263398

SEVIKA SANGAM

Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm at Parish Hall

Fasting prayer on 21st February (3rd Sunday) , from 10:00 am onwards at Church.

For more details, Contact Secretary: Mrs. Laly Mathew (M-40) 050-7874129.
Vice President: Mrs. Annamma Cherian (C-11) 050-6317288

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM, YOUTH FELLOWSHIP & YOUNG COUPLES FELLOWSHIP

- Normal Meeting:
- Regular Sakhyam meetings on every Saturdays at 8:30 pm.
 - Youth Fellowship on every Saturdays at 6:30 pm at Church.
 - Young Couples meeting on every 3rd Monday at 8:30 pm.
 - Combined meetings of YS-YF-YCF on every 4th Saturday at 8:00 pm.

Cooking Competition on 5th February

For more details on Sakhyam Activities please contact:

- * Yuvajana Sakhyam Secretary: Mr. George John (G-110) 050-6260119
- * Youth Fellowship Co-ordinator: Ms. Reshma Sarah Johns (R-221) 056-3589005
- * Young Couples Fellowship Co-ordinator: Mr. Ajith Joe Mathews (A-281) 055-7167574
- * Yuvajana Sakhyam Vice President: Mr. Mathew Philip (M-60) 050-6748136

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school classes will begin at 10:30 AM every Friday.

Please contact Sunday school office for new admissions. Admission forms can also be downloaded from our parish website.

For more details, Contact - sharjahmtss@gmail.com

Head Master: Mr. John Varghese (J-20) 050-6314059, **Secretary:** Mr. Biju K.Thankachan (B-205) 050-6305660, **Asst. Head Master:** Mr. John Thomas (J-93) 050 - 4991168

SENIOR CITIZENS' FORUM

(A Fellowship of our Senior Members)

Meeting on 20th February (3rd Saturday) at 8:00pm at Parish Hall

For More Details Contact **Secretary:- Mr. M.A. Mathew (M-12) 050-4972008,**
Vice President :- Mr.P.S.Jose (J-60) 050-6347334

CHOIR

Practise on every Wednesday 8.30 pm at Church

**" Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
Sing to him a new song; play skilfully and shout for joy."**

For details, Contact: Secretary: Mr. Blesson Abraham (B-116) 050-7445357
Vice President: Mr. Thomas Varghese (T-41) 050-5768258.

FASTING PRAYER

Every Friday at 12:15 pm at Navathy Hall

" Participate, pray and get the Healing Touch from our Almighty God."

Contact Lay Leaders: Mr. Liju John Thomas (L-12) 050-7576332 Mr. Mathews John (M-162)055-5971262

All Church Prayer Groups and Organisations are requested to elect their Respective Kaisthana Samithi Members for the year 2016-17 and submit the details in writing to the Secretary on or before 25th February 10 pm.

JOB CELL:

**If there are any job vacancy, please inform Job Cell Convenor:
Mr. Nithin Geo Thomas - 055-9122462 - email: smtysjobcell@gmail.com**

PARISH LIBRARY

Parish Library functions every Friday from 10.30 AM to 12.30 PM in the Parish Hall Complex, first floor. Contact Librarians Mr. Gubbu Itty John (ID: G-132 , Mob 050-9421920) or Mr. Gigi George (ID: G-137, Mob 050-6579216) for membership and for further details.

CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF

- ❖ Ponnamma Jacob, 63 years, mother in law of Mr. Vinod (V-169, SUC) passed away on 25th December. Funeral Services held at Odanavattom MTC.
- ❖ N.D. Daniel, 73 years, father of Mr. Dennison Daniel (D-16, SAN) passed away on 30th Decemeber. Funeral services held at Pennukkara St. Thomas MTC.
- ❖ K.K. Kochukunju, 77 years, father in law of Mr. Santhosh Thomas (S-346, SUC) passed away on 31st December. Funeral Services held at Kaihakkode MTC.
- ❖ M. M. Varghese, 83 years, Father of Mr. James Varghese (J-272, AGM) passed away on 6th January. Funeral Services held at Trinity MTC, Kochukoikal, Nilackal.
- ❖ Thomas Jacob, 64 years, Father in Law of Mr. Rohit Thomas (R-173, KHS) passed on 6th January. Funeral Services held at Keekozhoor MTC.
- ❖ T.T. Jacob, 76 years, Father of Mr. Linu Jacob (L-31,AJC) passed away on 9th January. Funeral Services held at Salem MTC, Njakkanal.
- ❖ Saramma George, 88 yrs, Grand Mother of Mr. Jerrin Iype (J-356,DXA) & Mrs.Jency Geju (G-70,DXG) passed away on 14th January. Funeral Services held at Thumpamon Orthodox Church.
- ❖ Aleyamma George, 84 yrs, Grand Mother of Mr. Tony Thomas (T-224, ABC) Area Secretary) passed away on 31st January. Funeral Services held at Edayaranmula Laha St. Thomas MTC.

The Sharjah Mar Thoma Parish expresses heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members on the demise of their beloved ones. May God's care strengthen and comfort them.

For more informations Please contact:

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|-------------|--|------------------|---|
| Vicar | Rev. John Philip P. 06-5674876 / 050-8627593 pjpachen@hotmail.com | Parish Secretary | Mr. Benson P.V. 050-4396632 / 06-5389457 bensonpv@gmail.com |
| Asst. Vicar | Rev. Philip George 06-5668982 / 050-9854710 philipgeorgeachen@gmail.com | Trustee Finance | Mr. Jose Daniel Mob. 050-7971978 josedan@eim.ae |
| Chaplain | Rev. Roby Jacob Mathew 06-5454858 / 050-2214400 Fax 06-5546016 revrobym@gmail.com | Trustee Accounts | Mr. Reji Joseph V. 050-4974213 vjreji@gmail.com |

Church Care Takers: Mr. A. G. Samuel (Joy) 055-2731678, Mr. Mathew John (Biju) 052-5274609