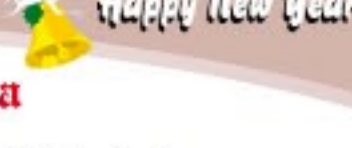




The Mar Thoma Parish Sharjah

*Wish You All
A Blessed, Peaceful
and Prosperous
New Year*



Message from the Diocesan Episcopa

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Extremely happy to address you through the News Bulletin. This is the advent season, a season in which we remember the generosity, care and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Like the shepherd of old let us go to Bethlehem and see the things that have happened. Yes the birth of Jesus Christ is the greatest happening in this world.

Dorothy Sayers has said that God underwent three great humiliations in his efforts to rescue the human race. The first was the incarnation when he took on the confines of a physical body. The second was the cross when he suffered the ignominy of public execution. The third humiliation is the church. In an awesome act of self-denial God entrusted his reputation to ordinary people.

Virtually everyone is searching for something or the other all the time! Karl Valentine was a philosopher comedian. He once enacted a meaningful scene. The curtain rose to reveal an empty and dark stage. There was however a small circle of light on one side of the stage thanks to the street light, which stood just outside the stage. A person then appeared on the stage and started walking around the small circle of light, anxiously searching for something. After he went around the light a number of times, a police

man entered the stage and asked him what he was searching for. He replied, "I have lost my house key" The policeman joined the search and he too began circling the light. After a while, the policeman asked you sure that you lost your key here? The other man replied, "No" pointing to the dark corner opposite, he said, "I lost it there". Why then are you looking for it here? Asked the perplexed policeman. "Because" replied the other, "there is no light at the spot where I lost the key". There are many insights that we can gather from this story:

- (1) Important things are often lost, but the search for them is not undertaken where it ought to be.
- (2) The light, or the attention of the world, is not falling on the zone where the important things are lost.
- (3) Instead of the search for the lost "keys of life" we are circling round the site lit up by the glitter and glamour of the world.

As we are at the end of 2006 and at the threshold of a new year, pertinent question to be asked is what is it that makes a person happy? In order for you to become happy what are the things that you need in life? As far as the prodigal son was concerned, the world of prosperity, power and pleasure failed him. He was lost! One remarkable thing happened in the prodigal's life when he had his crash landing. "He came to his senses". This



is a powerful statement that Jesus made about the prodigal son. Truth dawned on him. He recognized that what he had pursued in life was "non-sense". His life journey, which he once held to be normal and worthy of appreciation, had in fact, not been life at all, but death. The prodigal returned as a failed and lost man. The father opened up a new dimension of life in offering his resource to a poor man, in bestowing acceptance and honor on him. Life is presented here as consisting in offering one's resources for somebody who does not have them. Then only we experience a celebration of life. Communion in this sense is not the celebration of club members of equal status and power but the affirmation of the lives of the hungry, the ashamed and the lost members of society.

May the Christmas season help all of us to listen to the plea in this parable to celebrate life by recognizing the nonsense of our life and by returning to our relationships. May the babe of Bethlehem help us to know that it is at the point of our personal relationships that the living God impinges on us?

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous, meaningful NEW YEAR!

**Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius Episcopa
Ranni - Nilackal Diocese**

From The Secretary's Desk



It is our great privilege and blessing that we had our Diocesan Episcopa amongst us during the advent season. His presence brought enlightenment, encouragement and extensive enthusiasm amidst us and in all our Church activities. His Lordship was very happy and content with the Sharjah Mar Thoma Church and its activities.

I thank all the members for welcoming our Episcopa and extending their whole heartedness, willful and generous assistance, co-operation.

I also extend our hearty thanks to Mr. Geevarghese Yohan, Ex-Convenor of the Construction Committee.

I wish you all a very Happy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year - 2007

With Warm Regards

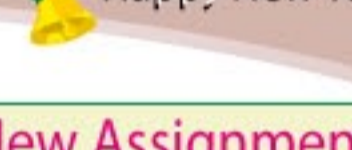
Jobson Thomas

Holy Communion

Every Thursday at 7.30pm Every Friday at 7.30am

Third Friday at 6.00pm & 1st Sunday at 8.00pm

English Service on Fourth Friday at 7.30am



Red Carpet to New Members....

Sl.	Name	ID	Home Parish	Area	Contact No.
1.	Mr. Baby Thomas	B-140	Mar Thoma Church, Punthala	AJM	06-7442341
2.	Mr. Thomas V. Varghese	T-183	Salem MTC, Chungathara	KHS	06-5647322
3.	Mr. Jose C. Varghese	J-283	Mar Thoma Church, Vandiperiyar	BMN	050-4995312
4.	Mr. Abraham Mathew	A-192	Bethel MTC, Mundakayam	AJM	06-7467907
5.	Mr. Easo Thomas	E-013	St. Pauls MTC, Poovathur	UAQ	050-8932180
6.	Mr. Koshi George	K-061	St. Thomas MTC, Pennukkara	SCS	050-5487638
7.	Mr. Santhu George	B-141	Kannimkode MTC, Vellakulangara	SCS	06-5344271
8.	Mr. Banthosh T. Thomas	S-262	St. Johns MTC, Kumplamthanam	DXB	050-4215683
9.	Mrs. Susan A. Koshi	S-261	Mar Thoma Church, Punthala	DXB	050-5962163
10.	Mr. Gibu C. George	G-105	St. Pauls MTC, Perumpavaor	KHS	06-5645806
11.	Mr. Benny Abraham	B-142	Mar Thoma Church, Kalyan West	RSQ	06-5682756
12.	Mr. Thomas V.T.	T-184	Mar Thoma Church, Thuruthikadu	RCH	050-3623140
13.	Mr. Jacob Thomas	J-284	Emmanuel MTC, Eraviperor	MM	06-5620843
14.	Mr. Shibu Mathaikutty	S-263	Salem MTC, Chennithala South	UAQ	050-5378296
15.	Mr. Jacob Mathew	J-285	Emmanuel MTC, Pandanadu	NS	06-5634847
16.	Mr. Sojan C. Ebrahim	S-264	Umayattukara MTC, Kallissari	IM	06-5739104
17.	Mr. George Samuel	G-106	Bethel MTC, Mundakayam	SCS	06-5434824

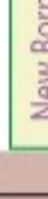
Warm Welcome!!! Please keep in touch with The Vicars and Prayer Group Officials

New Assignment



Welcome to
Mr. Alex Abraham (A-006)
Convenor
G+1 Hall Construction
Sub Committee

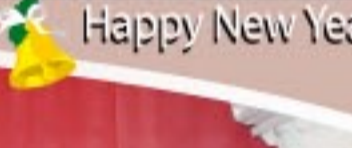
Your
DONATIONS
Please donate generously for the
G+1 Hall Construction
at the earliest



New Births
A baby Boy ABEL is born to Sunitha & Anil Alex Thomas (A-172) of KHS on December 09th
A baby Boy JOHAN is born to Reena & C.J. Mathew (C-061) of AJM on October 11th.



Hearty Congratulations to the Proud Parents!!!



1st Communicants with Diocesan Episcopa



Maramon Convention 2007

11th to 18th February 2007
Please uphold our leaders in your prayers



Date	Acolytes From	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle
04th Jan, Thu	BMN	Isaiah 56:01-08	Acts 17:16-31	Ephesians 04:25-32
05th Jan, Fri	CA			
07th Jan, Sun	DXB	Proverbs 23:19-34	Ephesians 05:01-21	Galatians 05:16-24
11th Jan, Thu	IM			
12th Jan, Fri	KHS	Isaiah 60:01-07	II Peter 01:01-11	Ephesians 04:01-07
18th Jan, Thu	MC			
19th Jan, Fri	MM	Genesis 01:26-31	Colossians 01:09-20	Romans 08:18-21
19th Jan, 6 pm	NS			
25th Jan, Thu	RCH	II Kings 05: 01-14	Acts 03:01-10	James 05:13-19
26th Jan, Fri	RSQ			
01st Feb, Thu	SCS			
02nd Feb, Fri	UAQ			
04th Feb, Sun	ABS			

ORGANIZATION - EVENTS

- SUNDAY SCHOOL**
Fridays EXCEPT 19th, 10.15 am At Church
- SEVIKA SANGHOM**
Wednesdays, 08.30 pm at Parish Hall
Fasting prayer on 03rd Sunday 09.30 am at Church
- PARISH MISSION**
Sundays 08.30 pm at Church
- YUVAJANA SAKHYAM**
Saturdays 08.30 pm at Church
- CHOIR PRACTICE**
Wednesdays, 08.30 pm to 10.30 pm
- FASTING PRAYER**
Fridays 12.00 Noon at Church

Baptism
Melvin Kunjumon
S/o. Kunjumon Babu (K-035)
Born on 13/10/06, Baptized on 03/12/06
Natasha Liz Manoj
D/o. Manoj T. Varghese (M-075)
Born on 19/09/06, Baptized on 08/12/06

Baptism
Nevin Thomas Sam
S/o. Sam Varghese (S-150)
Born on 24/12/05, Baptized on 24/12/06
Madhulika Ipe
D/o. Sumen Baby Ipe (G-061)
Born on 03/10/06, Baptized on 26/12/06

WEDDING
DEEPA, D/o. A. John, (A-150)
& DONEY, S/o. M.C. Varghese, Mathurkhal, Thiruvalla
Married on 28th Dec. 2006
Wishes for a Happy Married Life



Condolences

Mrs. Rahelamma Varghese 94 yrs. Grand Mother of Mr. Jay Mathew (Kaistana Samithi Member - (J-027)), Mr. Roy Chacko (R-093), Mr. Bijoy V. Chaco (B-126) of NA.
Rev. N C Varghese, 75 yrs. Father in law of Mr. Abraham Koshi (A-089) of KHS.
Mr. Thomas Chandy, 74 yrs, Father of Mr. Reji Thomas (R-009) of SCS.
Mr. P.A. Cherian 72 yrs. Father of Mr. Mathew Cherian (M-140) of AJM.
Mr. Daniel V. Abraham, 63 yrs, Father in law of Mr. Anil Alex Thomas (A-172) of KHS.
Mr. Scariah, 52 yrs, Wife Sister's Husband Mr. George Varghese (G-015) of KHS.

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

Area Prayer Meetings

Area	Date	Time	Venue	Hosted by	ID No	Tel. No
AJM	02/01/07	8:30 PM	Church	Mr. George Thomas	G-025	050-5861685
MC	02/01/07	8:30 PM	Church	Mr. John Mathew	J-149	050-6530426
DXB	05/01/07	8:30 PM	Residence	Mr. Jose Jacob (Dennis)	J-175	050-4918170
RCH	08/01/07	8:30 PM	Church	Mr. Koshi Thomas	K-007	050-3631457
CA	08/01/07	8:30 PM	Church			
MM	09/01/07	8:30 PM	Residence	Mr. Biji Alex Mathew	B-064	050-7592053
IM	15/01/07	8:30 PM	Church			
SCS	15/01/07	8:30 PM	Church	Mr. Sam Chacko	S-016	050-7267624
ABS	16/01/07	8:00 PM	Church	Mr. Binu Abraham Mr. Binu Mathew Mr. Binu Jacob Mr. Biji George	B-062 B-122 B-050 B-130	050-5778695 050-3539507 050-6267065 050-7615526
BMN	16/01/07	8:30 PM	Church	Mr. John Philip	J-204	050-8064591
NA	22/01/07	8:30 PM	Residence	Mr. Jacob Thomas	J-075	050-6316243
KHS	23/01/07	8:30 PM	Church	Mr. Shaji V. Ummen	S-059	050-5377293
RSQ	23/01/07	8:30 PM	Church			
UAQ	7.00 PM on all Fridays except 3rd Friday - Contact Area Secretary					

ABS Area Prayer Group
X-Mas Carol & Annual Get-together
Friday 5th January 2007 at Parish Hall
Guest : Mr. K.A. Mathews, President, Indian Association, Sharjah

Congratulations
Sharjah Yuvajanasakym has been selected as the best sakha and won the 1st prize for the quiz competition held at the 13th Gulf Mar Thoma Youth Conference held in Muscat

FRIDAY JANUARY 19th

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Spend a day at the Church during the most exciting time of the year and catch a glimpse at the 2006-07 Harvest

Variety Entertainment Programme, Delicious Kerala Dishes 10 am onwards
Auction, Mini Raffle, Instant Games, Medical Camp etc.



THE MAR THOMA PARISH, SHARJAH

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