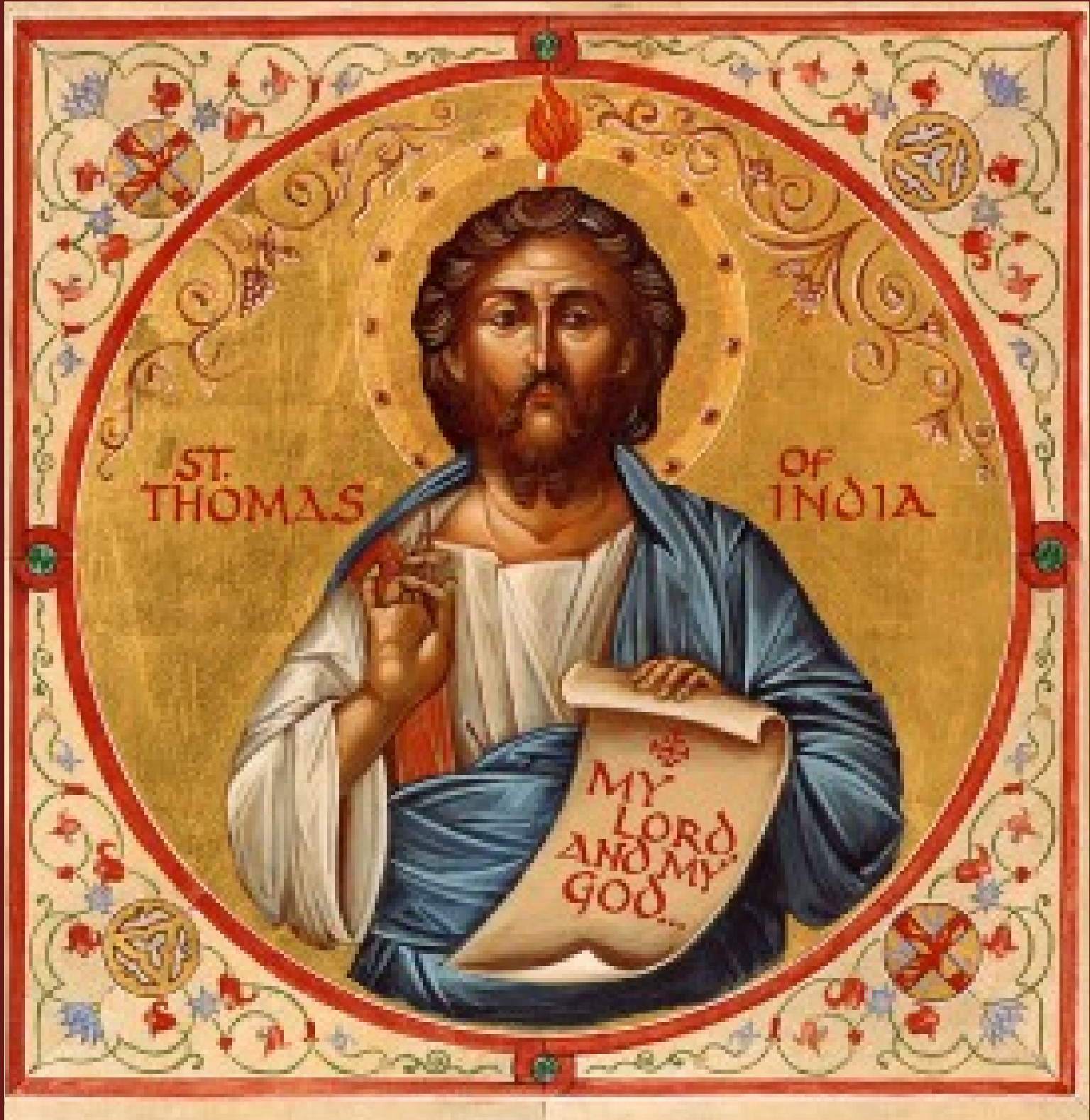




Melbourne Orthodox Cathedral Bulletin

JULY 2024



St. Thomas - The Apostle

ST. MARY'S INDIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.

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VICAR'S DESK

Rev. Fr. Aji K Varughese

Dearly beloved in Jesus Christ,

As we are entering a new financial year, let us praise the Lord for having been with us so far. It is a normal practice to validate the financial transactions at the end of the year. But can we also try to evaluate our spiritual transactions at this juncture. It will help us to learn from our mistakes to grow spiritually, which is highly essential for leading virtuous and peaceful lives.

We should try to keep our personal and social lives pure. When the Lord asks Cain, "Where is your brother?", it is intended to us as well. It may be easier for an individual to achieve success in life. But, leading a society to prosperity require much greater effort. When we hear that the early church worshipped as a single soul and mind, we should not be astonished by it. We have to think about the possibility of experiencing it now.

We need to listen to the cries of Lazarus. We may be financially secure, but may still feel the scarcity of love. Life becomes meaningful only when we have people to love. The assurance that we are loved by people allows us to move forward through hardships. But in many houses, each room turns into a different world now. To know and respect each other a master (God) should be there in each household. Every morning and evening, we should find time to talk to him as a family. That will brighten our families, the church, and society. Satisfying oneself should not be the sole priority of life. We should learn to cherish people. The feeling that no one is there for me, disheartens many a soul. Let us try to modify our lives by establishing constant companionship with God and fellow beings. I wish that each passing day will strengthen us to lead virtuous lives.

May God bless you all.

Yours loving
AJI ACHEN





LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SEASON OF PENTECOST

July 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Dukhrono of St. Thomas	4	5 Feast of 72 Evangelists 215th Commeration of Marthoma VII (Kolencherry Church)	6
7 7th Sunday after Pentecost Mission Sunday 27th Mem of H.G. Zachariah Mar Dionysius Metropolitan	8	9	10 251st Mem of H.G. Youhanon Mar Gregorios Metropolitan	11 115th Mem of H. G. Pulikkotil Joseph Mar Dionysius Metropolitan, Founder of Kottayam M.D. Seminary	12 3rd Mem of H.H. Baselios Marthoma Paulose II Catholicos	13
14 8th Sunday after Pentecost	15 Feast of Kuriakose the martyr and his mother Marth Yulithy & St. Abhai of Nicea.	16	17	18	19	20 Feast of Prophet Mar Elijah
21 9th Sunday after Pentecost	22 Feast of St, Mary Magdalene	23 25th Mem of H.G. Geevarghese Mar Dioscoros Metropolitan.	24	25 Feast of Mar Epiphianos of Cyprus.	26	27 Feast of St. Simon the Stylite.
28 10th Sunday after Pentecost	29	30	31 738th Feast of Mar Gregorios Bar Hebraeus.			

Sunday School mid-year examination 2024:

The mid-year examinations for the Sunday School were held on June 16th.

Talent Day:

Parents are encouraged to register their child's entries for the talent day before July 14th. Please give names for group songs to the talent day coordinator.

Talent Day Coordinators: Mrs. Bindu George, Mrs. Sona Mary John and Mrs. Shiny Jiju

Dates to Remember:

Sunday School Re-Opens	Talent Day	OVBS 2024
14-Jul	27-Jul	03 to 06 - Oct

MARTHA MARIYAM VANITHA SAMAJAM

MMVS monthly meeting was held on 9th June under the leadership of our Vicar Rev Fr. Aji.K. Varughese. Mrs.Siby Nirmal shared a message on the day based on the birth of Moses, how his parents placed their trust in God to save his son from Pharaoh's command. Siby correlated the story to our own life. Just as a danger loomed in the time of Moses's parents, our world is filled with threats and challenges and we must trust in God's protection and guidance. Siby pointed out the need to raise children with strong faith and by doing this we fulfill our responsibility as temporary custodians and ensure God's protection over our children. Let us remain faithful, knowing God works miraculously to safeguard His people.



Throughout May, the youth have continued their fortnightly Midweek Meditations. The session begins with vespers and compline in English, following a session led by a fellow youth member on a theme or portion from the bible.

On Wednesday 05 June 2024, Rhea Jiju and Sheryl Shaji facilitated a session on the theme of 'Pride'.



On Wednesday 19 June 2024, Rachel Alex facilitated a session on the theme 'A REAL relationship with God'

The session on 19 June 2024 marked the 30th in-person Midweek Meditation, representing a consistent commitment by Team Youth towards its tenants of Worship and Study. Team Youth celebrated this momentous occasion with a cake-cutting following the evening's session.



Charity Fundraiser Sausage Sizzle:

Team Youth conducted a Charity Fundraiser Sausage Sizzle on Sunday 9 June 2024 to support the H.G. Zachariah Mar Dionysius Memorial Charity Building Project. They raised a good amount which was donated to the cause.



Monthly Youth Meeting - Election of new committee:

On Sunday 17 June 2024, the MGOCSM & OCYM met for its monthly parish assembly meeting, which is generally held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. A new committee was elected for the year financial year 2024-25, led by President, Rev. Fr. Aji K. Varughese:

Vice-President: Mr Aiju Alex

Secretary: Ms Akita Reji

Joint Secretary: Mr. Alvin Jacob

Treasurer: Ms Anusha Panickar

General Representatives:

* Mr Aaron Zacharia Mathew

* Mr Anthony Joy

* Ms Laura Lalu

* Ms Sheryl Shaji

STEFM Youth Representatives:

* Mr Joshua Anil

* Ms Reeba Iywan

MGOCSM & OCYM East Asia Regional Representative: Ms Rachel Alex

Ex-officio: Mr Reuben Iywan

Thank you to the 2023-24 MGOCSM & OCYM Committee for their work and dedication over the last year.

Incoming Elected Committee



Outgoing Committee



OCYM and MGOCSM group



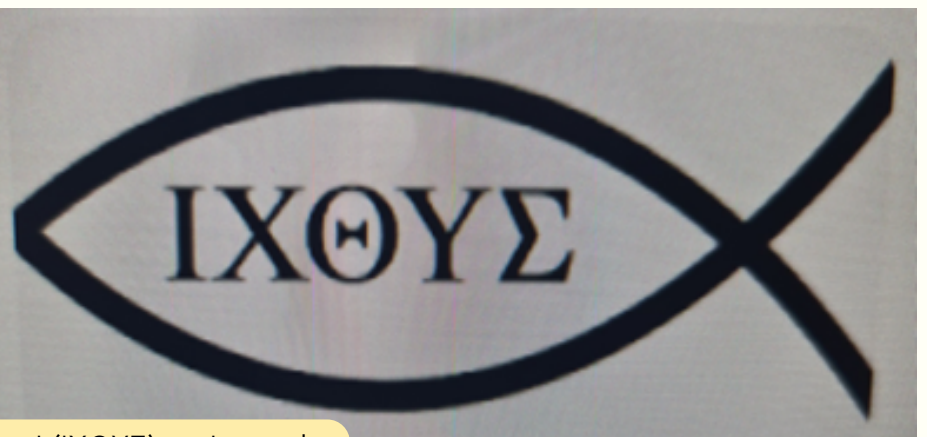
JOURNEY THROUGH ST.PAUL'S FOOTSTEPS (A SERIES)

Part 7 - FINAL

The early Christians faced a lot of hardship and persecution for nearly 3 centuries after our Lord had resurrected. They could not trust their neighbours or strangers. We should feel so entitled having the freedom to discuss and debate. They then had devised a sign symbol which was a fish because the acronym for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" { Iseous Christos, Theou Yios, Soter, the Greek word for fish.} in Greek is ICHTHYS which means fish. Hence in order to confirm that they were interacting with like-minded Christ follower they would draw the symbol in the sand with a stick and reciprocated if it is not an enemy.



Dr. Bonny Varghese



Icthus in Greek(IXOYE) in the circle

The circle in the picture above, incorporates all the Greek alphabets of the acronym, I(lota), Chi, Theta, Epsilon and Sigma. Such was the difficult days of early Christianity however there are Christians even today suffering a lot because of their beliefs. We should feel blessed and Thank God for the freedom that we enjoy!

JOURNEY...



Cave houses and connecting passage Goreme, Cappadocia

Goreme was a Byzantine Monastic settlement. There are several churches in this settlement on the higher grounds, having frescoes on their walls and roofs depicting scenes and stories from the New Testament. Many churches had 3 altars front face indicating the Triune God belief they held. There are long tables and seating arrangements made in the adjoining room carved out of the rock for dining, perhaps the rectory.

One such church is called the Dark Church (because it has no windows) which has an entry fee and is hence the best preserved. St. Paul would certainly have visited Cappadocia during his land travels through the then Asia Minor on his 1st and 2nd journeys (Acts 16:6,7) but was not allowed to travel east by the Spirit of Jesus and told to travel to Troy.

We then had a scenic ride through the mountains and reached Ankara, visited the Mausoleum of Ataturk locally called Anitkabir, the final resting place of the founding father of Republic of Turkey and witnessed the impressive change of guards ceremony and the walkway into the distance and the impressive Ankara city view from the top of the hill. The President's residence called the Cankaya Mansion which we passed by is a huge complex of buildings and has 1,150 rooms!



Church murals and dinner seating in the Rectory

It costed American \$350million to construct and has an area of 2150,000sq.ft.

We then visited the Anatolya Museum which had artefacts from the Hitite civilisation and also some artefacts dating back to 12,000B.C. and such ornate jewellery and daily use items, that is when I wondered why things did not change much for people in this land said to be living continuously for 65,000 years! We travelled north through the picturesque Koroglu ranges and the Anatolian countryside passing through the town of Bolu and finally returning to Istanbul. The trip changed our opinion about Turkey when we realised how steeped in History and culture it is and can still be appreciated and enjoyed. Despite having a despot leader and a soaring inflation, it has a lot to offer in cuisine, artefacts, clothing etc. Knowing that it was once a hallowed ground frequented by so many stars of Christian history the respect and regard for the land increases but it pained to see that many historic and holy sites have been usurped by another religion and some desecrated and destroyed. Turkey is a manufacturing hub with all automobile companies having a plant there. The Benz trucks are manufactured there. It is the largest producer of wind turbines, 5th largest producer of Olive oil and tourism is only the 5th highest income stream for its economy. Turkey is blessed with a fertile land, strategic location and many

natural and man- made wonders both of the old and the new world. Felt sad leaving the land and the friends we made during the trip, but learned a lot which we will certainly treasure the experiences and thank God for providing us this opportunity of a life-time!.

Thinking back about St. Paul his travels also had travails and thanks to the Roman roads he was able to travel quickly along the land route. The sea route is unpredictable and seasonal depending on the wind directions and tides. With no navigation system the boats would travel keeping along the coast line with the landmarks only for guidance. He would have travelled with coat around him and a bag slung around his shoulders containing parchments of his writings and epistles to fervently spread the Good News to fight over the evil one, similar to David in his challenge of Goliath (1Samuel 17:40) because it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves, for the battle is the Lord's and He will take care (1Samuel 17:47),

PRAYER MEETINGS

- 07 July (St. Thomas) - Mr. Thomas Kurian, Viewbank
- 14 July (St. Kuriakose) - Mr. Boshly Chemmanam, Wollert.
- 21 July (St. Gregorios) - Mr. George Panicker, Fraiser Rise
- 28 July (St. Dionysios) - Mr. Gogin, Digger's Rest

SMIOC OFFICE BEARERS - 2024-2025

The Parish general body has elected the below New Office Bearers for the Financial Year 2024-2025:

Trustee: Mr. Kochumon Varghese	Secretary: Mr. Philip M John
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Managing Committee members:		
Mr. Alex Kallupurackal	Mr. Binil Joy	Mrs. Rajani lywan
Mr. Anil Joy	Mr. Joel Jacob	Mr Reji Cherian
Mr. Anil Tharakan	Mr. Lalu Abraham	Mr. Rejimon Jacob
Mr. Bejoy George	Mr. Praveen Samuel	Mr. Subin Kochummen

Auditor: Mr. M. C. Jacob	Prayer Groups - General Secretary: Mr. Reji Cherian
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Charity Committee:		
Mr. Anil Joy	Mr. Bejoy George	Mrs. Jisha Lalu

Public Relations Officers:		
Mrs. Abhaya Ansel	Mrs. Leena Binil	Mrs. Molly Abraham

Media Director: Mr. Subin Kochummen	VCC Representative: Mr. E. S. John
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STEFM Representatives:	Sports Co-ordinator:
Mr. Lalu Abraham	Mr. Subin Kochummen
Mrs. Renny Anil	

GEELONG - St. Gedorge Indian Orthodox Congregation, Geelong.

Rev. Fr. Aji K Varughese celebrated the sacrament of Holy Qurbana at the Wesley Uniting Church, Geelong on 07 June 2024.

BALLARAT - St. Dionysius Indian Orthodox Congregation, Ballarat.

Rev. Fr. Aji K Varughese celebrated the sacrament of Holy Qurbana at the St. Alipius Church, Ballarat on 21 June 2024.

UPCOMING

ST. GEORGE INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION, GEELONG
HOLY EUCHARIST

Wesley Uniting Church,
100 Yarra St, Geelong - 3220
Victoria, Australia

Contact:
Rev. Fr. Aji K Varughese
Mob: +61 466 460 552

Friday 19 July 2024 from 5:30PM

Location:


Address:
Wesley Uniting Church,
100 Yarra St, Geelong - 3220

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MGOCSM & OCYM: @SMIOCYouth
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BULLETIN EDITORIAL BOARD

Vicar: Rev. Fr. Aji K Varughese
Chief Editor: Mr. Philip M John
Media Director: Mr. Subin Kochummen
Parish Trustee: Mr. Kochumon Varghese
Parish Secretary: Mr. Philip M John
Spiritual organization representatives: Mr. Jacob Ninan, Mr. Reuben Iywan, Mr. Thomas Kurian, Mrs. Annamol Ashly, Mr. Anil Joy, Mr. Alex Kallupurackal
Members: Mr. Aiju Alex, Mr. Ajay Oommen, Mr. Naveen Abraham, Mr. Reuben Iywan, Mr. Lalu Abraham, Mr. Roney Abraham, Mr. Thomas Panicker, Mr. Rejo Thomas.



St, Thomas the Apostle



Prophet Elijah