



AHMADI MAR THOMA PARISH, KUWAIT
Established 1984



The Parish Voice

June 2020

(A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF AHMADI MAR THOMA PARISH)

“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind come from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and come to rest on each of them.” (Act 2: 2, 3).



90th Birthday - 27th June

**5th June
World
Environment
Day**

**WARM BIRTHDAY WISHES
AND
PRAYERS
TO HIS GRACE THE MOST
REV. DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN
FROM AHMADI MAR THOMA PARISH**



His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph
Mar Thoma Metropolitan

Date of Birth	: June 27, 1931
Deacon	: October 18, 1957
Kasseessa	: June 29, 1957
Ramban	: January 11, 1975
Episcopa	: February 8, 1975
Suffragan Metropolitan	: March 15, 1999
Metropolitan	: October 2, 2007



Vicar's Message

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the Mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of truth." (John 14:16). These weeks, as church, we are meditating up on Pentecost and post Pentecost events. John chapters 14-17 are the farewell discourse of Jesus Christ. Here we see Jesus is assuring his disciples that the future is possible even though he will be leaving them. At the same time Jesus offers them a reason for rejoicing, the advent of Holy Spirit (Paraclete). The Holy Spirit's ministry is to make Jesus and his work present and available for the community in his absence. The role of Holy Spirit as the advocate of the believing community clearly shows the protective role of the Spirit. Here Holy Spirit is shown as the guide and revealer of God's way to the believing community. As the guide and leader, he will take the Church to continue its witness even in the midst of troubles and hopelessness. The task of the Church today is to invoke the Holy Spirit to come and renew the whole creation in order to re-live in the glory of Jesus in this world. May the Holy Spirit be with us and strengthen us in the mission of Church and in our day to day life.

Our beloved Metropolitan The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Thirumeni is celebrating his Navathy/90th Birthday on the 27th of June. As Parish, let us thank God for his able leadership and also let us pray for his good health. By the Circular of the Metropolitan (C/No. 367) and by the directive of our Diocesan Episcopa new "Kaisthana Samithy-20-21" of AMTC has come into responsibility from the 1st of June. As we all know that the General Body for the year "19-20" is not over due to the current circumstances and the restrictions for gathering. Let us pray to the Almighty that the situations may become normal and we may resume our Church activities. I sincerely thank all the previous office bearers, KS members for their leadership and contributions. I welcome all the new KS members and request you all for your prayerful support in the midst of the Pandemic.

Due to the suspension of church's regular activities many of our members could not remit their annual subscription and other dues for the previous year which has seriously affected the financial stability of our Parish. To cope up with the current situation, with the permission of our Diocesan Episcopa, we had to drop the project for our new prayer hall and also had to cancel the contract with the two existing prayer halls. The contribution list for each prayer group has been given to the concerned prayer group secretary. If anybody would like to pay their dues kindly contact your prayer group secretary. Also kindly inform Achen, Office Bearers, or your PG secretary if any of our Parish members are in any kind of needs.

May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit be with all of us, strengthen us and keep us safe from this pandemic.

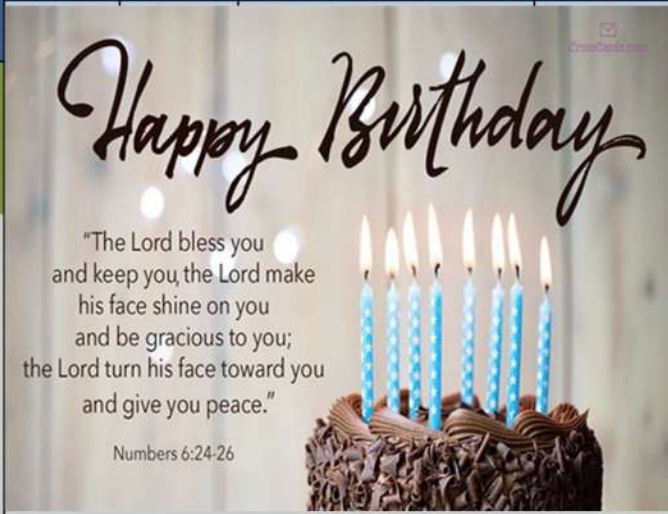
With prayerful regards,

Sam Thomas Achen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad (Psalms 118:24)

BETHANIA	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	GETHSEMANE	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	01-JUN	539	MOHAN GEORGE	99119873		01-JUN	715	SANIYA SARA GEORGE	66347350
	03-JUN	594	MELBIN THOMAS BIJU	99540410		03-JUN	305	HANNAH MIRIAM JACOB	99778352
	16-JUN	567	JERIN JOHN	99491257		09-JUN	794	BENITO TOM TIJO	65155441
	17-JUN	594	MERIN ELSA BIJU	99540410		10-JUN	535	LAYEA MARIA SHIJU	65505180
	17-JUN	888	ABHIYA ALEXANDER	69301207		11-JUN	291	REENA SUNIL MATHEWS	99455068
	18-JUN	738	JOBY ABRAHAM	97230224		14-JUN	535	LIDIYA ANN SHIJU	65505180
	25-JUN	891	ROSHAN JOHN PATHAKKATTIL	60687229		16-JUN	305	SUNIL JACOB	99778352
	25-JUN	891	ETHAN ROSHAN PATHAKKATTIL	60687229		17-JUN	330	REENA SUSAN GEORGE (Dr.)	66259635
BETHEL	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	HEBRON	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	01-JUN	344	BEENA EBY	97241050		09-JUN	954	PRINCY DANIEL	69336165
	05-JUN	807	JOHAN BIJU	98055815		11-JUN	548	REEBA MARY RAISUN	97318935
	09-JUN	972	ANN MARIA ANISH	97393519		18-JUN	963	IBY MARY MATHEW	65804949
	10-JUN	758	JOSE GEORGE	66540979		23-JUN	743	ADONA ROSE PRMOD	65052016
	15-JUN	846	ROBIN KOSHY	65197810		27-JUN	560	CHRISTY MARIAM BIJU	99824316
	16-JUN	507	ANU THOMAS CHACKO	55234425		29-JUN	649	SERA ANN SAJI	97982952
	19-JUN	414	PRISCILLA SOSA PRADEEP	90903347	IMMANUEL	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	20-JUN	578	MERIN ELSA VINS	97292560		05-JUN	374	NAICY MATHEW	99315922
	29-JUN	847	LIBIN MATHEW VARGHESE	94086532		05-JUN	970	ALVIYA AJI	51121675
	29-JUN	942	LEENA BIJOY	66804762		07-JUN	517	JINU GEORGE	67697337
	30-JUN	571	ELIZABETH THOMAS	99843369		10-JUN	525	JOEL ZACHARIAH	66057491
BETHLEHEM	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile		18-JUN	232	TIJU GEORGE	60634049
	02-JUN	852	BINITHA ALEYAMMA JOVAR	98027059		23-JUN	633	PREETHY SUSAN LUKE	97893757
	04-JUN	585	REJO THOMAS KADUKKARA	55414246		24-JUN	753	SHALOM PONSON CHACKO	51429555
	07-JUN	728	ASWIN T. VARGHESE	99876698		29-JUN	517	HANNAH SUSAN GEORGE	66098182
	10-JUN	842	LEAH MARY SAJAN	98008958	JERUSALEM	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	14-JUN	842	LINUS ABRAHAM SAJAN	98008958		04-JUN	992	SAJIN VARUGHESE	50482480
	29-JUN	852	LUKE ABRAHAM SUNIL	98027059		06-JUN	647	GEOJI KURIEN VARGHESE	99926732
BETHSAIDA	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile		08-JUN	358	ASIN ELSA ABRAHAM	94467355
	01-JUN	467	RENNY SUSAN MATHEW	99274505		13-JUN	362	SHONE C SHAJI	66329302
	03-JUN	529	LIBI ANNIE KURIAN	55632674		26-JUN	841	BINITHA ELSA VARGHESE	55948959
	10-JUN	890	GINCY ANNIE OOMMEN	97240091		30-JUN	258	MANOJ THOMAS ABRAHAM	98930394
	10-JUN	995	ANGELIN PAZHOLIKKAL GLADSON	96940326		01-JUN	602	BLESSY BIBEESH JOHN	97108489
CARMEL	25-JUN	890	AYAN SIBU	97240091		15-JUN	856	SANDRA BIJU	67640053
	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	EBENEZER	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	01-JUN	833	DR. KIREN JOMOSH	65878216		08-JUN	442	OONNOONNY DANIEL	66823466
	02-JUN	833	CHARLOTTE JOMOSH	65878216	CARMEL	 <p>Happy Birthday</p> <p>"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26</p>			
	03-JUN	968	LEENA ABIN	60766231					
	05-JUN	520	PHIJIN PHILIP MATHEW	66402805					
	06-JUN	940	VIVEK VARGHESE THOMAS	66954366					
	07-JUN	931	AJIN KUNCHANDY JOHN	50648564					
	11-JUN	494	ANGELA JOHN	65821523					
	12-JUN	614	THOMAS JOJO	60748272					
	13-JUN	843	TIJO ABRAHAM	69035636					
	14-JUN	980	PRIYA T. MATHEW	50975515					
	15-JUN	987	EMILIN THOMAS	94456391					
	16-JUN	703	ALICE PHILIP	60624741					
	16-JUN	837	JINCY THOMAS	66241716					
	17-JUN	337	LEO VARGHESE WILSON	67618861					
	17-JUN	540	BELVIN ITTY THOMAS	99601875					
	20-JUN	741	PRAVEEN MATHEW MAMMEN	60042534					
	24-JUN	513	ARSHIA BABU NINAN	51513541					
	30-JUN	982	KEVIN SHINU	51018641					
	06-JUN	844	JUJI PHILIP VARGHESE	69928725					
	28-JUN	697	EDEN CHRIS GEORGY	55082749					

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (Romans 15:13)

BETHANIA	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	CARMEL	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	08-JUN	94	MATHEW JOHN	98009459		10-JUN	381	PHILIPS ITTY (Dr.)	66709603
	14-JUN	567	JOHN P VARGHESE	99491257		20-JUN	536	PHILIPOSE GEORGE (Dr.)	97327880
	14-JUN	567	VIJI PHILIP	99491257		20-JUN	536	REBA PHILIPOSE (Dr)	97327880
	19-JUN	233	VARUGHESE THOMAS	66322786	GETHESEMANE	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	24-JUN	756	JACOB CHAKKITTAYIL CHACKO	67048161		08-JUN	796	SHYAM VARGHESE	50669681
	24-JUN	756	SHEEBA THOMAS	60335029		08-JUN	796	SAMEERA SHYAM	55547175
BETHEL	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile		19-JUN	403	GINU YOHANNAN	66453160
	05-JUN	983	TOBIN THANKACHAN	92201806		19-JUN	913	JOBIN MATHEW MATHEW	60714119
	05-JUN	983	LEJO TOBIN	55361422		19-JUN	913	RINCY JOHN	60714119
	24-JUN	578	VINS VARGHESE	97292560	HEBRON	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	24-JUN	578	BINDU VARGHESE MATHAI	97292560		16-JUN	963	JOBBY BLESSON ABRAHAM	94087979
	16-JUN	809	RIJU MATHEW	99052815		16-JUN	963	IBY MARY MATHEW	65804949
BETHLEHEM	16-JUN	809	MARIAMMA GEEVARGHESE	99753911		23-JUN	643	MATHEWS M GEORGE	67679361
	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	IMMANUEL	23-JUN	643	VINCY VARGHESE	99706146
	08-JUN	428	JAISON TOM JACOB	66997168		D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	14-JUN	608	MATHEW P. GEORGE	60798767		25-JUN	727	SHAJI N ABRAHAM	66464258
BETHSAIDA	14-JUN	608	BLESSY ELSA MATHEW	60798767	JERUSALEM	25-JUN	727	LINI SHAJI	66464258
	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile		D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	07-JUN	409	ANIL K. MATHEW	97329928		14-JUN	774	GIJO JACOB SAMUEL	94013010
	16-JUN	799	RIJIN P. THOMAS	67033264		14-JUN	774	LIJA BABY	97171651
	16-JUN	799	ANCY RIJIN	67033264					

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

(Love: 1 John 4:18)

Happy Wedding Anniversary



Ownership or Stewardship? : Environment Day Reflections

"The earth is of Lord's and everything in it; the world, and all who live in it." (Psalms. 24:1)

June 5th is celebrated as World Environment Day. God has created and given us this wonderful planet. It is our duty and responsibility to preserve the bio-diversity, protect the nature, preserve the fresh air and water and resist all kinds of exploitation towards the nature. One positive impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is that the earth has become more pollution free. Report released by NASA and the European Space Agency have shown a notable drop in levels of **nitrogen dioxide** and **carbon dioxide** emissions in the atmosphere up to 25 to 50 percentage in several countries due to the economic downturn and the reduction in motor traffic.

The theme selected by the Ecological Commission of Mar Thoma Church this year for studies and reflection is "*Panchabhoothangal Jeevante Pratheekangal*" (Panch Bhutas- the symbols of Life). Few years back the theme was "Plastic free earth: a divine vision towards the sustainability of creation." The earth is created for the co-existence of the whole creation. Hence we should not defile our earth in which are called to live. The well being of millions of living species on this beautiful earth is our God given responsibility.

Every year we throw away enough plastic to circle the earth four times. Much of these waste ends up in our oceans, which is responsible for killing about 1 million sea birds and 1 Lakh marine mammals every year. For the good of our planet, it is high time to rethink how we use plastics. A study shows that 40% of plastic is used for packing or 50% of plastic we used in single use or disposable. We buy around 1 million plastic bottles every minute. Every year we use 17 million barrels of oil to produce plastic bottles for our water. Every year more than 480 billion drinking bottles were sold worldwide and more than 13 million tons of plastic leaks in to our oceans. Plastic can survive in the environment for up to 500 years. Plastic free earth is possible only through plastic free homes, plastic free society and plastic free parishes.

In the book of Genesis, we see "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good (Gen. 1:31). The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Gen. 2:15). Environmental conservation must be seen as a part of belief in God. If we are able to see the presence of God in nature, it will change our attitude to nature completely. Our attitude to nature will be respectful. It will not be exploitative. We should understand that we are called to be stewards of the creation and not to be owners.



HOLY QURBANA

In the last issue of Parish Voice we have discussed about one of the Dominical Sacraments - Baptism. And in continuation of the Study of Sacraments, in this issue, we will be discussing the second Dominical sacrament which is Holy Communion.

Bible Readings

1) Jesus blessed the bread - Matthew 26.26, 2) Jesus is the bread of life - John 6.5, 3) Jesus is the host - Luke 24.30,31, 4) Prepare, practice - 1 Cor 11.23-33, 5) Baptism to be one with Christ - 1 Cr. 14:16; 2 Cor. 4:15, 6) New Covenant - Mark 14:24, 7) Eternal life through Communion - John 6.54, 8) Last Supper and Feet Washing - John 13:1-15

The Holy Qurbana is a sacrament instituted by Lord Jesus Christ. It has been the central act of worship of the Christians. It was instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper he had with his disciples. A communicant member is the one who participates regularly in the Holy Qurbana. All active members of the church are communicant members. In the Mar Thoma Church there was no attempt to define the meaning of the Holy Qurbana in a doctrinal way. In the Eastern Churches it is conceived as a mystery. It is conceived as the means of appropriating the grace of God. The word Aramaic word **Qurbana** means offering or that which is brought near to the presence of the Lord.

The different names for Holy Qurbana are

1) Holy Eucharist, 2) Holy Communion, 3) Table of the Lord, 4) Lords Supper, 5) Mass

The Holy Communion is the participation and celebration of the body of Christ. As the people of God have been led through the desert by manna, it is the food for the Kingdom living. It is both food and medicine. The participation in the communion heals and redeems us. It is the queen of the sacraments. It is in faith and in the grace of God it becomes redeeming and medicinal not by any magic.

The institution of the Lords Supper was at the Last Supper which is connected with Passover meal of the Jews. Passover is celebrated annually to commemorate the great deliverance of the people of Israel from oppression in Egypt by the mighty hand of Yahweh and of the covenant by which they were made the chosen people and were given the Law to obey so that they may be a light to all peoples. At every Passover they remember all these and renew their commitment to God who liberated them and made them his special people and to obey Gods will expressed in the Law. It becomes a renewal of their faith and obedience (old covenant). According to the Synoptic tradition, on the day of the Passover meal Jesus enacted and interpreted what was going to happen on the next day on the cross. According to the Johanine tradition Christ died on the cross at the time when the Passover Lamb was slaughtered in the Jerusalem Temple. And thus Christ became the Passover lamb. We follow the Johanine tradition. Through the Holy Qurbana the Lord invites us to participate with him in the experience of his death and resurrection.

In the Holy Qurbana the believer appropriates the blessing wrought through the atoning death of Jesus Christ. In every celebration of the Eucharist the bread and the wine, the broken body and the shed blood of Christ at Calvary, is represented before the faithful. In thankfulness for the great liberation from the slavery of sin or self, made possible by the supreme manifestation of the love of God on the cross of Christ and his whole life, the faithful offer themselves anew, as the people of God of the new Covenant in Christ. The people of God who partake of the body and blood of Christ are strengthened to share in his mission of reconciling the world unto himself by proclaiming the Gospel of love to all men and serving all in need. In Communion they receive him and in the strength of the Spirit they go out into the world rejoicing in the sure hope of ultimate triumph of love over all evil, at the coming in glory - the consummation of the Kingdom - when all tears will be wiped out from every eye and all the saints, living and dead, will share and rejoice in the presence of God.

There are various theories on the Holy Quarbana in the Christian traditions. A few are as follows:
1)Transubstantiation 2) Consubstantiation 3) Receptionalism 4) Real Presence 5) Memorial 6) Musterion (Mystery)

St. James Liturgy

There are different liturgies for Holy Qurbana in use. St. James Liturgy is widely used in the Mar Thoma Church. The Service falls into the following parts:

A) Thooyaba (The Order of Preparation)

B) Ante-Communion / Pre Anaphora

- 1) Ekba 2) Trisagion 3) Reading of the Epistle 4) Reading of the Gospel 5) Promeon, Sedra
- 6) Nicene Creed 7) Preaching of the Word (Followed by Confession and Absolution)

C) Communion Proper – Anaphora

- 1) Kiss of Peace 2) First Benediction 3) Words of Institution 4) Prayers of Epiclesis and Anamnesis
- 5) The Great Intercession (Tubden) 6) Second Benediction 7) Breaking the Bread
- 8) Third Benediction 9) Administering the elements 10) Final Blessing

Kiss of Peace. Love and fellowship are the hallmarks of the church. Kiss of Peace is exchanged between members of the faith community during the Qurbana as a demonstration of their unity, fellowship and mutual forgiveness as the extension of forgiveness from God.

Words of Institution. The words of Jesus give meaning to the act of celebration. "This is my body" "This is my blood of the New Covenant" "Do this in remembrance of me" These words stand for the total Christ event (birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension) and it becomes the experience of those who partake in the Holy Qurbana.

Anamnesis. Qurbana is celebrated in remembrance of Jesus on the earth - His life, agony, death and resurrection. Here remembrance means to make Christ's presence an actual reality to the believers.

Epiclesis. In the Eastern liturgy the words of institution are followed by epiclesis. It is an invocation of the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and the wine. There are teachings to connect epiclesis with the theory of transubstantiation by which they claim that at the time of prayer the bread and the wine in its substance transform into the real body and blood of Christ, but the accidents do not change.

Five Dimensions of Christian faith are implicit in the Eucharistic meal.

- 1) The meal points backward (Retrospective look) It is a memorial celebration pointing back both to the death of Jesus and to the life of Jesus in which he provided fellowship meals, both with his disciples and with the outsiders and marginalized persons (9:10-13, 11:19, 26:6-13) The meal has a gift dimension.
- 2) The meal points forward (Prospective look) The meal points forward to its fulfillment in the Kingdom of God. Primary meaning is eschatological, anticipating the joy of the Messianic banquet. The Eucharist is a futuristic celebration of the victory which is sure.
- 3) The meal points inward (Introspective look) The meal points inward as a call to self-examination on the part of the participants (1 Cor. 11:29-30) Betrayal is a possibility. There is cleansing and reconciliation.
- 4) The meal points upward (A Mounting look) The meal points upward to the heavenly realm where the risen and exalted Christ is enthroned. Symbols body and blood of Jesus now point beyond themselves to the transcendent realm.
- 5) The meal points outward (A Panoramic look) The meal points outward to the whole church and to the world. It is a testimony to others (1 Cor. 11:26). A new community is born. It reminds us of the words of Jesus to the disciples, "You give them to eat." All people who are baptized into the body of Christ have the right to participate in this meal in which Jesus Christ himself is the host.

(Source: TOWARDS THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY: AN OUTLINE OF THE MAR THOMA CATECHISM)

Glimpses from Online Prayer Meeting



Carmel



Jerusalem



Hebron



Immanuel



Bethlehem



Bethel & Bethsaida



Gethsamana & Ebenezer



Bethanya

Glimpses from Online Organization Meeting

Edavaka Mission



"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;" (Psalms 24:1)

World Environment Day

REV. SAM THOMS	THOMAS KOSHY	JOHN VARUGHESE	SHAJI C. THOMAS	OOMMEN M.E.	GINCE JACOB	BIJUMON MATHEW
Vicar	Vice President	Edavaka Secretary	Trustee Finance	Trustee Accounts	Lay Ministrant	Lay Ministrant
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