



AHMADI MAR THOMA PARISH, KUWAIT
Established 1984



The Parish Voice

May 2020

(A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF AHMADI MAR THOMA PARISH)

Luke 24: 50, 51

“When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.”



Warm Birthday wishes and Prayers from
Ahmadi Mar Thoma Parish
to Padmabhushan His Grace
The Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom
Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan
on his 103rd Birthday on April 27.



Vicar's Message



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO



Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Theethos Episcopa

Birthday - MAY 10TH

Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

"When the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said "Peace be with you"...The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Thomas said to Him "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:19-28).

Dear brothers and sisters, we have been traversing through a time of uncertainty and chaos with COVID-19 over a period of two months now. None of us, in our wildest dreams thought that we would ever have to observe Passion Week and Easter without partaking in the services. The very first Easter was similar to how we celebrated Easter this year. The disciples were in their own homes, scared, doubting what was to come. The corona virus has exposed that we are fragile and are nothing in front of the nature. All our assumptions about security and stability have been proven false. However, are we able to see the light or the presence of risen Christ in the midst of the darkness that our world is presently encompassed in?

The Church is not limited to a location or even to a building. Though the churches have been closed our houses have become the places of worship. The pandemic should not change our faith we need to proclaim. It is our privilege to proclaim our belief that Jesus is our "Lord and God". The risen Christ is with us today and to the end of the ages. Let us pray "O Lord give us the courage to face the life situations and help us to walk in communion with you every day. Because of His resurrection we can have peace, even during the most troubling of times because we know He is in control of all that happens in the world. Because He lives I can face tomorrow. Because I know He holds the future. And life is worth living just because He lives.

Let us praise God for the blessings we receive through the life of Padmabhushan The Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostem Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan, as he has celebrated his 103rd birthday on April 27th. On this occasion, we, the Ahmadi Mar Thoma Church express our warm wishes to our beloved Valiya Metropolitan Thirumeni and pray for his good health.

We have entered into a new financial year in the midst of a lot of challenges and crisis. On behalf of Ahmadi Church I welcome all the new office bearers to the ministry of the Church. Let us pray and support each other. May God strengthen our new Office bearers to take up the responsibilities.

May the risen Christ be with all of us, bless us and keep us safe from this pandemic.

With prayerful regards,

Sam Thomas Achen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

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	BETHLEHEM	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	03-MAY	945	RONY P. JOHN	60317181		21-MAY	583	ROSH JABU CHERIYAN	60356734
	05-MAY	561	SARAMMA SAMUEL	99804827		21-MAY	733	ANENNA SAJI	69950167
	06-MAY	100	LIZZY K. PHILIP	60327274		22-MAY	428	SOSAMMA JACOB	66997168
	06-MAY	551	VARUGHESE KURIAN	66987019		22-MAY	728	SUJA THAMPY	99876698
	06-MAY	551	JAAZIEL VARGHESE KURIAN	66987019		30-MAY	608	MATHEW P. GEORGE	60798767
	08-MAY	387	ABRAHAM SURESH JOHN	66906725		30-MAY	728	THAMPY VARGHESE	99876698
	11-MAY	891	JIBI ROSHAN PATHAKKATTIL	69644857		30-MAY	832	PRADEEP GEORGE THOMAS	60421609
	16-MAY	54	KUNJAMMA K	66614251		30-MAY	842	ANNAMMA SAJAN	66498977
	16-MAY	717	LANNIE BIJI	60438560		30-MAY	868	SAJI JOHN	69694716
	17-MAY	607	SUJITHA YOHANNAN	65682161		31-MAY	797	THOMAS P. ABRAHAM	60933572
	18-MAY	233	VARUGHESE THOMAS	66322786		D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	18-MAY	888	SUSAMMA ALEXANDER	60966133		01-MAY	569	JUJI MATHEW	66493656
	20-MAY	319	ANNAMMA K. GEORGE	66024570		01-MAY	569	IDEN MATHEW JUJI	66493656
	20-MAY	638	ANIYANKUNJU, K	66526115		03-MAY	944	DIYA PAUL	67674339
	20-MAY	756	JACOB CHAKKITTAYIL CHACKO	67048161		03-MAY	955	JOHN ABRAHAM	60918123
	20-MAY	924	LIJY P. VARUGHESE	94997869	04-MAY	704	TOM V MATHEW	60704935	
	23-MAY	100	PHILIP MATHEW K.	60327274	09-MAY	690	SANTHOSH PAPPACHAN	65734464	
	24-MAY	976	JOLLY JOSEPH	66533942	10-MAY	704	JAISY TOM	60704935	
	25-MAY	594	ELSY BIJU	99540410	14-MAY	881	ANISH BABY	51581925	
	26-MAY	273	MEBIN THOMAS	66249832	16-MAY	292	SANIYA MARIAM MANOJ	67049329	
	27-MAY	54	GEORGE MATHEW	66614251	18-MAY	467	GEORGE M. THOMAS	99274505	
	28-MAY	566	RAJU JOHN	65063214	18-MAY	890	SIBU THOMAS VARGHESE	97240091	
	28-MAY	717	BIJI SAM	66820326	22-MAY	907	MATHEW NAINAN	55748393	
	28-MAY	924	HANNA SAM	66091207	22-MAY	907	SOSAMMA BABY	97313643	
	29-MAY	875	SOUMYA P. SIMON	50723782	30-MAY	961	JOSEPH MATHAI	55781129	
	30-MAY	273	BENNY P. THOMAS	66249832	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	
	30-MAY	368	GINI K. GEORGE	65542246	01-MAY	495	VARGHESE PHILIP	55790111	
	30-MAY	875	EVANN BIJO SAMUEL	99329957	01-MAY	592	MATHAI K.VARGHESE	99428453	
	30-MAY	938	SHAJI JOHN	65940403	01-MAY	829	ANCY JOHN	51144347	
	31-MAY	516	JOJI THOMAS GEORGE	97680424	03-MAY	719	JENITA MARIAM JIJO	90984886	
	31-MAY	638	MADHURI ANIYANKUNJU	66526115	04-MAY	806	BINI BLESSON	66536543	
31-MAY	826	JOSEPH JOHN	66950591	07-MAY	755	REBECCA MARIAH SURESH	97592130		
31-MAY	976	JOSEPH VARGHESE	66533942	07-MAY	982	SHINUMATHEW	51018641		
BETHLEHEM	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	09-MAY	712	DAREN ABE VINISH	97829820	
	02-MAY	563	LATE. CYRIL JOE MATHEW	99187407	12-MAY	582	SALY GEORGE	99437319	
	08-MAY	983	TOBIN THANKACHAN	92201806	13-MAY	833	JOMOSH JOY	65878216	
	10-MAY	414	PRADEEP VARKEY THOMAS	51158504	13-MAY	1000	BINOY VARGHESE GEORGE	51047524	
	18-MAY	571	ANNIE THOMAS	99843369	14-MAY	495	NIMISHA VARGHESE	55790111	
	19-MAY	942	JOEL ABRAHAM BIJOY	66804762	15-MAY	396	RAJU PAPPACHEN	67784269	
	21-MAY	749	LINU VARGHESE	96946651	15-MAY	697	SANIYA VARGHESE	66110272	
	24-MAY	971	EMLYN BIJI	51377187	16-MAY	740	CHINJU SABIN	65860078	
	25-MAY	850	SNEHA P. SAMUEL	60991435	20-MAY	689	REJI THOMAS	66649638	
	26-MAY	867	SAMUEL SAMUEL	94086916	20-MAY	975	MAHUKUTTY ABRAHAM	55863860	
	27-MAY	625	ALINA SUSAN ALEX	66758931	20-MAY	986	SIBI GEORGE	67768708	
	27-MAY	625	ALISHA HELEN ALEX	66758931	22-MAY	540	SUSEN JOHN	99634180	
	27-MAY	867	ANI SAMUEL	69981127	22-MAY	1001	SMITHA AJITH	66641891	
	28-MAY	957	GLADSON K. J.	99316676	25-MAY	622	RAJI BALU	65124364	
30-MAY	749	BIJOY BABU	96946651	25-MAY	709	JACOB SAMUEL	65652115		
31-MAY	749	AFIYA MARY BIJOY	96946651	25-MAY	941	JOHN VARGHESE	95564868		
BETHLEHEM	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	26-MAY	366	SISAN BIJI	97751630	
	01-MAY	583	NIRMALA JABU	60356734	27-MAY	964	ASHA JOHN	55634233	
	01-MAY	816	NIYA JOSE	55028915	28-MAY	513	KUNJUMOLE KUNJU KUNJU	51513541	
	03-MAY	977	RUBY ANJU	55267949	28-MAY	893	MEEKHA MARY JACOB	66246967	
	07-MAY	612	THOMAS JOHN	97494961	30-MAY	582	GEORGE THOMAS	99437319	
	10-MAY	585	THOMAS GEORGE	55414246	30-MAY	592	ACHAMMA MATHAI	99428453	
	17-MAY	585	ANNAMMA PHILIP	55414246	31-MAY	496	ANILA JOHN	65195550	
	19-MAY	773	ANISH K. VARGHESE	65807086	31-MAY	513	BABU NINAN	51513541	
	21-MAY	428	JAISON TOM JACOB	66997168	31-MAY	760	GINCE JACOB J.	65652731	
					31-MAY	820	SERAH ANNA JOHN	67084719	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

EBENEZER	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	IMMANUEL	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	01-MAY	764	BIJU THOMAS	51248800		02-MAY	617	RIYA TINNY PLAVILA	66487436
	01-MAY	778	RINU ALEXANDER	51599079		13-MAY	925	JINNU ANN MAMMEN	99953880
	10-MAY	772	SUSAMMA THOMAS	50774469		14-MAY	672	JOSSY ACHAMMA GEORGE	65092270
	14-MAY	778	MARIAMMA ALEXANDER	51599079		15-MAY	633	STEVE JOHN	99849270
	15-MAY	772	THOMAS C. T.	50774469		19-MAY	672	JOLENE MERIN JOBY	97360903
	15-MAY	997	SIMON LUKOSE	66051852		21-MAY	374	DIYA SARA REJI	99315922
	19-MAY	603	JENEY MATHEW	98968558		22-MAY	664	MEGHA BIJU	99235649
	23-MAY	859	ANN MARIYA	67062569		25-MAY	455	SOFIA SAMUEL	95595046
	24-MAY	858	TINTU BABU	50868148		25-MAY	525	GEORGE ZACHARIAH	66057491
	25-MAY	55	JOSEPH JOHN	66826325		25-MAY	525	BEENA ZACHARIAH	66057491
	25-MAY	707	JAMES JOHN	66418523		30-MAY	727	LINI SHAJI	66464258
	25-MAY	764	TENSY BIJU	51248800		31-MAY	716	SOSAMMA MATHAI	97889057
	30-MAY	401	VARGHESE MATHEW	99684018		31-MAY	727	SHAJI N ABRAHAM	66464258
	30-MAY	707	LISSEY JAMES	66418523		31-MAY	970	AJI RAJU GEORGE	51121675
	31-MAY	800	BINDHU JOHN	60797012		31-MAY	970	LINCY AJI	55569826
GETHESEMANE	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile	JERUSALEM	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	02-MAY	277	HEMALATHA V. DR.	66582760		03-MAY	959	MARY KURUVILLA	97278451
	07-MAY	415	PRAKASH VARKEY MATHEW	51128444		07-MAY	276	SEIRA ANNA THOMAS	66011518
	11-MAY	794	ANITHA MARY CHERIAN	65959449		10-MAY	776	FEBA ELSA LIJU	55986831
	14-MAY	75	ELIZABETH JACOB	66054439		11-MAY	951	ABI THOMAS	66152639
	15-MAY	685	JERRY V ALEX	98805592		15-MAY	341	BENITHA MARY SAM	66528479
	20-MAY	208	JOHNSON T. GEORGE	50815011		17-MAY	362	DHANYA SHAJI	66329302
	20-MAY	609	VARGHESE THOMAS	50295775		18-MAY	918	SANJU THOMAS	97850072
	21-MAY	573	MINI ANNA PHILIP	97975819		19-MAY	276	ELIZABETH T G	66011518
	24-MAY	330	GEORGE GEORGE	66259635		21-MAY	549	SINDHU THOMAS	69997302
	30-MAY	291	NITHIN SUNIL MATHEWS	99455068		21-MAY	739	ABHISHEK JACOB	55113423
	31-MAY	403	GINU YOHANNAN	66453160		21-MAY	745	LINU ANNIE JACOB	55372655
HEBRON	D/B	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile		22-MAY	553	THOMAS SAMUEL	99208450
	01-MAY	560	ASHA BIJU THOMAS	99705915		22-MAY	553	KIRAN SAM THOMAS	99208450
	01-MAY	956	JEEVAN JOY MATHEWS	51768382		23-MAY	458	VARGHESE ABRAHAM	66653234
	01-MAY	981	ADHEN VARUGHESE LIBIN	96981254		25-MAY	549	ROY KORUTHU	69997302
	02-MAY	326	JOSE PAZHAYIDATHU THOMAS	65076750		28-MAY	952	KRIPA SUSAN TIJI	65016186
	02-MAY	465	ABEL THOMAS BINU	97205670		31-MAY	840	ALEXANDER T R.	96022309
	04-MAY	548	RIYAN GRACE RAISUN	97318935		31-MAY	962	VARGHESE SKARIAH	66257414
	11-MAY	734	ANSU ABRAHAM	65618774					
	14-MAY	673	NIMISHA SHAJI	60778121					
	15-MAY	424	PRENI ABRAHAM	97508296					
	16-MAY	953	ASHNA SIBI	69921926					
	18-MAY	548	VIMAL RENCY MATHEWS	69008186					
	19-MAY	937	JONATHAN LIJO	97659332					
	21-MAY	253	JICKY SCARIA	66586614					
	23-MAY	937	SHINY GEORGE	50918129					
	25-MAY	469	THOMAS MATHEW	97739148					
	26-MAY	380	ANNIE JAI	66473224					
	27-MAY	253	BIJU MATHEW	66586614					
	27-MAY	340	BINU V. MATHEW	67671820					
	27-MAY	922	ROBI GEE CHACKO	96982053					
	28-MAY	465	RUBEL THOMAS BINU	97205670					
	28-MAY	963	JOBBY BLESSON ABRAHAM	94087979					
	29-MAY	673	MINIDAVID	51010634					
	29-MAY	682	BOBY JOHN	66761511					
	30-MAY	231	OOMMEN THOMAS	66037827					
	30-MAY	974	SHEEBA K. JOHN	66002637					
	31-MAY	742	BINU MANALIL JOHNSON	55159297					
	04-MAY	812	CHRISTY CHERIAN TONY	50428437					
	20-MAY	649	BINSUMOL	69682898					
	31-MAY	649	SAJI THOMAS	97982952					

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

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)

	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
BETHANIA	09-MAY	100	PHILIP MATHEW K.	60327274
	12-MAY	891	JIBI ROSHAN PATHAKKATTIL	69644857
	12-MAY	891	ROSHAN JOHN PATHAKKATTIL	60687229
	17-MAY	387	ABRAHAM SURESH JOHN KAVALA	66906725
	22-MAY	738	PHILIP ABRAHAM	97230224
	22-MAY	738	RACHEL ABRAHAM	97230224
BETHLEHEM	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	08-MAY	728	SUJA THAMPY	99876698
	08-MAY	728	THAMPY VARGHESE	99876698
	14-MAY	797	THOMAS P. ABRAHAM	60933572
	14-MAY	797	LIZA VARGHESE	60933572
	29-MAY	428	THOMAS JACOB. E	66997168
BETHSAIDA	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	18-MAY	944	RENJI PAUL	67674339
	18-MAY	944	PAUL VARGHESE	67674339
	30-MAY	881	ANISH BABY	51581925
	30-MAY	881	SINU RAICHEL THOMAS	51762519
CARMEL	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	02-MAY	582	SALY GEORGE	99437319
	02-MAY	582	GEORGE THOMAS	99437319
	09-MAY	624	PREEMA ANNIE JERRY	99371372
	09-MAY	624	JERRY JACOB ABRAHAM	99843191
	11-MAY	495	VARGHESE PHILIP	55790111
	15-MAY	893	SIGY ABRAHAM	66246967
	15-MAY	893	JACOB SAMUEL	66246967
	22-MAY	719	JIJO THANKACHAN	90984886
	22-MAY	719	MARIAM JERIN VARGHESE	90984886
	23-MAY	880	SOJAN THOMAS JOHN	50534484
	23-MAY	880	NIDHI ANNA ABRAHAM	50534484
	26-MAY	830	SAM DENNY JOHN	97830840
	26-MAY	830	LIJI MATHEW	97830840
GETHESEMANE	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	19-MAY	715	GEORGE ABRAHAM	66347350
	19-MAY	715	BINY GEORGE	66347350
	22-MAY	505	JOSEPH JOSEPH	99789583
	27-MAY	573	GEO SUNIL THOMAS	97975819
HEBRON	27-MAY	573	MINI ANNA PHILIP	97975819
	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	16-MAY	873	DILIP PAZHAVOOR SAM	97511023
	16-MAY	873	ELIZABETH DILIP SAM	97511023
	16-MAY	954	SUMON JOSEPH	67681927
	16-MAY	954	PRINCY DANIEL	69336165
	22-MAY	360	SHIBY NAINAN MATHEW	51122419
	29-MAY	649	BINSUMOL	69682898
IMMANUEL	29-MAY	649	SAJI THOMAS	97982952
	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	03-MAY	545	DIMPLE BINNY	65102348
	03-MAY	545	BINNY MATHEWS	65102348
	13-MAY	617	SARAMMA TNYI PLAVILA	66487436
	13-MAY	617	TINY JOHN PLAVILA	66487436
JERUSALEM	D/M	Mem. No.	Name of Member	Mobile
	02-MAY	407	ABRAHAM GEEVARGHESE K.	55216995
	02-MAY	984	MELWIN ABRAHAM	60619361
	02-MAY	984	LEYA ANNA JACOB	55201407
	05-MAY	500	LINISH KOSHY JOHN	97215649
JERUSALEM	10-MAY	787	SANTHOSH M. PHILIP	99132438
	10-MAY	787	SINY SANTHOSH	55023791
	27-MAY	918	RACHEL M. THOMAS	97850072
	27-MAY	918	SANJU THOMAS	97850072
	22-MAY	602	BIBEESH KURUVILLA JOHN	97108489
	22-MAY	602	BLESSY BIBEESH JOHN	97108489



SACRAMENTS IN THE MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH

The word "sacrament" signifies one of the seven central liturgical rites of the Church through which participants experience the paschal mystery of Christ, are formed into the body of Christ and grow in the life of grace. Thus sacraments help us to strengthen our belief in Jesus. They are clear witness to God's grace and symbols of God's mercy. Sacramental life is a life of discipline and a life of praise and thanksgiving.

Each sacrament has five essential ideas. 1)Intention, 2)Meaning, 3)Words of Institution, 4) Matter, 5)Celebrant.

Sacraments are not seen as an extra in spiritual experience. It is the essence of spiritual life. Spiritual life could be retarded or handicapped without the efficacy of the sacraments. Thus the whole life is a journey through grace, more accountable and responsible. Though we cannot limit the sacraments to a fixed number, as a tradition there are **Seven Sacraments** administered in the Mar Thoma Church:

1) Holy Baptism, 2) Holy Qurbana, (Holy Communion) 3) Holy Confirmation, 4) Holy Confession, 5) Holy Matrimony, 6) Holy Ordination, 7) Holy Unction.

1) HOLY BAPTISM (MAMODISA)

Bible Readings 1) Baptism of Jesus-(Matthew 3:13), 2) The family baptism- (Acts 16:15), 3) One baptism, one Lord- (Ephesians 4:5), 4) Baptism is to the Body of Christ-(1 Corinthians 12:13), 5) Baptism to be one with Christ- (Romans 6:3-10), 6) Baptism as dying and raising with Lord- (Colossians.2:12), 7) Baptism should not be repeated- (Hebrews 6:2)

Those who respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ with faith are baptized and become members of the church. The words, **baptise** and **baptism** go back to the Greek word **bapto** which means **to dip**. In classical Greek, it denotes the dipping of hot steel in water to temper it. The Greek verb, **baptizein** means to dip, to plunge under water. The Greek word, **baptisma**, is the fully accepted word for Christian baptism.

In Malankara church the word "**mamodisa**" (Malayalam) is used for baptism. What does it mean? How did we get this usage? **The Aramaic equivalent for the Greek word baptisma is mamodisa** which means "**immersion**" or "**washing**". The Malankara Church through its long association with the Aramaic-Syriac speaking Nestorian and Syrian Churches adopted the use of the term **mamodisa** for the sacrament of baptism.

In the Old Testament Church the act of initiation was called circumcision. (Gen. 17:10-17) For the people of Israel it was through circumcision that one enters into covenant with God. We can very well say that baptism in the New Testament is equivalent to circumcision in the Old Testament. St. Paul defines Christian baptism using the metaphor of circumcision, "In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ." (Col.2:11)

The holy baptism is initiation into Christian living. The baptism is the first ordination as a Christian. The basic Biblical teaching is to commence the spiritual formation as early as possible.

Baptismal liturgy has two parts: 1) The naming ceremony (sealing) 2) The anointing ceremony

We believe that God makes a special claim on the child at the time of baptism. Before the baptism liturgy proper, there is a separate thanksgiving service for the mother of the child for the safe delivery and good health.

The symbols used in baptism are:

1. **Water.** The water is used in baptism ceremony and it represents purification. "He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Lk.3:16) Hot and cold water is used. It is understood that the hot water symbolizes fire" and symbolizes the two natures of Christ. "One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out." (John 19:34)
2. **Syth.** The syth is consecrated olive oil is placed on the forehead of the candidate for baptism and sealed with the sign of the cross. It symbolizes the privileges of the children of God. It is also used for healing. (Mk. 6:33; Lk. 10:34; James 5:14-16)
3. **Mooron.** The mooron is the holy oil, literally mean "fragrant oil". It is prepared meticulously and prayerfully using olive oil and a lot of spices. It is blessed at a special service by the Metropolitan and the Episcopal Synod for the church. Confirmation follows the baptism with "**mooron**". All these are symbols for new life in Jesus Christ. Through baptism one unites with the body of Christ and the Holy Spirit strengthens the person to become a true witness of Jesus Christ and a co-worker in the building up of his Kingdom.

The practice of baptizing children varies from church to church and tradition to tradition. In the Mar Thoma Church, both **infant baptism** and the **adult baptism** are being practiced. The adults who come to faith in Jesus Christ through the mission of the church are given baptism at any age and inducted as members of the church. New Testament speaks of the children born to Christian parents as "holy" and they believed that they should be included in the membership of the church. Christian parents have the responsibility to get their children baptized and brought up in the fear of God and in participation of the worship and the fellowship of the church. When they grow they will become committed Christians and living members of the church.

When a person is baptized the liturgy prescribes a special place for the representatives of the community of faith. It is in the form of **godfather** and **godmother**. They reiterate the faith and thus engaging the whole church in the process. Through that the community is undertaking the responsibility of raising the child by giving Christian nurture.

Theological implications of baptism.

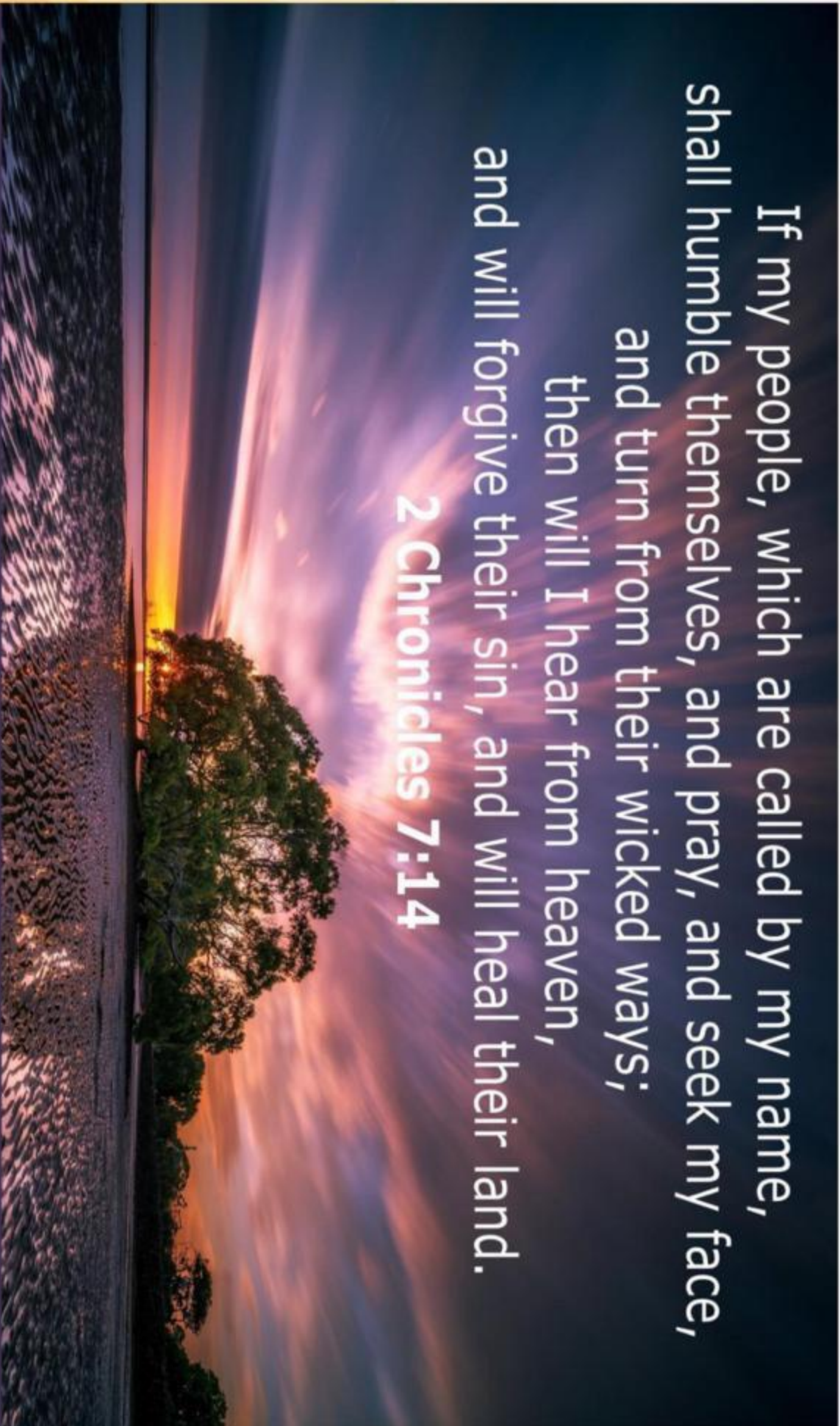
1 Baptism is a process of incorporating an individual into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13) A new world comes into being in the life of an individual. The barriers that divided humankind get reconciled in the body of Christ (Gal. 3:27)

2 The candidate is committed to the grace of God through his/her participation in the life of Christ. It is through dying and rising with Christ, as symbolized in baptism, that the believer is reminded of leading a holy life (Col. 2:13; 3:1; Eph. 2:5-6). The imperative of the baptismal commitment is well stated in Rom. 6:3 "that he/she may walk in the newness of life." The baptized is to lead a life as an "instrument of righteousness and to stand not under law but under grace (Rom. 6:14)

3 The candidate is also ordained to the priestly and kingly ministry of Christ in the world. The missionary motif is depicted in the chants at the closing of the Baptismal liturgy.

It is a sad thing that many baptized Christians do not grow to Christian maturity and continue as nominal Christians. Continuous catechetical teaching and spiritual nourishment through Christian families and the local parishes would ensure building up of a firm faith in the children.

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



If my people, which are called by my name,
shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face,
and turn from their wicked ways;
then will I hear from heaven,
and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

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