

OCTOBER 2021, VOLUME 2

The Irish Syro Malabar Catholic

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH, IRELAND



**'I REMIND YOU TO
FAN INTO FLAME THE GIFT OF GOD'**

2 TIMOTHY 1:6



ROSARY, A POWERFUL SPIRITUAL WEAPON



It is October, the month dedicated in a special way to the Rosary. Our time with her each day, as the beads slip quietly through our fingers and we murmur our loving prayers, is the time she nourishes our souls with the graces Our Lord desires for us to have in order to know Him, and to increase in His love.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina (commonly known as "Padre Pio") witnessed many evils during his lifetime. He lived through both world wars and saw the great violence and hatred that existed in the hearts of many people in Europe. In the face of such profound evil, Padre Pio had a single weapon. He said once, "Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."

The Rosary is the prayer of those who triumph over everything and everyone. It was Our Lady who taught us this prayer, just as it was Jesus who taught us the Our Father. In times of darkness, holding the Rosary is like holding your Blessed Mother's hand. Pray the Rosary every day. Abandon yourself in the hands of Mary. She will take care of you. The attention must be on the "Hail Mary" and to the greetings which you give to the Virgin and on the mysteries which you contemplate. She is present in all the mysteries, and she participated in everything with love and pain. Love our Lady and make her loved; always recite the Rosary and recite it as often as possible.

Our Lady in her message to Blessed Alan de la Roche said, "When you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, there is nothing in the Church that I love as much as the Rosary." St. Pope John Paul II once said, "The Rosary is my favourite prayer. A marvellous prayer! Marvellous in its simplicity and its depth. In the prayer we repeat many times the words that the Virgin Mary heard from the Archangel, and from her kinswoman Elizabeth." Among the many powerful weapons in fighting Satan, Rosary is a glorious prayer. Pope Blessed Pius IX once said, "Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." When Rosary is prayed Angels build a fortress of protection around us and our families. "You must know that when you 'hail' Mary, she immediately greets you! Don't think that she is one of those rude women of whom there are so many—on the contrary, she is utterly courteous and pleasant. If you greet her, she will answer you right away and converse with you!" Saint Bernardine of Siena. The Rosary is the most beautiful and the richest in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God. Let's recite the Rosary in our families if you wish peace to reign in your homes

Joel Jose



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Mission and Fanning the Flames of Faith.....

All flames begin as a single spark. Our first edition of 'The Irish Syro-Malabar Catholic' was that single spark. Our hope now is that the spark becomes stronger, and therefore, we entitle the October issue "Mission and Fanning the Flames of Faith."

Your response in the first edition provided us with great encouragement and a belief that this is already happening. As a result, we express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped or contributed to its production in various ways.

In his message to Timothy, St. Paul says: "I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6). This is a personal letter of encouragement to his beloved disciple and his exhortation is as valid for us today as it was all those years ago. In our present circumstances, in throes of the current global pandemic, we have ample opportunities to "fan our flames" in numerous ways. Never has there been a more openings for us to fan the flames of our God given gifts as we come together in a unified manner by sharing the fruits of faith brought to our attention in this newsletter.

Since taking up residence in Ireland, we have become aware of many of the customs and traditions of the Irish way of life. In years gone by the fires in Irish homes seldom went out. In each home fire was the centre of attraction for the family. For centuries the fire was vital to the Irish way of life as it provided heat and comfort for all household members, it allowed for the provision of family meals as all cooking was done on the fire, it provided all the hot water needed for personal hygiene and domestic requirements and as mentioned, it seldom ever went out. The fire would have been fuelled late at night and in the morning, there was always enough life in the embers to light fresh fuel once the ashes were raked out. This cycle continued throughout the year.

Faith could be compared very easily to this traditional method of kindling and rekindling the Irish fire. Just as our house fire will grow dim and eventually die if we do not rake it or add fuel to it, so will our faith grow dim and wither away if we do not pay attention to it and develop it along with all our other vital God given talents.



We must realise that every single Christian has received the gift of the Spirit. We can see this when St. Paul, standing in support of all Christians, declares, "We all have different gifts according to the gifts given to us"(1Cor. 14:6). These gifts have an extraordinary range and are vital in the current climate. Each of us should endeavour to use this variety of God given talents to strengthen our faith and help alleviate the suffering of today's world. Today, whatever our role we play in the Church, we have been touched by the Spirit to encourage us to "fan the flames "enthusiastically, just as St Paul requested.

In the month of October our attention is directed towards the work of missionaries world-wide. One outstanding example of how an individual leadership was given to us by Mother Theresa of Calcutta. Her life 's work began as a tiny spark and developed into a huge flame. Let one of her sayings inspire us to Fan our own little flames:

The fruit of Silence is Prayer.

The fruit of Prayer is Faith.

The fruit of Faith is Love.

The fruit of Love is Service.

And the fruit of Service is Peace.

Let us enjoy the reading which we hope will inspire further proclamation of the good news. Now that we have got the flame glowing, please continue to fuel it with further contributions. Details can be found elsewhere in this edition of "The Irish Syro-Malabar Catholic." Looking forward to your continuing support as you put talents to use in strengthening our faith and communion.

With immense gratitude,

On behalf of the SMCCI Media and Editorial team,

Rev. Dr Joseph Karukayil



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2021 MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

“We cannot remain silent about what we have seen and heard” (At 4:20)

Dear brothers and sisters,

when we experience the power of God’s love, when we recognize his presence as a Father in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard. Jesus’ relationship with his disciples, his humanity revealed to us in the mystery of the Incarnation, in his Gospel and in his Passover show us the extent to which God loves our humanity and makes our joys and sufferings, our desires and our anxieties our own (cf. CONC. ECUM. Vat. II, Cost. Past. Gaudium et spes, 22). Everything in Christ reminds us that the world in which we live and its need for redemption are no strangers to him and also calls us to feel an active part of this mission: “Go to the crosses of the streets and all those you will find, call them” (Mt 22:9). No one is foreign, no one can feel foreign or far away from this love of compassion.

The Experience of the Apostles

The history of evangelization begins with a passionate search for the Lord who calls and wants to establish with every person, where he is, a dialogue of friendship (cf. Jn 15:12-17). The Apostles are the first to tell us this, even remembering the day and time when they met him: “It was about four in the afternoon” (Jn 1:39). Friendship with the Lord, seeing him care for the sick, eating with sinners, feeding the hungry, approaching the excluded, touching the unclean, identifying with the needy, inviting to the Beatitudes,

teaching in a new way and full of authority, leaves an indelible imprint, capable of eliciting amazement and an expansive and free joy that cannot be contained. As the prophet Jeremiah said, this experience is the burning fire of his active presence in our hearts that pushes us to mission, even if it sometimes involves sacrifices and misunderstandings (cf. 20:7-9). Love is always on the move and puts us on the move to share the most beautiful and hopeful proclamation: “We have found the Messiah” (Jn 1:41).

With Jesus we have seen, heard and touched that things can be different. He inaugurated, already today, the future times reminding us of an essential characteristic of our human being, so often forgotten: “we were made for the fullness that is achieved only in love” (Enc. Brothers all, 68). New times that inspire a faith capable of giving impetus to initiatives and shaping communities, starting with men and women who learn to take charge of their own fragility and others, promoting fraternity and social friendship (cf. *ibid.*, 67). The ecclesial community shows its beauty every time it remembers with gratitude that the Lord loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19). The Lord’s “loving predilection surprises us, and amazement, by its very nature, cannot be possessed or imposed by us. Only in this way can the miracle of gratuitousness, of the free gift of oneself, flourish. Even missionary fervour can never be achieved as a result of reasoning or calculation. Putting one another “in a state of mission” is a reflection of gratitude” (Message to the Pontifical Mission Societies, 21 May 2020).

However, the timing was not easy; the first Christians began their lives of faith in a hostile and arduous environment. Stories of marginalization and imprisonment were intertwined with internal and external resistance, which seemed to contradict and even deny what they had seen and heard; but this, instead of being a difficulty or an obstacle that could lead them to fall back or close in on themselves, prompted them to turn every inconvenience, opposition and difficulty into opportunities for the mission. The limits and impediments also became a privileged place to grease everything and all with the Spirit of the Lord. Nothing and no one could remain unrelated to the liberating announcement.

We have the living witness of all this in the Acts of the Apostles, a book that missionary disciples always keep at hand. It is the book that tells how the scent of the Gospel spread as it passed, eliciting the joy that only the Spirit can give us. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles teaches us to live the trials by clinging to Christ, to mature the "conviction that God can act in any circumstance, even in the midst of apparent failures" and the certainty that "those who offer themselves and give themselves to God for love will surely be fruitful (cf. Jn 15:5)" (Exhort. *Evangelii gaudium*,279).

So are we: even the current historical moment is not easy. The situation of the pandemic has highlighted and amplified the pain, loneliness, poverty and injustices that many people were already suffering from and exposed our false security and the fragmentation and polarization that silently tear us apart. The most fragile and vulnerable have experienced even more their vulnerability and fragility. We experienced discouragement, disenchantment, fatigue; and even conformist bitterness, which takes away hope, has been able to take over our eyes. We, however, "do not proclaim ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord: as for us, we are your servants because of Jesus"(2 Cor 4:5). This is why we hear the Word of life resounding in our communities and families, echoing in our hearts and saying to us: "He is not here, he has risen"(Lk 24:6); A word of hope that breaks all determinism and, to those who allow themselves to be touched, gives the freedom and audacity necessary to stand up and creatively seek all possible ways of living compassion, "sacramental" of God's closeness to us that abandons no one at the side of the road. In this time of pandemic, faced with the temptation to mask and justify indifference and apathy in the name of healthy social distancing, the mission of compassion capable of making the necessary distance a place of encounter, care and promotion is urgent. "What we have seen and heard"(Act 4:20), the mercy that has been used to us, is transformed into the point of reference and credibility that allows us to recover the shared passion to create



"a community of belonging and solidarity, to which to allocate time, commitment and goods" (Enc. *Brothers all*,36) It is his Word that redeems us daily and saves us from the excuses that lead us to close ourselves in the cowardly of skepticism: "so much is the same, nothing will change". And faced with the question: "for what purpose should I deprive myself of my security, comfort and pleasures if I cannot see any important results?", the answer always remains the same: "Jesus Christ triumphed over sin and death and is full of power. Jesus Christ truly lives" (cf. *Evangelii gaudium*,275) and also wants us alive, fraternal and able to host and share this hope. In the present context there is an urgent need for missionaries of hope who, aoted by the Lord, are able to prophetically remember that no one saves himself.

Like the Apostles and the first Christians, we too say with all our might: "We cannot remain silent what we have seen and heard"(Acts 4:20). Everything we have received, all that the Lord has gradually bestowed on us, has given us because we put it on the stake and give it free of charge to others. Like the Apostles who



have seen, listened to and touched the salvation of Jesus (cf. 1 Jn 1:1-4), so today we can touch the suffering and glorious flesh of Christ in the history of every day and find the courage to share with everyone a destiny of hope, that undoubted note that arises from knowing how to be accompanied by the Lord. As Christians we cannot keep the Lord for ourselves: the Church's evangelizing mission expresses its integral and public value in the transformation of the world and in the custody of creation.

An invitation to each of us

The theme of this year's World Mission Day, "We cannot keep quiet about what we have seen and heard"(At 4:20), is an invitation to each of us to "take charge" and to make known what we carry in our hearts. This mission is and has always been the identity of the Church: "it exists to evangelize" (St. PAUL VI, Esort. Evangelii nuntiandi,14). Our life of faith weakens, loses prophecy and capacity for amazement and gratitude in personal isolation or closing in small

groups; by its very dynamic requires a growing openness capable of reaching and embracing everyone. The first Christians, far from succumbing to the temptation to close themselves in an elite, were attracted to the Lord and to the new life that He offered to go among the peoples and witness to what they had seen and heard: the Kingdom of God is close. They did so with the generosity, gratitude and nobility proper to those who sow knowing that others will eat the fruit of their commitment and sacrifice. Therefore I like to think that "even the weakest, most limited and wounded can be [missionaries] in their own way, because we must always allow good to be communicated, even if it coexists with many fragilities" (Esort. ap. postsin. Christus vivit,239).

On World Mission Day, which is celebrated every year on the penultimate Sunday of October, we remember with gratitude all the people who, through their witness of life, help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially those who have been able to set out on their journey, leave land and family so that the Gospel can reach without delay and without fear the corners of peoples and cities where so many lives are thirsting for blessing.

Contemplating their missionary witness spurs us to be courageous and to pray insistently "the lord of the harvest, that he may send workers into his harvest"(Lk 10:2); in fact we are aware that the vocation to mission is not a thing of the past or a romantic memory of other times. Today, Jesus needs hearts that are capable of living the vocation as a true love story, that makes them go to the peripheries of the world and become messengers and instruments of compassion. And it is a call that He addresses to all, though not in the same way. Remember that there are suburbs that are located near us, in the center of a city, or in your family. There is also an aspect of the universal openness of love that is not geographical but existential. Always, but especially in these times of pandemic, it is important to increase the daily capacity to enlarge our circle, to reach those who spontaneously would not feel them part of "my world of interests", even if they are close to us (cf. Enc. Brothers all,97). To live the mission is to venture to cultivate the same feelings as Christ Jesus and to believe with him that those next to me are also my brother and sister. May his love of compassion also awaken our hearts and make us all missionary disciples.

May Mary, the first missionary disciple, grow in all the baptized the desire to be salt and light in our lands (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

Rome, St. John lateran, 6 January 2021, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

FRANCIS

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop
Syro-Malabar Church



Prot. No. 0923/2021

Pastoral Letter

Cardinal George Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church,
to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Men and Women Religious and
Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Praise be to Jesus Christ!

“I willingly take the occasion of the recognition of the new Raza Qurbana Taksa to exhort the clergy, religious and lay faithful to proceed to a prompt implementation in the uniform mode of celebrating the Holy Qurbana, for the greater good and unity of your Church. May the Holy Spirit foster harmony, fraternity and unity among all members of your Church as you work to implement the Synodal decision”.

- Pope Francis

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

As you are aware, our Church was in the path of renewal of the Liturgy from 1934 onwards. Deeper investigations into the heritage and the identity of the Church which gave new insights began to take place with the implementation of the *Raza* text of the *Qurbana* in 1986. As a result of that effort, it was possible to form a uniform text for all the Sacraments and for the Sacred Orders. But the efforts to have a uniform mode of celebration of the Holy *Qurbana* did not bear fruit on account of several factors. Although a model for a uniform mode of celebration was given by the Synod in 1999, it was not implemented in all the eparchies. Because of that, demands were made from the different levels of the Church for a uniform mode of celebration. The members of the Church also were praying for it. At all the Major Archiepiscopal Assemblies, the delegates asked for a uniform mode of celebration. The Synod of Bishops at their different Sessions was trying to implement a uniform mode of celebration. At the Synod of 2019, the secretaries of the pastoral councils who were present along with the Bishops have asked for a uniform mode of celebration. The Synod of 2020 made the suggestion that the non-compliant eparchies should be asked to conform to the uniform mode of celebration.

During the Corona crisis, people were disturbed when they watched the Holy *Qurbana* celebrated in different ways. This lack of unity in the mode of celebration has also upset the Apostolic See. The Congregation for the Eastern Churches came to the conclusion that it would be absolutely necessary to have a uniform mode of

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celebration. Hence the Apostolic Nuncio sent a letter on 4 May 2020 to the Major Archbishop in this regard. When the revised text of the *Qurbana* was submitted for approval, the Congregation for the Eastern Churches wrote back on 09 November 2020 asking for uniformity in the mode of celebration. Granting *recognitio* to the revised text of the Holy *Qurbana*, on 09 June 2021, the Congregation for the Eastern Churches gave clear directions for the implementation of the uniform mode of celebration. As a continuation of this, the Holy Father wrote a letter to the bishops, priests, religious and the laity of the Syro-Malabar Church exhorting to follow a uniform mode of celebration. This was a letter meant for the whole Syro-Malabar Church. Hence every member of the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church has an obligation to follow this directive. The words of this appeal of the Holy Father are quoted at the beginning of this pastoral letter.

In this context, the Synod that was held online from 16 to 27 August 2021 studied and discussed this topic in detail. What is most distinguishing about the Syro-Malabar Church is its unwavering and unbreakable fidelity to the Holy See. Our ancestors gave us the tradition of this faithfulness to Peter (*cum Petro et sub Petro*) and obedience to the Head of the Church and to the Bishops. It is worthwhile to remember the words of Mar Augustine Kandathil, the former Archbishop of Ernakulam, in a similar context with regard to the liturgical celebration in 1934: “Whatever may be the decision of the Holy See, we accept it.” This is the model we have to follow. We believe that the Holy Spirit teaches us through the Holy Father. We know that the faithful are obliged to obey the directives of the Holy Father (*CCEO* c. 45). The Church documents also affirm this fact. It is the Holy Father who is to give the final verdict in matters of worship (*SC* 22). No one, whether priests or the laity, has the right to change or add to the text of the liturgical celebrations (*SC* 22,3). Hence we are obliged to obey the direction given by the Holy Father. Neither the Synod nor any individual Bishop has the right to take a contrary decision. We should not forget that obedience is greater than sacrifice (1 Sam.15-22). The way shown by the Holy Father is the way of God’s grace for us. Hence, our only choice is to follow the mode of celebration of the Holy *Qurbana* which is exhorted by the Holy Father, approved by the Synod and desired by the faithful as an expression of our obedience to the Holy Father and the discharge of our responsibility as members of the ecclesial communion.

There may be people among us who hold that what is needed is not uniformity but unity. Although unity and uniformity are not the same, they are complementary. Unity won’t be possible without uniformity in the basic forms of the Liturgy. The history of our Church attests to this. The uniformity of the celebration consists in this: The celebrant faces the faithful until the end of the Creed, then turns to the Sanctuary until the end of the *Anaphora* up to the Communion and then faces congregation after the Communion for thanksgiving prayers and for final benediction. The Second Vatican Council teaches us that there should be both the *Bema* (the Table of the Word) and the





Altar (the Table of the Bread) for an authentic celebration of the Eucharist (*DV 14*). The tradition of our Church shows also the same.

The Introductory Service and the Liturgy of the Word in the Holy *Qurbana* remind us of the birth and the public ministry of Jesus. It is because of this that the first part of the *Qurbana* is offered facing the people. Then, after the creed the celebrant, “with clean heart and clear conscience”, enters the Sanctuary as a representative of the Christ and on behalf of the Church and offers the sacrifice to the Heavenly Father. It is on account of this that the direction is given for the celebrant to face the Sanctuary during the *Anaphora* and the consecratory part. In the Eastern as well as in the Western Churches, the Eucharist was offered facing the Altar until 1965. The Holy Father is asking us to recover the ancient tradition of the Church. When the offering part is over, the celebrant turns to face the congregation after the communion to say the thanksgiving prayers and to give the final blessings.

The Eucharist is the sacrifice offered by the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ in union with the Head to the Heavenly Father. The Church from the first centuries thought it appropriate for the people of God and for the priest who acts in the name of Christ to face the Altar which is the throne of God. The priest who offers the *Qurbana* represents Christ and the Church at the same time (*alter Christus et altera ecclesia*).

The Church also proclaims that the Christian life is a pilgrimage to heaven. The people of God as a whole are on a pilgrimage to heaven which is symbolized by the *Madbhaha*. All the prayers in the *Qurbana* are arranged for a joint celebration of the people on earth with the angelic choirs and Saints in heaven. The Altar which is considered to be the throne of God and the sepulcher of our Lord has a dominant role in the Liturgy. It is because of this that the “turning to the altar” is considered to be the turning to God by the Fathers of the Church (*conversi ad Dominum*). On account of this sacred tradition of the Church the decision was made by the Synod to ask the celebrant to turn to the Altar from the beginning of the *Anaphora* up to the communion and the same was exhorted by the Holy Father to be implemented promptly.

The realization that the unity in the Liturgy is the basis of ecclesiastical communion has come to us late and because of that many divisions did take place which created wounds in the body of the Church. We shall confess this failure in humility and contrition before God. Let the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI that “Without unity at the Altar, there will be no unity in the Church” be the guiding light for us.

The Fathers of the Synod discussed sincerely the difficulties raised from some corners in implementing the uniform mode of celebration. The Bishops are aware of the concerns and apprehensions that would arise when a mode of celebration that was in practice for several decades in a few eparchies undergoes a sudden change. But the Fathers felt that the Holy Spirit was guiding them to obey wholeheartedly the direction given by the Holy Father to guide the flock of the Lord in unity. This

decision should not be viewed as a victory or a failure of a particular line of thought. The Holy Father has asked us to follow the decision of the Synod that has tried to integrate the two differing lines of thought in Liturgy.

Hence the Synod has now decided to implement the revised text of the Holy *Qurbana* (*editio typica*) in the uniform mode of celebration as directed by the Holy Father, from the beginning of the next liturgical year, which is the first Sunday of the Season of Annunciation that falls on 28 November 2021. The Synod Fathers are requesting everyone to implement this decision with a single mind, taking into account the common good of the Church and setting aside the individual likes and dislikes.

The whole Church was praying and fasting in the last month for the success of the Synod. This prayer was helpful for the Synod to receive the Grace of God to take good decisions.

We shall take a common decision to make the celebration of the Holy *Qurbana* an occasion for receiving the grace for the unity of the Church. All have to be beware of creating dissenting voices in this matter. I am urging with great fraternal solicitude the priests and the consecrated men and women to pay their serious attention to this matter. Let the sacrifice of Jesus which was offered for the redemption of mankind be our own self-sacrifice. Let us surrender ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit that destroys the walls of division. May the intercession of our Blessed Mother who was a full participant in the sacrifice at Calvary and that of St. Thomas who transmitted to us the Light of Faith along with that of the Saints and Blesseds of our Church guide us in our path of Unity!

May the Grace of the Merciful Lord be with you always!

Given this from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas Kakkanad on 27 August 2021.



Cardinal George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



NB: *This pastoral letter is to be read out during the Holy Mass on Sunday, 05 September 2021, in all churches and chapels of the Syro-Malabar Church where there is Sunday Mass for the public, respecting the regulations given by the government. Copy of this pastoral letter is to be made available through social media to those faithful who cannot participate in the celebration of Holy Qurbana in churches.*





Blessings



Greetings and every good wish on the October edition of 'The Irish Syro-Malabar Catholic Newsletter'.

"Jesus invited disciples to be with him and to go out (Mk 3:14). The community that Jesus wants to build is a missionary Church. Since I first met the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church in Belfast, I have been struck by their strong sense of community and their passion to go out and share the faith, hope, and love that they have learned from Jesus.

Pope Francis has placed much of his emphasis on

- Renewing the Church,
- So that it can be equipped to bring God's love and mercy.

And he proposes rediscovering the ancient practice of synodality, so that we can discern God's way forward, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. That means that we recognise the need for change. It is a time to fan into flame the gifts that the Lord has given us and never withdrawn. Indeed, the annual Eucharistic celebration for all the children who had been confirmed each year in the diocese of Derry is called the 'Fan the Flame' Mass.

So, we must let the Lord change us. But we are not frightened by that because we believe that - in the context of prayerful conversations - the Holy Spirit will guide the local and universal church. Thankfully, the Syro-Malabar Church has a long-standing synodal tradition. And because the Church is a community of disciples, we are blessed that the Syro-Malabar faithful have integrated so well into our local communities. In an age of fragmentation, "the Church is in Christ like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race (Lumen Gentium, paragraph, 1). In the Body of Christ, our diversity is a sign of God's many graces. It is never a threat. I have been very impressed with the quality and commitment of young people from the Syro-Malabar faithful. I know that they often stand out among our young people with their level of prayer and dedication.

There were times when missionaries went out from Ireland to many countries, filled with zeal for the Gospel. This century is a time for the Irish Church to accept the renewing love and missionary zeal that the Syro-Malabar faithful can bring to us. We are blessed to have so many faithful and joyful members of the Syro-Malabar Church - and a strong team of dedicated clergy to continue this missionary endeavour. And we ask that the Lord will continue to bless us all as we journey together in His service. By doing that prayerfully, we will be light to the world and salt to the earth.

We thank God for you and for your work, may you be abundantly blessed.

**Most Rev. Donal McKeown
Bishop of Derry**



MIGRANTS TO THE MISSION

Mar Raphael Thattil, Bishop of Shamshabad

I am pleased to know that a Newsletter is being published by the Syro-Malabar Church Ireland in connection with the mission season. My cordial blessings and good wishes on this mission endeavour.

Syro-Malabar Church – All India, Global

Among all the Oriental Churches in Catholic Church, the St. Thomas Christians of India, which is also known as the Syro-Malabar Church is numerous, most active and alive. The growth of the Syro-Malabar Church to 'All India' and 'Global' is largely due to the result of migration. The history of the migration of the Syro-Malabar faithful started in 1950's and peaked in 1980's. It was mostly the semiskilled, high school educated population who migrated from the 1960s to different cities of India outside Kerala. From the 1970's, the nurses, engineers, doctors and IT professionals migrated in large numbers. The first part of the migration was internal but later, to USA, Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Ireland, etc. Bigger flow of migration took place into Gulf countries with the onset of the oil boom in the 1960's.

Today the total strength of the Syro-Malabar Church is about 50,00,000 faithful of which around 13,00,000 are migrants. The migrant community outside Kerala in India counts 550,000, and 750,000 outside India. Below information will give you an idea about the distribution of the Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala, outside Kerala in India and outside India and the growth of the Syro-Malabar Church due to migration.

1. **Dioceses in Kerala (13):** Ernakulam, Kothamangalam, Idukki, Changanassery, Palai, Kanjirappally, Kottayam, Trichur, Irinjalakkuda, Palakkad, Thalassery, Mananthavady, Thamarassery
2. **Migrant Dioceses outside Kerala in India (8):** Ramanathapuram, Hosur, Belthangady, Bhadravathi, Mandya, Kalyan, Faridabad, Shamshabad
3. **Mission Dioceses outside Kerala in India (10):** Bijnor, Thuckalay, Gorakhpur, Satna, Sagar, Ujjain, Rajkot, Jagdalpur, Chanda, Adilabad
4. **Dioceses outside India (4):** Chicago, Mississauga, Melbourne, Preston
5. **Diaspora (without Dioceses) :** Europe, Ireland, Gulf Countries, Singapore, South Africa

Syro-Malabar Migrants to the Mission

The letter of Pope Francis to all the Bishop's of India on 09th of October, 2017 said very clearly that every migration is a providential means of expansion of Church and opening to the mission. The Syro-Malabar Migrants moving to the different parts of India and outside India is to be understood with Ecclesiological and Missiological perspective. Our Ecclesial heritage and patrimony are to be preserved and transmitted to the future generations. Similarly, migrants are to be conscious of evangelising the local community by the treasures of the ecclesial traditions.

Giving a homily on the Fig tree without fruits (Mt: 21: 18-22), the Holy Father said that, Church without Mission and Evangelization is the Fig tree with full of leaves and without fruits. It has no right to exist and Jesus will definitely curse it. Lack of love for mission is a sinful infertility. Of all the commandments of Jesus the most important is the demand that "Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mk 16:15). St. Paul's pledge for the Mission is to be remembered by every migrant: "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel". (1 Cor 9: 16)

In the light of Papal Exhortation the Syro-Malabar migrant communities are to be convinced and committed of their Ecclesiological and Missiological responsibility. As Migrants know the land, language, culture they could be made suitable and effective missionaries for evangelisation. Our pastoral care should not be allowed to end up with care of the migrants rather it should open the doors for evangelisation. As Syro-Malabar Church, being the most active and alive Oriental Church, it can contribute substantially to the re-evangelization of the local people.

Truly, migrants are moving primarily prompted by secular reasons of betterment of life situations, through higher studies and thereby securing proper employments. But they shall not forget their call to be missionaries wherever they live. We are baptized to be sent out.

The meeting instilled a renewed energy in the Europe leadership. The online programme lasted for three hours and was greatly appreciated by everyone who participated.

May our Lord shower all the graces upon every one of us to continue the Mission forward with new energy and initiative.

LEADERSHIP MEET IN THE APOSTOLIC VISITATION IN EUROPE

A meeting of the leaders of the mass centers, associations, departments, and Catechism teachers in the Apostolic Visitation in Europe was held on Sabha Dinam - July 3rd, 2021.

The meeting was inaugurated by the Major Archbishop of the Syro Malabar Church, Mar George Cardinal Alencherry. The Apostolic Visitor, Mar Stephen Chirappanath presided over the meeting and the Bishop of the Eparchy of Shamshabad, Mar Raphael Thattil delivered the keynote address.

The online meeting witnessed participation from more than 450 leaders who joined from over 20 countries in Europe. All the national priests-in-charges presented their report in which they highlighted the functioning of the Syro Malabar community, and the key initiatives taken for the pastoral care of migrants in their region. There are 109 Qurbana centers in Europe of which 41 are in Ireland.

The Major Archbishop exhorted the leaders to continue their ministry with zeal. The Apostolic visitor acknowledged the initiatives and tireless working of the priests and lay leaders in Europe. Bp Thattil, in his keynote address, reminded the leadership that there is a divine intervention in their migration and a bigger purpose - of faith proclamation.

The meeting instilled a renewed energy in the Europe leadership. The online programme lasted for three hours and was greatly appreciated by everyone who participated.

DUKRANA & LAUNCH OF NEWS LETTER

Syro-Malabar Catholic Church Dublin celebrated 'Dukrana', the feast of St. Thomas on July 3rd Sunday at Church of Guardian Angels Blackrock. Celebration began at 3 pm with solemn celebration of Rasa Qurbana by Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil. Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath, Fr. Roy Vattakattu, Fr. Shinto Paul concelebrated the Mass.

This was followed by the official launch of all Ireland Newsletter 'The Irish SyroMalabar Catholic'. There were hundreds of faithful participants participated in the celebration.

The programme ended up with a light refreshments.



CATECHISM

Inauguration of New Academic year

The catechism academic year of 2021-2022 was officially inaugurated on 5 September 2021 via zoom platform. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, National Coordinator of Ireland officiated the inaugural ceremony along with Fr. Roy Vattakkattu, Director of Catechesis in Ireland. It was followed by a keynote address by Mr. Jose Mazhuvanchery, resource member of Angamaly Archdiocese Family Apostolate, Ernakulam. Mr. Jose spoke about the various aspects of parental love and its role in faith formation. Catechism classes commenced in all Mass Centres from 12 September 2021.

Teacher's training

Teacher's training was conducted for all catechism teachers on 24th September 2021 by Fr. Roy George Vattakkattu. It was attended by over 55 teachers from all over Ireland.

Fr. Roy recognized catechists for the valuable and very practical teaching contribution they make to the life and mission of the Church. Being a catechist is a vocation which requires study, patience, prayer, preparation, witness and a serious commitment of time and talent. It is a sacred ministry and essential for the life and the future of our Church.

Fr. Roy explained the importance of preparing for the class. Teaching notes provides various tools and techniques for effective teaching of course. He also stressed on the importance of knowing families and interaction with all students to better understand and help them grow spiritually.

Fr. Clement Padathiparambil also addressed the group thanking catechists for their service. Catechists should have strong commitment to the Church's liturgical and sacramental life and moral teachings.

Session concluded with vote of thanks by catechism coordinator, Mr. Jose Chacko and final prayer and blessing by Fr. Clement Padathiparambil.

VIANNY FEAST

On August 4 Wednesday, Syro Malabar Church Ireland Celebrated the feast day of Patron Saint of Parish priests ; St. John Mary Vianney. Syro Malabar Faith full recalled the wonderful life of this extra ordinary saint who loved God with such favour and gave his whole life to being a holy priest. Families from all around Ireland joined in zoom to wish our dear preists the feast day wishes. The programme started with introduction by MC Georgeo and Levin, followed by prayer for priests, virtual cake cutting, and felicitation by Catechism student Godwin Vincent, Mr. Paul Kodiyan , Siljo Thomas, Mrs.Tessy Mathew. Joseph , SMYM member made a tribute to all priests by his beautiful voice and singing. Programme ended with final words and blessings by Rev.Dr.Clement Padathiparambil. This was a beautiful , divine and unique opportunity to acknowledge and wish all our priests for all what they do for our Church.

SMILE

It is great to see how things are getting back to its normal pace and once again we can receive and enjoy celebrating the holy sacraments. While we are going through this pandemic, SMILE group families are trying their best to unite in prayer once a month through Zoom prayer meetings. During the prayer meetings SMILE group families support each other to keep the positivity of life by sharing the happy moments and the achievements of children in this group. In view of extending, it's service nationally, the following decisions were made in the SMILE executive committee meeting and a few of the decisions have already been done.

The activities of SMILE group in Dublin has been presented and well received in National Pastoral Council Meeting.

SMILE executive members are planning visits to Syro Malabar Mass centers outside Dublin, with a view to provide public awareness about SMILE group. This will be carried out once the current restrictions are revoked.

SMILE members shares their experiences about this group with their friends and families. We are extremely happy to report that some new families joined from counties outside Dublin.

SMILE also has started a new initiative to get our normal families understand the complexities of disabilities, by providing an opportunity to being with a SMILE family, engaging with the children, and participating and understanding their specialties and thereby invoking inclusion.

Praying for God's mercy and grace to keep up the good spirit in keeping the special families close to each other, to share and care.

FAREWELL TO REV. FR. RAJESH MECHIRAKATH



The Syro-Malabar Church in Dublin, bid farewell to Fr. Rajesh, who after his three years of service was moving on to pursue his higher studies.

The farewell meeting was presided by the national coordinator of the Syro Malabar Church in Ireland, Rev. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil. Fr. Clement commended the service of Fr. Rajesh, especially for the children's and youth ministry. He wished Fr. Rajesh all the best for his studies and future endeavours.

Parish committee members from all the 10 mass centres participated in the farewell meeting and the Holy Qurbana which was celebrated by Fr. Rajesh. On behalf of all the committee members, the Zonal trustees, Seejo Kachappilly, Benny John, Suresh Joseph, presented the memento and bouquet to Fr. Rajesh.

The Catechism Director, Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu, and several other association leads spoke at the event and presented their gratitude to Fr. Rajesh.

Fr. Rajesh was instrumental in the formation of SMYM in Dublin and across Ireland where he worked closely with the youth and the animators to ignite a fire in the movement. He is loved by the youth who always had a guide and mentor in him. Fr. Rajesh also played an active role in the raising of the alter servers. His service in the social outreach programmes of the Syro Malabar Church is impeccable.

Fr. Rajesh is a priest of the Archeparchy of Thalassery. He has previously served as the Diocesan Director of CML and AKCC. Fr. Rajesh has a degree in Psychology, MBA, M. Phil. He is now starting his Doctorate programme at the University College of Dublin, with a paper on Psychology of the Immigrant Youth. Along with his studies, he will also serve the Archdiocese of Dublin, in the capacity of Assistant Pastor of the Ballymun Parish.

Family Apostolate

Catholic family "is called upon to take part actively and responsibly in the mission of the Church." Pope John Paul II said that Catholic families are to evangelize by proclaiming the Gospel to other families, not only in their own territory, but even to people in other parts of the same country and to families in distant lands.

Family Apostolate in Ireland aims to bring Catholic Families together in Fellowship to grow spiritually, connect and build friendships, encourage, and increase in knowledge and wisdom of the Catholic Faith.

Family Apostolate in Ireland is now in its infant stage, actively achieving its milestones by initiating its various ministries in Ireland. Ministries enlisted under Family Apostolate in Ireland includes Mathruvedi, Pithruvedi, SMILE and Family Units.

One of the core projects of the Family Apostolate is organising Pre marriage Courses to our young adults preparing for marriage, under the guidance of National Pastoral Council.

Family units forms the corner stone of Family Apostolate in its grassroot level and Family units are active through all mass centres in Ireland.

Prolife, Family enrichment programmes and young couple ministry are other areas are under planning stage.

The National Directors for various Ministries under Family Apostolate are listed as follows.

Family Apostolate :

Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil

Mathruvedi : Fr. Jose Bharanikulanghara

Pithruvedi : Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel

Smile : Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil

Family Unit : Fr. Paul Morali

Pre Marriage Course:

Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil

Following are a glimpse of some of the activities by different ministries under the Family Apostolate
Mathruvedi - Pious association of married women of Syro Malabar catholic church

Pithruvedi National Executive Committee formed in Ireland



Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel
Director

Thomson Thomas
President

Raju Kunnakattu
Vice President



Francis Joseph
Secretary

Roji Sebastian
Joint Secretary

Binu Thomas
Treasurer

Geo Jose
Exe. Committee Member

Rev. Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel, Director, Pithruvedi Ireland presided over the Zoom Meeting on the occasion. He said that units would be set up at all Mass centres in Ireland to further strengthen the activities of Pithruvedi. Syro Malabar Catholic Church Ireland Family Apostolate Secretary, Alphonsa Binu made introductory remarks during the meeting.

Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil, the Syro-Malabar National Coordinator, Ireland, inaugurated the formation meeting of the first National Executive Committee of Pithruvedi. Speaking at the inaugural meeting, Fr. Clement remarked that the foundation of Pithruvedi is family life based on Christian morality and spirituality through a moral life formulated upon God's love.

The newly elected office bearers are **President - Thomson Thomas, Vice President - Raju Kunnakattu, Secretary - Francis Joseph, Joint Secretary - Roji Sebastian, Treasurer - Binu Thomas, and Executive Committee member - Geo Jose.**

The activities of Pithruvedi National Executive committee Ireland covers the Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The new National Executive members of Pithruvedi have started working zealously. Work is underway to establish units in each mass centers. All the activities of Pithruvedi are directed to strengthen the material, spiritual and moral life of families in Ireland.

Marriage Preparation Course was held on 24, 25, and 26 August 2021.

The Family Apostolate of the Syro Malabar Catholic Church Ireland conducted a preparatory course for the youth in Ireland and the countries in the Apostolic Visitation of Europe, preparing them for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The course which was held online due to Covid-19 restrictions was led by experts from different parts of the world in the field of marriage and family guidance. A certificate of attendance, recognized in all the dioceses of the Syro Malabar Church, was issued to the participants who successfully completed the course.

In recent times, family life is met with a lot of complexities. This course aims to equip the youth to enter into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony by embracing the essence of family life. The next marriage preparation course will be held on 4, 5, and 6 November 2021

FIRST NATIONAL MATHRUVEDI ADHOC COMMITTEE

First National Mathruvedi Adhoc Committee Meeting was held on 28th June 2021, presided over by Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil (National Coordinator SMCC Ireland). The meeting was chaired by Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara (National Director, Mathruvedi Ireland). Fr. Clement, in his speech, stressed on the valuable roles of married women in the growth of the church and the need for successfully achieving this mission as an expatriate. Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara detailed various roles, responsibilities and functions of Mathruvedi mission to the group. He also emphasised the need for starting Mathruvedi units in every Mass centers. Bishop Stephen Chirappanath (Apostolic Visitor for Europe) has conveyed his prayers and best wishes to Mathruvedi and all its upcoming endeavours through telephonic message. Bishop has reminded every married women's vital role in promoting true moral direction in our families, church and communities. Ms. Alphonsa Binu (Ireland Syromalabar family apostolate secretary) explained the role of Mathruvedi in the family apostolate of Syro Malabar Catholic Church Ireland.

The Adhoc General body elected the following members to the National ADHOC executive committee.

President : Dr. Sherly George (Tallaght, Dublin)
Vice president : Lisha Rajeev (Belfast)
Secretary : Raji Dominic (Lucan, Dublin)
PRO : Anju Jomon (Bray, Dublin)
Treasurer : Sweety Milan (Blanchardstown, Dublin)
Intercessory Prayer Coordinator : Lanju Joseph (Sligo, Galway)



Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara
Director
Dr. Sherly George (Tallaght)
President
Lisha Rajeev (Belfast)
Vice President



Raji Dominic (Lucan)
Secretary
Anju Jomon (Bray)
PRO
Sweety Milan (Blanchardstown)
Treasurer
Lanju Joseph (Sligo)
Intercessory Prayer Coordinator

The elected Adhoc Executive committee are currently having regular virtual meetings on second Monday of every month to discuss the current and upcoming Mathruvedi activities. Also Adhoc General body meetings are regularly conducted on second Monday of every alternate month where Mathruvedi unit Presidents and Secretaries from various Mass Centers are actively participating.

Ireland Mathruvedi has formed a national level intercessory prayer group with dedicated members from each Mathruvedi unit. They offer prayers for all the requests and general prayer with various prayer intentions. Mathruvedi is also aiming to have discussions on various topics in the adhoc meeting which will contribute more value to the role of each member in the mission.

There are currently sixteen units actively functioning across various SMCC Mass centres with the recent formation of six units. The current main focus of the Adhoc committee is to expand its functioning to all over Ireland by forming Mathruvedi units in each Mass centre. The committee also aims to organise a national event virtually in December to officially inaugurate Ireland's Mathruvedi mission.

Sendoff and Welcome to the Pastoral Leadership of Cork Syro-Malabar Church.



Cork: Sendoff to Fr. Sibi Arackal who served as the chaplain of the Cork Syro Malabar Church for 4½ years and welcome to the new chaplain Fr. Jilson Kokkandathil took place on Sunday, August 1st 2021 at Cork Wilton Church. On the day, both priests celebrated the holy mass together.

After the Holy Mass, trustee Mr. Shinto Jose warmly welcomed Fr. Jilson on behalf of the community and offered all possible support for his future duties. On the occasion, trustee Mr. Sony Joseph thanked Fr. Sibi for his selfless service as the chaplain of the Cork SMCC. Also wished God's blessings to him, who worked tirelessly for the spiritual and physical upliftment of the church community. Trustee Mr. Dino George honoured both of them with bouquets. Fr. Jilson shared the messages of Bishop Stephen Chirappanath and the national coordinator Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil, to Fr. Sibi by acknowledging the services rendered by him. Fr. Sibi will continue his service in the Diocese of Cork & Rose. Fr. Jilson is the fifth Chaplain of the Syro-Malabar Church in Cork. He was the Rector of Mananthavadi Minor Seminary and the Finance Officer of the Diocese. During the meeting that followed, Fr. Michael O'Leary (Parish Priest, SMA Wilton) gave a warm welcome to Fr. Jilson and a heartfelt thank you to Fr. Sibi, along with representatives from the family units, altar boys and choir members of Cork SMCC.



RUNNERS UPS : DUBLIN TEAM



WINNERS : CORK TEAM

THE FIRST ALL-IRELAND SMYM FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Saturday, 18th August, was unlike any other weekend, for it witnessed the first ever national event of SMYM in Ireland. The bright morning at the St. Benildus College in Sandystown was made brighter with our youth coming together from all the four regions of Ireland (Belfast, Cork, Dublin, and Galway) for the 1st All Ireland SMYM Football Tournament.

Serena Joyce, President SMYM Ireland, welcomed the guests and teams to the event.

The event was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, the National Coordinator of the Syro Malabar Church in Ireland. Fr. Clement in his message emphasised the message of love and communion, exhorting all teams to keep the right spirit in and out of the field. Bivin Varghese, the Global Deputy President of SMYM, in his felicitation address, encouraged the youth to dream big and to win hearts along with trophies.

The action-packed event witnessed six teams playing an impeccable game of football. In the end, Cork A emerged as winners of the ever-rolling trophy, followed by Dublin B team. Rev. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath, awarded the prizes to the winners:

- 1st Prize: Ever rolling trophy, gold medals, and cash award of €250: Cork A team
- 2nd Prize: Silver medals and cash award of €150: Swords team
- Best Player: Sebin Sabu, Cork A
- Best Goalkeeper: Jestin James, Cork A
- Top Scorer: Alan Sajan, Dublin B

The event not only had the football fields set ablaze but also helped develop the bonds further among our SMYM members. Sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakattu, who joined in during the event to boost the teams.

On behalf of SMYM Ireland, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our promoters, supporters, and sponsors. May the Love in Christ deepen further.

SMYM BELFAST

On July 3rd there was a SMYM Down and Connor Meet via Zoom.

On 17th August, there was a Youth Meet of SMYM in Antrim and Fr Jain celebrated Mass for them. The youth gathered together for discussions, and refreshments were served, cooked by the animators of SMYM.

SMYM and SM Teens arranged a NI Boys football competition on 20th August at Colin Glen Football Court, Belfast. There were 7 teams altogether:- Belfast was the winner and Bangor-Lisburn was the runner up for under 16. Dundonald was the winner and Belfast was the runner up for over 16.

SMYM planned a Stairway to Heaven Trek in county Fermanagh on 26th August but, due to technical issues, it was dropped.

SMYM DUBLIN

SMYM Sports day, 'Fun in the Sun' took place on Saturday 17th July 2021 at Corkagh Park. 120 youth members from all 9 mass centres participated and many youth animators helped out. The event commenced with a welcome from the SMYM president Sereena Joyce followed by an inauguration by the Dublin Zonal committee members with a lamp lighting ceremony in the presence of Rev. Fr. Rajesh and Rev. Dr. Clement. Youth were split into various groups and were given various tasks and activities such as a treasure hunt, vadamvalli, relay races and sack race. Each team received points for each game and the team with the highest points were the overall champions. Refreshments and pizzas were available to everyone. Everyone had a wonderful experience meeting new friends and making new connections in the outstanding weather. We were blessed with the perfect weather with sunny skies and no clouds. It truly was a day filled with fun in the sun!

Feast Day of St. John Marie Vianney

As part of the Feast Day of St. John Marie Vianney on August 4th, SMYM took the initiative to recite the Novena of St. John Vainney for a week, prior to the Feast Day. It was a 15 minutes challenge on zoom where along with the Novena, we had a priest or a nun to share some words of their most inspiring priest. We are sure that this initiative helped discern the vocation God desires in each individual.

The St John Paul II Ever Rolling Trophy 2021



WINNERS: TALLAGHT

The St John Paul II Ever Rolling Trophy 2021 was held on the 7th of August at St Benildus College, Sandyford. With eight teams representing the nine mass centres in Dublin battling it out for the coveted places in the All Ireland SMYM Football Tournament. The event was coordinated by Jesbin James and Rahul Babu, under the guidance of Fr Rajesh Mechirakath and animators, Jincy Jiji and Siljo Thomas.

Kicking off with the inauguration and lighting of the candle, led by Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil, reigning champions Lucan A kicked things off against Blanchardstown.

After the initial group stages, 4 teams qualified for the semis. Swords and Tallaght A from Group A and Lucan A and Blanchardstown from Group B.

In the first semi, favourites Tallaght zoomed past Blanchardstown in a 5-1 win, straight to the finals.



RUNNER-UP: LUCAN

The second semi was not only a nail-biting encounter between 2 equal teams, but it was a display of great sportsmanship and teamwork. After winning the hearts of everyone watching, Swords had a draw with Lucan A at the end of full time. After winning the penalty shootout, on the last penal in a 4-3 scoreline, Lucan A broke the hearts of Swords and went through to their 2nd final in as many years.

The finals, with the 2 powerhouses, got underway. Tallaght established dominance over Lucan with the starting minutes of the game, with the final scoreline at 7-1. Tallaght won the tournament after coming 2nd last time round.

Jithin James from Swords won the Player of the Tournament, Ron Jaimon of Tallaght A won Topscorer with 9 goals. Tallaght, Lucan, and Swords were given the places to the All-Ireland Nationals on the 18th of September.

GALWAY SMYM MEET

The Syro Malabar Youth Movement meet took place in Galway on the 19th of September at 17:30 at Holy family Church, Mervue, Galway after the Holy Qurbana. Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara, the Vicar of St. Thomas Catholic Church, Galway inaugurated the function. Many SMYM members from different parts of the county participated in the event. The SMYM president of Galway, Mathews welcomed the participants to the event and Miss. Sandra Anil, the joint secretary officially welcomed the gathering. SMYM animator Mr. Bibin Manjakunnel delivered the keynote address. The parish trustees Mrs. Shaiji Johnson and Mr. Geo Jose supported the event and encouraged the youth to actively participate in the meeting. Various interesting activities and sneha virunnu made it a memorable day for the youth.



SMYM PORTADOWN Together we pray...

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people," Ephesians 6:18.

There are few things as powerful as prayer. There is no greater consolation than knowing your Heavenly Father is listening; no richer grace than forgiveness poured out on a contrite heart and no greater cause for joy than knowing you are favoured for a higher purpose.

But when burdened, bound to empty pleasure, and lost, we fall short of the prayer habits instilled in childhood. Our grip slackens on our rosary beads, we lack the reverence we once recited with, and eyes once fixed on the Lord are downcast, in shame and dejection.

For our children to not only hold rosaries, but to reach for them in trail, to not only recite but to pray with heart, to not be overwhelmed by worldly distraction but keep fixated on the Lord - they need not only be taught but led and accompanied.

This is the approach adopted by director, animators, and team of SMYM Portadown. By modelling meaningful prayer lives, our animators Jessy Lipson, Gijo Kunnappillil and Liji Antu have enriched the youth in spiritual discipline. Under the guidance and counsel of our devoted chaplain Rev. Dr Joseph Kurkayil, they incessantly fortify these disciplines by communal monthly prayer. Led by the youth, supported, and graced by our parish.

At our prayer gatherings, deep theological devotion is led and spoken by our young voices. Through hymns, prayers, celebrated and personal; meditations, engrossing and pensive, we are encouraged to engage in intimate dialogue with God and not limit conversation to parameters of need and want. Through prayer we comprehend that we should pray not to change God's working where we are uncomfortable, but to pray for change within us so that we can readily submit to His will. Through prayer our hearts are made more akin to His.

A devotion we unflinchingly offer ourselves to is the Holy Rosary, appreciating the prayer and meditation addressed to the Father, the Blessed Virgin, and to the Holy Spirit centred on Christ. As we continue our service, we hope to draw ever near to Mother Mary and thereby the Holy Rosary knowing that they truly are the pearls of Heaven. Believing that as we pray, Our Mother prays with us.

Prepared by Ayana Gijo, President of SMYM Portadown



“Do Not Be Afraid” A Video Presentation by Portadown Youth

In March of 2020 the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic paved its way into the UK. The commercial world was forced to shut its doors and people hurriedly emptied the streets, stocked up on their essentials (not to mention the panic fights for toilet roll) and locked up in their homes.

A few viewed this as an obstruction robbing time from the prime time of their life, while a few others, as an opportunity to learn, grow, and reflect and then a bunch as the perfect time to do absolutely nothing. The Youth of the Syro Malabar community in Portadown without a doubt fell into the first and third categories until they had some Sunday school teachers and the parish priest pestering to be productive. Being the obedient youngsters, the team narrowed down to produce a video. The video would address the general issues faced by people over the world because of the pandemic and further highlight words of consolation by Pope Francis in order to face and overcome these issues.

What started off as a small-scale project by a few 16-year-olds gradually turned into a dedicated effort by various honourable individuals across Ireland. Eminent personalities such as Archbishop of Armagh, His Grace, Eamon Martin, all Ireland Syro Malabar coordinator Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil, and their Chaplain Rev. Dr. Joseph Karukayil contributed messages to the project and functioned as well-wishers throughout the process. With the continued support of these wonderful people the team delivered the video later named ‘Do Not Be Afraid’ which was released by the end of August.

The St. Alphonsa feast celebrations observed annually in the parish hosted the release of the project amidst the congregation. The congregation wholeheartedly welcomed the teams video. The video is now available on the St. Alphonsa Community Portadown YouTube channel.

In the end, the dreaded project to keep the idle youth busy became something everyone learnt from. Whether it be showing of one’s music in the background or learning to edit a 20-minute video or simply building up the confidence to speak in front of a camera it made a noteworthy difference for us 16-year-olds who just wanted to sit and do nothing. This video was edited and designed by **Sandra John**.

SYRO-MALABAR YOUTH MOVEMENT (SMYM): CORK

SMYM CORK EXECUTIVE TEAM



Fr. Jilson Kokkandathil
Chaplain



Sania Babu
President



Alen Joseph
Vice-President



Neena Thomas
Intercessor



Jacob James
Secretary



Sancta Jatson
Treasurer



Merin Sunny
OCM



Melvin Mathew
Joint-Secretary



Mrs. Tessy Mathew
Animator



Mr. Siby Thomas
Animator



Jiss James
Ex-Officio

New Executive Members:

There were some changes in the core executive team members. Jiss James stepped down as the president of SMYM Cork executive team due to personal reasons. Former vice-president Sania was elected as the new President and former Treasurer Allen Joseph was elected to the new vice-president role. Sancta Jatson was elected as the new Treasurer of SMYM Cork executive team. Jiss James was re-appointed to the SMYM Executive team as the ex-officio.

Summer Outdoor Meetup

After numerous online zoom meetings, Cork SMYM members finally got a chance to meet outdoors as Covid-19 restrictions were eased further. Even though weather wasn't so pleasant, it was a great time to meet everyone in-person after a long time and also got the chance to meet our new chaplain Fr. Jilson Kokkandathil in more detail, as his presence made the outdoor meet-up more pleasant.

SMYM BBQ Evening:

The SMYM executive members facilitated a BBQ evening as a farewell for former chaplain, Fr. Sibi Arackal. Despite the tormenting weather conditions, members were able to share some quality time with Fr. Sibi and cook food as well.

Future Plans:

There are various activities and meet ups planned for the coming weeks.



BELFAST (ANTRIM, BANGOR, BALLYHACKAMORE, BELFAST, LISBURN)

The Diocese of Down and Connor in the North of Ireland has five Syro-Malabar Mass Centres, namely ANTRIM, BANGOR, BALLYHACKAMORE, BELFAST and LISBURN.

We have Holy Mass every Sunday in Belfast & Antrim, and once a month in Bangor, Ballyhackamore and Lisburn. We started Holy Mass in Downpatrick on 26 th June for the first time, but it is celebrated only every three months. All the activities reported here are for all the five Mass Centres together.

First Friday Vigils

There were First Friday Vigils on 2 nd July, 6 th August and 3 rd September with Holy Mass, talk and Adoration at St Paul's Church, Belfast.

St Thomas Day

On July 3 rd we had St Thomas' Day Mass at Holy Spirit Church on the Glen Road and at Antrim Mass centre.

Pithruvedi

On July 4 th Office bearers for the Pithruvedi were elected. Roji Sebastian (President), Tom Cyriac (Vice president), Jyothis cherian (Secretary), Monse Mathew (Joint Secretary), Jose Thomas (Treasurer), Shanto P Kurian and Anand Joseph (Committee Members).

SM Teens

There was a Meeting of SM Teens via Zoom on 8 th July and a quiz was held. There were vouchers for the winners. On Sunday August 15 th there was a talk for the SM Teens via Zoom by Rev Dr Dev Akkara, who is a psychiatrist from India. The subject of talk was Safe and Wise use of the Internet.

Mathruvedi

There was a meeting of Mathruvedi on 11 July and the general body of the Mathruvedi elected new office bearers. Lisha Rajeev (President), Sheena Aby (Vice President), Biji Jose (Secretary), Jasmine Paul (Joint Secretary), Liji Delish (Treasurer), Shiji Tomy and Brighty Philip (Committee members).

Covid-19 Help

All our five Mass centres together took a collection to help out India for its Covid-19 activities. We collected a sum of £5500, which was distributed to the diocese of Shamshabad, the diocese of Chanda and the Shanthibhavan Palliative Hospital Thrissur.

St Jacob's and St Augustine's Feasts

On 25 th July the whole community wished Fr Jain well his patron saint's feast. The feast of the patron saint of Fr Nidheesh, St Augustine was celebrated on Sunday 29 th August.

Newcomers Meeting

Since 2019, there has been a big inflow of new migrants to Northern Ireland for work and studies. The outbreak of Covid-19 curtailed contact and it was very difficult to meet the newcomers personally.

When the Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed, the Central committee arranged a meeting of newcomers on 25 th July at St Paul's. Mr Paul Kodiyan spoke about the culture of Belfast, Mrs Biji Jose spoke about the possibilities and challenges of nursing care here in Ireland, Mr Abraham Thomas spoke about Financial management, Mrs Manju jomon about Children's education and admissions and Mr Rajeev Mathew about the possibilities of jobs. Fr Paul, Fr Jain and Fr Joe spoke to the newcomers.

Prayer session for catechism students

On August 8 th , 15 th and 22 nd the catechism department conducted a talk and prayer session for the catechism students. On 8 th August classes 1-4, on 15 th classes 5-7 and on 22 nd classes 8-12 attended. Dona Jose, Noel Shaji, Dion Jose and Nihal Shaji led the prayer session with talks, action songs and prayer.

Feast of Mother Theresa at Antrim

The patron saint of Antrim Mass centre is Mother Theresa. A sbig statue of Mother Theresa was brought from India. Under the leadership of Fr Jain, the Antrim Mass centre celebrated the feast of Mother Theresa for the first time, from September 1 to September 5. The whole community celebrated the feast with enthusiasm and it was well arranged by the different committees. Each day of Novenna there was special Nercha and the day of feast there was agape for all the participants of the feast.



September 8 th Feast at Bangor

The Bangor Mass centre celebrates the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady every year, keeping the Ettu Nombu. The community prayed the novena for 9 days via Zoom and the appointed persons led the novena and on 11 th September Saturday the community at Bangor celebrated the feast. There were 12 presudhenties for this thirunnal and after solemn celebration at the church each family received a food pack arranged by the presudhenties.

Catechism Teachers' Meet

On Sunday 29 th there was a teachers' meet at St Pauls from all the Mass centres of Down and Connor. There was a talk by Fr Paul on the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis Antiquum ministerium, as well as discussion and adoration, Mass and refreshments.

CORK

COVID 19 Response Aid for India

Cork: Representing Syro- Malabar Catholics in Cork, Mr. Dino George & Mr. Shinto Jose (Trustees) handed over a cheque towards the 'COVID 19 Response Aid for India' to Mr. Jerry McNamara, FC member of SMA Parish, Cork. Parish Priest of SMA (Society of African Missions) Wilton, Fr. Michael O' Leary and Chaplain of SMCC Cork, Fr. Sibi Arackal were in attendance at the time.

The amount was contributed by the members of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in Cork, to support the people affected by the devastating deadly surge of COVID 19 in India. It was genuine support and cooperation from the members. Family Unit leaders took their initiative and efforts for the collection of the amount.

Fr. Michael O' Leary thanked all the members of the SMCC Cork, who contributed towards this urgent need to battle the crisis. He stated that the money will be given to the needy people in India, compliant with Gov. of India's law for donations.

Syro- Malabar Chaplain, Fr. Sibi Arackal and Trustees also expressed their sincere thanks to the members and Family Unit leaders who joined together to support our country. Also extended their thanks to the St. Vincent De Paul Society of Clonakilty Parish, for their contribution towards it.



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary & India's Independence Day

Cork: Feast of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and India's 75th Independence Day was celebrated by SMCC Cork on Sunday, 15th August at SMA Wilton. SMA Parish priest Fr. Michael O' Leary hoisted the Irish flag and the Chaplain Fr. Jilson Kokkandathil hoisted the Indian flag. Community sang both the Irish and Indian National anthem. Catechism student Angela Jaison gave the message to the gathering. For SMCC Cork, Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a big day and celebrated every year with holy mass, flag hoisting & sweets sharing.



WATERFORD NEWS

New committee took charge at Waterford SMCC

Waterford Syro -Malabar Catholic Church has welcomed its committee serving the 2021-2022 term. Nominated candidates from the respective family units gathered on 18th August 2021 at a meeting presided by the chaplain Fr. Sibi Joseph Arackal to elect Biji Sebastian and Tomy Varghese as trustees; Shaji Jacob as secretary and central committee representative, Jency Vibin as joint secretary; PM Georgekutty as regional secretary, PRO and central committee representative; and Geo George, Joby Ephraim, Joseph Shibu Manakkil, Ebin Thomas, Anish Kurian and Iyerin Sabu as committee members leading the family units.

Fr. Sibi Arackal, on behalf of those gathered at the meeting, extended his gratitude to the previous committee members for their sincere efforts in serving the community in such unprecedented times. Waterford University Hospital Chaplains Fr. John Philip, Fr. Bobit Augusthy, and Fr. Russel Jacob were also applauded on behalf of the entire community, on endowing their unconditional support in every opportunity that enabled the spiritual and physical growth of the Waterford Syro- Malabar Catholic Community.



Leaving Certificate- Achievements

Waterford Syro- Malabar Catholic Church congratulated Aaron Benny and Allen Manoj on achieving excellent results at the Leaving Certificate examination of 2021. Pictured here is Allen Manoj receiving a memento from Chaplain Fr. Sibi Arackal after the celebration of holy mass on 12th September.

DUBLIN

All Dublin Altar Servers meet

An all Dublin altar servers meet was held on the 25th of August 2021 in Fettercairn church, Tallaght. Around 200 children participated in the meet. The event began with our beloved priest Fr Rajesh Mechirakath offering the Holy Qurbana. He then inaugurated the special occasion by lighting a candle along with all the children that received their First Holy Communion this year. Several fun-filled games were played along with food and drinks. The children were divided into 10 groups and the day started off with a quiz led by Fr. Rajesh. There were many activities and games played both indoors and outdoors. There was a prize distribution at the end. Our beloved Fr Clement and Fr Roy were also present. Several animators, committee members and youth from different mass centres volunteered at the event. All the children communicated with each other very well and had fun. Overall the event was a huge success

Football tournament organised by Pithruvedi

A friendly football competition was held by Pithruvedi on the 7th of August. Along with the participation of members from all Dublin Mass Centres, the presence of Fr. Clement, Fr. Rajesh, and Fr. Roy brightened the joyous occasion.

Teams from each centre stepped up for the competition and played a fantastic match of football with passion and commitment, despite the rainy conditions. The finals were played between Phibsborough and Blackrock. The enthusiastic tournament, with BlackRock's victory in the final penalty shootout.

The day ended well with the cheers and encouragement poured out by everyone.



Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick, the holy mountain

On 25th July, a three-hour journey was embarked to the holy mountain, Croagh Patrick. The group was filled with immense joy after their summit of the mountain, which was followed by celebration of the Holy Qurbana, by Fr. Rajesh. It was delightful to see the participation of individuals from across all the centres of Dublin

Beaumont Mass Centre

Beaumont Mass Centre celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Mother Mary and children's "Vidyarabham" on 15th August 2021 at St. John Vianney Church, Artane. Syro Malabar rite Malayalam Masses are celebrated on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at the Church of Nativity of Our Lord, Beaumont and on the 3rd Sunday at St. John Vianney Church, Artane.



Blanchardstown

Feast of 'The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary'

Adoration, Rosary, Holy Mass and Novena were conducted every day from 01 September to 08 September at Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Huntstown.

Farewell to Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu

A Farewell meeting was conducted after 7.30 am Mass on Sunday, 05th September for Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu who is leaving for higher studies after serving the Syro-Malabar church Dublin for past three years.

Solemn Holy Communion

21 Children from Blanchardstown Mass Centre celebrated Solemn Holy Communion on 04 Sep 2021. The Catechism Department has been conducting online preparation classes for children over several months to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Pilgrimage to "Our Lady's Island - Wexford"

A pilgrimage was conducted to "Our Lady's Island-Wexford. Fr. Roy George flagged off the trip after the 8am Holy Mass on Saturday 14th August 2021.

Thirusannidhiyil

'Thirusannidhiyil' is being celebrated on the First Friday of every month with adoration, rosary, praise, worship and Holy Mass. Faithful participate in this spiritual venture devotedly.

Vidhyarambham (Ezhuthiniruthu)

Vidhyarambham was conducted after 8 am Mass on 28 Aug 21 for children starting school this year.



Presentation by Class 12 catechism students

The catechism students completed class 12 delivered an excellent online presentation on 19th July 2021 attended by catechism students, teachers and parents. It was an incredible experience to watch them sharing the knowledge they have learnt over their twelve years of faith formation.

BRAY

Family day out

Bray mass centre organised a family outing day on July 24th Tuesday at Powerscott Waterfall, Enniskerryin order to strengthen the bond between the families in the parish. The event was led by Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu and more than thirty families participated in the family day out. Fun filled competitive games and tasty food made the day attractive. The event started at 10am and finished at 6:30pm.



Farewell to Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu

A grand farewell was given to Rajesh Mechirakathu for his great service to the Bray Syro Malabar community for the last three years. The event was organised at St. Fergals Church Bray on September 5th after Holy Mass. Trustees, Secretary, pious association representatives and catechism headmaster spoke about Fr. Rajesh's magnificent services to the Bray community and a memento was presented on behalf of the parish. The catechism year was inaugurated by newly enrolled first year students and Holy Communicants. Theresa Sunny, Alan Sebastian and Leslil Vinod, top scores of living certificates were congratulated at the meeting.

Solemn reception of Holy Communion

Six students celebrated the solemn reception of Holy Communion in Bray mass centre this year after receiving preparatory classes in Syro Malabar rite. Fr Rajesh Mechirakathu was the main celebrant and Fr Clement Padathiparambil gave the message in the celebration. Fr. Roy George Vattakattu and Fr. Sebastian also participated in the event. Vicar of St. Fergals Church, Bray presented gifts to the holy communicants on their solemn reception of Holy Communion day.

LUCAN MASS CENTRE

ETTUNOMBU FEAST AND IDAVAKA THIRUNNAL

Lucan Mass Centre celebrated Ettunombu Feast and Idavaka thirunnal on September 8 in Divine Mercy Church Lucan. Ettunombu Festival started with flag Hoisting Ceremony on September 1st by Rev.Dr.Clement Padathiparambil followed by Adoration, Holy Qurbana, Confession, Novena and Message conducted on each day of ettunombu . Nine family units of Lucan Mass Centre Catechism, and SMYM coordinated and participated in each day's prayers very devote fully. Children led the rosary and offertory. On the Feast Day Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary, IDAVAKA THIRUNNAL was celebrated with Solemn celebration of Holy Qurbana by Rev.Fr. Rajesh Mechirakath, followed by presudenthi Vazcha, Novena, Nercha and Procession with Candle lights, Marian flags, and Umbrella followed by the flag descending. Band by dew drops added colour to the procession. This was followed by farewell programme meeting for Fr. Rajesh.



SOLEMN RECEPTION OF HOLY EUCHARIST

On September 19th, 20 Children from Lucan Mass centre received their First Holy Communion after months of spiritual preparation and training. Celebration started with Solemn celebration of Holy Qurbana by Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil in Church of Guardian Angels Blackrock. Rev. Fr. Roy Vattakkattu, Rev.Fr. Paul, Rev.Fr. Shinto, Rev.Fr. Binoy concelebrated the Mass.

ALTAR SERVERS MEET

An altar servers meet was conducted on June 7 for all the Altar servers in preparation for getting the children back for serving after a long covid lock down restrictions. The meet was held on line by zoom. Rev.Fr Kevin Mundackal, the first ever Syromalabar ordained priest in Chicago diocese led the interactive sessions for children. Rev.Fr. Clement Padathiparambil briefed the parents and children about future plans of altar servers training. The meet was made very interactive by Kahoot Quiz on Syro Malabar Holy Qurbana and various activities and discussions.

PHIBSBOROUGH

Phibsborough Catechism student Sleevan Joggy honoured with prize for "Marwallah" all Ireland quiz competition at St. Peter's Church, Phibsborough on 12th September 2021.



TALLAGHT

Faith Fest

Faith fest was celebrated on August 11th and 12th and many catechism students participated in the event. The event was led by Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu and catechism teachers. All attendees got opportunity to participate in games conducted in the fest and Fr. Rajesh presented the prizes to the winners. .



Family Fest

Tallaght Parish Family Fest was conducted on August 28th at Corkagh Park. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu and committee members organised the event and parish members actively participated in the event. There were individual and unit wise competitions for children and adults. The event lasted for whole day and it was a memorable experience for the parishioners. Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu presented the prizes to the winners.



Idavaka Thirunnal

The combined feast of Virgin Mary and Saint Evuprasamma was celebrated on September 11th at Fettercairn Church, Tallaght. There was a procession after the feast mass participated by whole parishioners. The statues of Virgin Mary, Saint Evuprasamma, Saint Alphonsa, Saint Sebastian and Saint Anthony was carried during procession escorted by band set. Procession ended with raising of the statues and blessing.



Solemn reception of Holy communion

Fourteen children from Tallaght celebrated solemn reception of Holy Communion on September 4th. The celebration was guided by Fr. Clement Padathiparambil, Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu, Fr. Sebastian and Fr. Shinto.

Farewell to Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu

A grand farewell was given to Fr. Rajesh Mechirakathu, on September 11th. Fr. Rajesh was felicitated at the meeting by priests, committee members, pious committee representatives and parish representatives.

GALWAY

The Galway mass centre consists of 160 families and 40 international students. Fr. Jose Bharanjikulangara is the Chaplain of the Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Galway. Three Holy Masses are celebrated in the Galway mass centre every month. Catechism classes for students from 1st to 12th standard started on the 5th of September 2021. Syro Malabar Mass Centre, Galway activities are supported by the parish pastoral council, Syro Malabar Youth Movement, Mathruvedi and Pithruvedi.

Solemn Reception of the Holy Eucharist

Twelve children celebrated their solemn reception of the Holy Eucharist this year at the Holy family church, Mervue, Galway. Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara was the main celebrant for the event. Holy Communion classes were conducted in order to prepare the children to receive the Holy Eucharist for the children under the leadership of Mrs. Graci Josi, the Catechism Headmistress in Galway.

LONGFORD:

The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in Longford celebrates the Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite every second Sunday of the month. Catechism classes have recommenced after the COVID 19 restrictions eased off and are conducted monthly prior to the holy mass.

NEW MASS CENTRE IN LETTERKENNY

The first Syro Malabar rite Mass in county Donegal was celebrated at the 'Church of the Irish Martyrs', Letterkenny on Friday, September 10th at 5 p.m. Fr. Brian Quinn, the Parish Priest welcomed priests and the Syro- Malabar faithful to the celebrations and delivered a message to the gathering. Rev.Fr.Dr. Clement Padathiparambil, National Coordinator of the Syro Malabar Church in Ireland, was the main celebrant and Fr. Sebastian OCD was the co-celebrant on the day.



CAVAN

Holy Family Syro Malabar mass centre Cavan catechism department conducted a series of online activities for children named 'FESTIVAL OF FAITH'. Rev. Dr. Clement Padathiparambil(National Coordinator of Ireland) inaugurated the activities and was conducted over six weeks. The main intention of this online initiative was to create a medium to hand over the gift of faith to future generations and children actively participated in this online event. Fr. Reji Kurian handed over prizes to the winners of various competitions

LIMERICK

St.Mary's Syro Malabar Church Limerick is initiated with the guidance of priests, bishops with the cooperation of Limerick Diocese. There are 6 family units geographically spread out into 3 neighbouring counties in Limerick parish. Fr. Robin Thomas is the priest in-charge of providing all spiritual guidance and liturgical needs in this parish. .During COVID -19 restrictions holy mass was celebrated on every Saturday and First Friday of the month with online streaming.

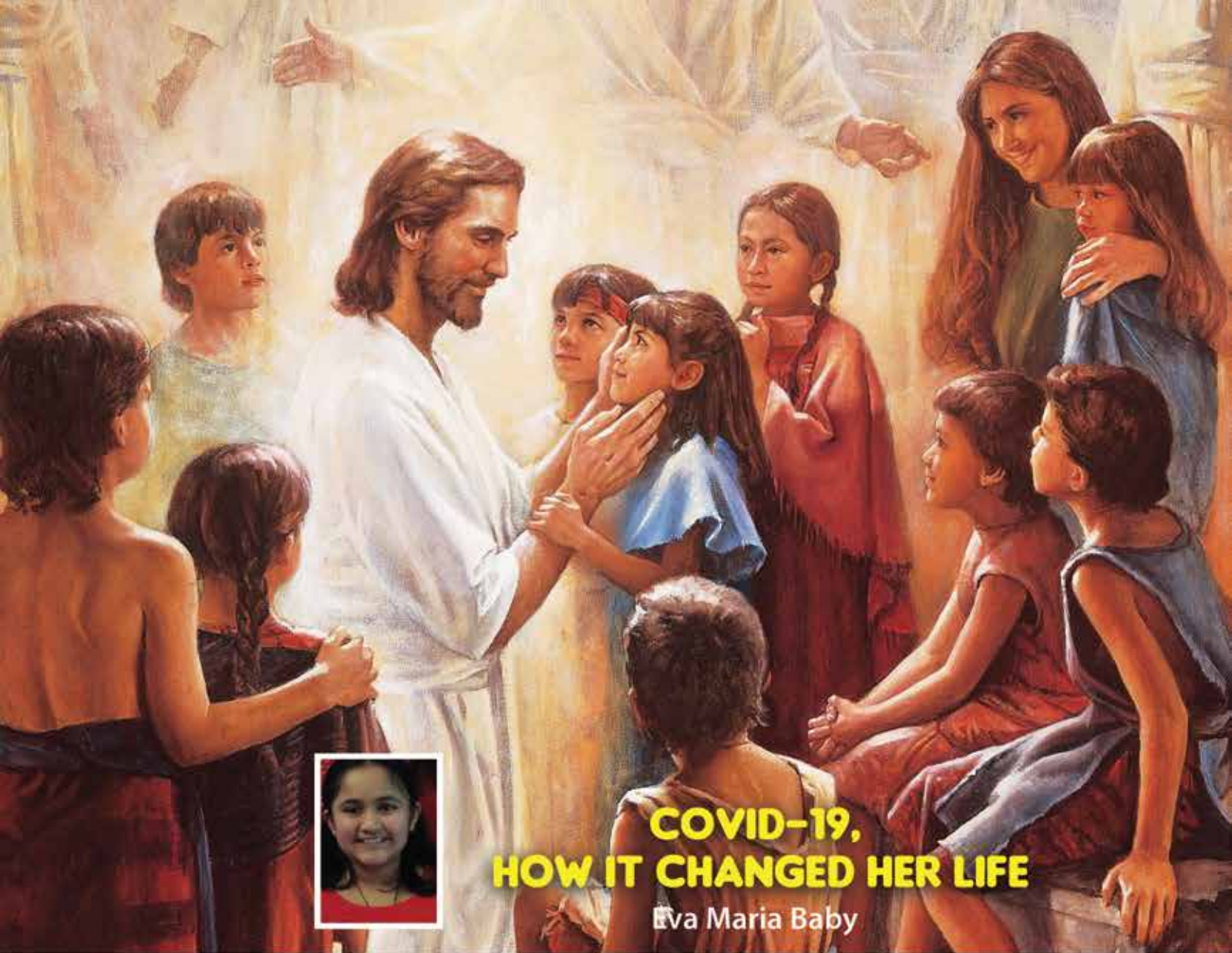
St. Paul's Church, Dooradoyle, is used for Holy masses and catechism classes. Special thanks to St. Paul's Parish committee, Fr. Noel (priest in charge) and Bishop Brenden Leahy for their support towards the Syro Malabar Community. Recently a collection was organised amongst the Syro Malabar community and money handed over to St.Paul's Parish Committee for church roof maintenance.

Regular catechism classes conducted online during COVID 19 lockdown and catechism exam completed online. Church general body meetings and committee meetings were conducted in regular intervals and Bishop Steven Cheruppanath, and Fr. Clement Padathiparambil (Nation Co coordinator) communicated with church committee members during meetings, evaluated and appreciated activities conducted in the church. Solemn reception of holy communion is scheduled on 09-10-2021 and 11 children are preparing to receive Jesus into their heart this year.

SLIGO

St.Thomas Syro Malabar Church Sligo members are blessed to have monthly Holy Qurbana from January 2020. St. Joseph Church Ballytivnan Sligo was given to the Syro Malabar Community to celebrate Holy Mass following a discussion with Bishop Kevin Doran (Elphin Diocese). The parish was in the process of commencing catechism classes however, they had to be postponed due to the COVID 19 restrictions and they are currently working on starting the catechism classes. The parish conducts weekly Rosary on the Zoom platform. Mathruvedi has started recently in the parish and has twenty five mothers as active members in this pious.





COVID-19, HOW IT CHANGED HER LIFE

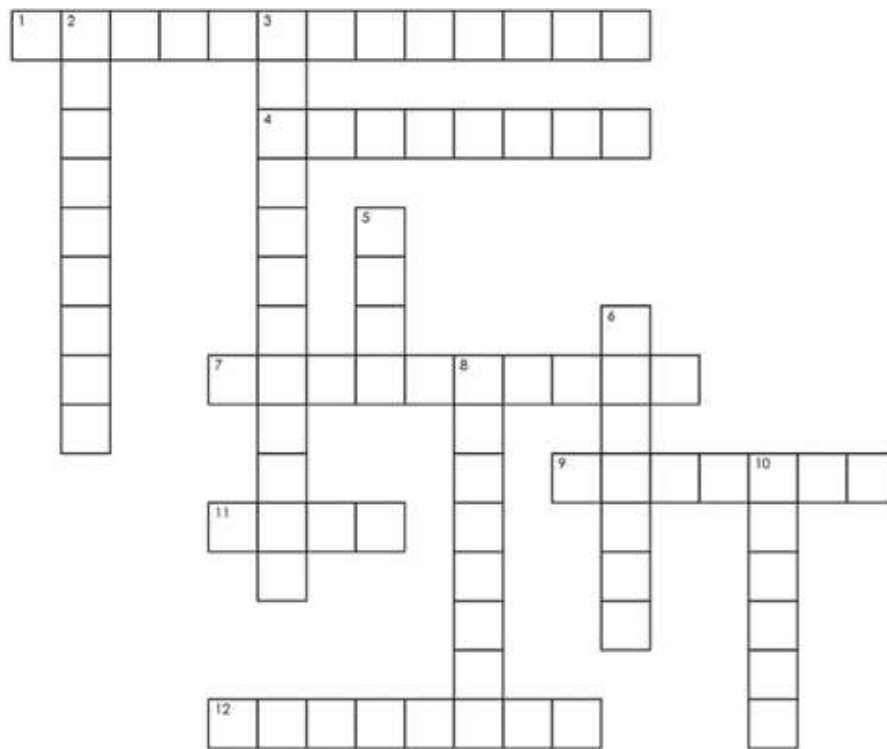
Eva Maria Baby

Corona here, Corona there, Rose was sick of hearing the word 'Coronavirus'. She thought if she went to the church, she could have some peace and quiet. But as she was going through the prayer books, she saw a newspaper with the title, 'Covid-19 cancels all Communions and Confirmations'. Rose had officially had it. She couldn't go anywhere without seeing or hearing the word Covid-19. She stormed out of the church with rage filled up inside her. To make her day even worse, when she got home, her dad told her that her mom, who was a frontline worker, had to get tested since her co-worker was positive, so her mom had to isolate until they got the test results. Rose was very annoyed now. She ran upstairs to her room and didn't come down until the next morning. The next day Rose woke up and did her usual morning routine and went to mass. When she got back, her dad told her that her mom was positive. But not thinking how serious this situation was, she started watching television. A few weeks had passed, and her mom was extremely sick that they had to bring her to the hospital. Rose started to get worried. The next day when she was talking to her on the phone, she realized that her mom was having a difficult time breathing. By the time the nurses came, Rose hung up the phone. She started crying her eyes out. Hearing her mom struggle made her burst into tears. She didn't want to lose her mom. But instead of praying to God, she started blaming him. She said 'if you love the world so much why do you make innocent people suffer and what did my mom do to deserve this'. She wasn't in the mood to do anything else, so she went to sleep. A few hours later she had a dream. It was a bright figure standing in front of her. It looked like a man. The man started speaking and he said 'my sweet Rose, why do you question me. I am the creator of this world but still you think I don't know anything. I sent this virus not to hurt people but to bring them closer to me. And you also ask what your mother did to deserve this. She did not do anything, but you did. I gave her the virus so that YOU would believe in me. So, my child, do not question me but pray to me because if you have faith, you will have everything. And I promise you, your mother will survive. Now Rose, go get some sleep'. Rose woke up feeling a type of happiness she had never felt before. She went back to sleep without delay but before she did, she thanked God for everything he had done for her. Day by day her life started going uphill. Her mom started getting better and was expected to be home in a few days exactly as Jesus had promised. Her schoolwork was getting better; she went to church more often and prayed for all the people around the world who was affected by the virus financially, physically and mentally. For most people, Covid-19 was a burden, but for Rose, it was a life changing experience.



LET US SOLVE THIS CROSSWORD PUZZLE AND WIN SOME AMAZING PRIZES.
 You may print this page or draw the crossword on a blank page and fill it in. Send us your answers before November 30 to kidscorner@syromalabarcatholic.ie Selected entries will win some exciting prizes!

Crossword Puzzle



Across: →

1. Female saint, Mystic, Doctor of the Church
4. The place where Mary lived
7. Song of Mary
9. The saint of Assisi
11. Number of Marian Dogmas
12. Prayer of St. Bernard

Down: ↓

2. Mary's Cousin
3. March 25
5. The disciple Jesus told to look after Mary
6. Mary's visitor
8. Apostle of Divine Mercy
10. Mary is also the Mother of the _____



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION
MISSION

3 Indispensable keys
at the heart of a Synodal Church



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