



Melbourne Orthodox Cathedral Bulletin



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VICAR'S DESK:

Rev. Fr. Aji K Varughese

Dearly beloved in Jesus Christ,

By the Grace of God, our church is planning to publish a monthly Newsletter, **MELBOURNE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL BULLETIN**, from February 2023 as per the decision of the General Body. The Newsletter will contain Liturgical events, details of Lent, Spiritual organization's activities, Prayer meeting details, Sunday School news and other activities of the church. Newsletter helps the church members to understand and participate actively in spiritual and other activities of the parish. I need your prayerful participation and cooperation for this venture.

The 2023 Sunday School academic year started on 29th January. Mr. Jacob Ninan, Mr. Philip M John, and Mrs. Aleyamma John are appointed as Headmaster, Secretary, and Treasurer respectively. On behalf of the Cathedral, I express our sincere thanks to Mr. Mathew Simon, the former Headmaster for his sincere service and leadership for the last three years. The support and cooperation of all members to the new office bearers are necessary for the smooth and successful administration of the Sunday School.

Great Lent starts on 20th February 2023. Lent, Fasting, Prayer, Arms Giving, Compassion, etc. are hallmarks of the Great Lent. They are absolutely necessary for our spiritual nurturing. May I urge all of you to observe Great Lent as a whole family. Our Church Fathers define lent as a pilgrimage from the desert to Calvary. I wish and pray that this Lenten season be a great blessing to all of you.

May God bless you all.

Aji K Varughese achen



LITURGICAL CALENDAR - FEB 2023

- 1st Feb - Commemoration of Prophet Jonah
- 2nd Feb - Mayaltho (Entry of our Lord into the temple).
The end of Nineveh Lent
Commemoration of Prophet Jonah
Feast of Mar Severios of Antioch.
Commemoration of St. Simon and Hanna. (Elder's Day).
55th Commemoration of HG Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolitan
& Mar Kauma & all the Fathers.
- 5th Feb - Commemoration of all Departed Priests (Kohne Sunday).
- 9th Feb - 14th Commemoration of HG Mathews Mar Epiphianos Metropolitan
(St. Thomas Cathedral, Kollam).
- 12th Feb - Commemoration of all the Departed Faithful (Anide Sunday).
- 13th Feb - 91st Commemoration of Patriarch Ignatius Elias III (Manjinikkara Dayara).
- 16th Feb - 11th Commemoration of Sabha Ratnam H. G. Geevarghese Mar
Osthathios Metropolitan (St. Paul's Mission Chapel, Mavelikkara).
- 19th Feb - First Sunday of Great Lent (Kothine Sunday/ Cana) (Pethurtha of the
Great Lent).
- 20th Feb - First Monday of the Great Lent (Shubkono/ Service of Reconciliation).
- 23rd Feb - 89th Feast of Malankara Sabha Bhasuran St. Geevarghese Mar
Dionysius Metropolitan Vattasseril (Old Seminary, Kottayam).
15th Commemoration of HG Thomas Mar Makarios Metropolitan
(Devalokam Aramana, Kottayam).
Feast of St. Policarpus of Smyrna.
- 24th Feb - Feast of Apostle St. Mathew the Evangelist.
- 25th Feb - Commemoration of St. Ephrem & St. Theodoros the Martyr (First
Saturday of the Great Lent).
Perunal of St. Dionysius
- 26th Feb - Second Sunday of Great Lent (Leper/Garbo).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Planning for the new academic year for Sunday school started with a Sunday school teachers meeting conducted on 22nd January 2023. Mr. George Varughese delivered a meditational talk to all the teachers during the meeting. Vicar - Rev Fr Aji K Varughese implored teachers to help children see God through the Sunday school teachers.

The new year of the Sunday school academic year started on 29th January 2023. Children were excited to be back at Sunday school, learning about God our Lord and of course meeting up and spending time with friends after school holidays. Prize winners of academic examinations for the year 2022 for all grades were published on the notice board. Vicar congratulated, Evan Abe Roney, Freya Thomas, and Preeti Thomas for completing Grade 10 Sunday school. Vicar thanked their parents for their encouragement and support. Vicar also expressed his joy in the enthusiastic participation of students in the traditional song-learning program.

The bible verse learning will commence again on the 4th of February. Re-examination of Grade 10 students will be held on the 12th of February. The preliminary examination for the much-awaited Bible Quiz competition for Moran Mar Baselios Paulose II ever rolling trophy will take place on 26th February. The examination will be based on the first eight chapters of the Book of St Mark.

OCYM & MGOCSM

SMIOC & SGIOC's OCYM & MGOCSM combined Youth Retreat-Conference

The SMIOC and SGIOC MGOCSM & OCYM units conducted a Retreat 'n' Conference at the Cathedral on Saturday, 28th Jan 2023.

Rev. Fr. Ferdinand Pathrose (our former assistant vicar) facilitated the event, and it was a grand success with around 70 attendees and 35 youth members from our Cathedral. Activities involved theme sessions, group discussions, songs, Q&A and games.



The SMIOC MGOCSM & OCYM took a trip to the Brunswick Lifeblood Donor Centre, making 4 plasma donations, and 4 whole blood donations on Saturday, 4th Feb, saving 24 lives! Donating blood is very important, and we appreciate all involved for spending their Saturday afternoon in the service of others. Great work Team Youth!



MARTHA MARIAM SAMAJAM

MMVS monthly meeting will be conducted after Qurbana at Cathedral on 12th Feb.

COUPLES FELLOWSHIP

Couples fellowship meeting will be held on every fourth Sunday of the month after Holy Qurbana with a devotional address from Achen.

PRAYER GROUPS

- 05th Feb - St. Thomas Prayer meeting : Mr. Thomas Kurian's residence at Viewbank.
- 12th Feb - St. Kuriakose prayer meeting : Mr. Jeo Paul's residence at Wollert.
- 19th Feb - St. Dionysious Prayer Meeting : To be decided.
- 26th Feb - Combined Lenten Prayer (St. Thomas and St. Kuriakose) : Mr. M.C.Jacob's residence at Greensborough.

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