



# Melbourne Orthodox Cathedral Bulletin

**AUGUST 2023**



**ST. MARY'S INDIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.**

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## VICAR'S DESK

**Rev. Fr. Aji K Varughese**

Dearly beloved in Jesus Christ,

We are observing 15 days lent from 1 August. Lent helps us in purifying our lives through spiritual activities. This lent is observed to commemorate the dormition of Mother Mary. God chose Mary and filled her with Grace. She led her life according to the 'call' of the Highest. She never complained about her pains. Her journey was through many crises, poverty, wandering, misunderstandings by others, etc. But Mother Mary always remembered the promises of God. She never murmured against God. Mary followed Christ as a shadow up to Calvary. After Crucifixion, Theotokos (Mother of God) united all the disciples who were scattered and led them to assemble in the upper room for prayer (Acts 1:14). She was never afraid or changed her mind. She trusted in God and His promises given by Angel Gabriel.

Our Church was established in the name of St. Mary. We must observe the feast of St. Mary with great honor and respect in a befitting manner. Our church will celebrate Perunal on the 19th and 20th (Saturday, Sunday) of August and the parish convention will be held on the 17th and 18 (Thursday, Friday), from 7.15 pm to 8 pm through the Zoom platform. Harvest festival will be conducted after Holy Qurbana. Evening prayer and intercessory prayer of St. Mary will be conducted on all the days of this Lenten period from 6.30 pm onwards.

I request the active participation and cooperation of all the believers throughout the Lenten period and the feast of St. Mary. We can seek the blessings and intercessory prayer of St. Mary.

May God bless you all.

Yours loving  
AJI ACHEN





# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

## SEASON OF TRANSFIGURATION

August 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Shoonoyo fast begins (15 days Lent)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> The Feast of Transfiguration (Koodara Perunal)	<b>7</b> Feast of St. Demetrios of Thesselonica.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 1st Sunday after The Feast of Transfiguration Commemoration of Prophet Micha.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Shoonoyo Perunal - The Feast of the dormition of St Mary, Martha Mariam Samajam day	<b>16</b> 330th Commemoration of Mar Ivanios Hidayatulla Episcopa (Mulanthuruthy Cathedral).	<b>17</b> Feast of St. Mary Parish Convention Day 1	<b>18</b> Feast of St. Mary Parish Convention Day 2	<b>19</b> Feast of all Prophets 32nd Commemoration of HG Joseph Mar Pachomios Metropolitan (Carmelkunnupally, Mulakkulam)
<b>20</b> 1st Sunday after Shoonoyo Feast of St. Mary @ SMIOC - Coburg	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Feast of St. Matthias the Apostle. 6th memorial of HG Thomas Mar Athanasios (Othara Dyara)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 2nd Sunday after Shoonoyo	<b>28</b> Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 43rd Commemoration of HG Paretu Mathews Mar Ivanios Metropolitan (Mar Kuriakose Dayara, Pampady).		

Sunday school mid-term examination was conducted on 09 July after Holy Qurbana for all grades until grade 9. Sunday school Talent Day was conducted on Saturday 22 July. Programs were conducted concurrently in three venues (Church, Hall, and at the new house), to accommodate 95 participants. 9 judges were evaluating the competitions which led in completing the competitions as planned. Below is the age category and the events winners for the 2023 Talent Day competitions.

	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
<b>BEGINNERS</b>			
<b>Solo (English)</b>	Amelia Susan Mathew	Ezra Bava Skaria	Amelia Mary Suban
<b>Solo (Malayalam)</b>	Amelia Susan Mathew	Amelia Mary Suban	Ezra Bava Skaria
<b>Story Telling</b>	Ezra Bava Skaria	Amelia Susan Mathew	Amelia Mary Suban
<b>Coloring</b>	Asher Mathew	Hannah Susan Joseph	Amelia Mary Suban & Ezra Bava Skaria
<b>PRIMARY</b>			
<b>Solo (English)</b>	Joanna Mary Mathew	Faith Nirmal	Adrian Suban
<b>Solo (Malayalam)</b>	Joanna Mary Mathew	Adrian Suban	Shane Nirmal
<b>Story Telling</b>	Joanna Mary Mathew	Adrian Suban	Shane Nirmal
<b>Coloring</b>	Joanna Mary Mathew	Hannah Anish	Shane Nirmal & Faith Nirmal
<b>Group Song</b>	Faith Nirmal/Adrian Suban/Hannah Anish/Noah Samuel/Shane Nirmal		
<b>JUNIOR</b>			
<b>Solo (English)</b>	Elyna Susan Binil	Ruha Mary Skariah	Davina Mariam Mathew
<b>Solo (Malayalam)</b>	Elyna Susan Binil	Ruha Mary Skariah	Aiden Santosh
<b>Elocution</b>	Reuben Dennis	Davina Mariam Mathew	Adam Philip Alex
<b>Drawing</b>	Ruha Mary Skaria	Evlyn Mariam Cherian	Diya Elsa Nirmal
<b>Group Song</b>	Aiden Santosh/Adam Philip Alex/Aiden Thomas/Ethan Binil	Eva Thomas/Hannah Praveen/Shalyn Joseph/Davina Mathew/Elyna Susan Binil	Jacob Anish/Sara Jacob/Liana Varghese
<b>Instrument</b>	Reuben Dennis	Johan John Mathew	Adam Philip Alex
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>			
<b>Solo (English)</b>	Irene Elsa Philip	Ann Grace Philip	Mira Susan Mathew & Shawn Nirmal
<b>Solo (Malayalam)</b>	Ann Grace Philip	Irene Elsa Philip	Nathan Rinu George
<b>Elocution</b>	Irene Elsa Philip	Ann Grace Philip	Alexia Elsa Alex
<b>Drawing</b>	Shreya Shine	Alexia Elsa Alex	Shawn Nirmal
<b>Group Song</b>	Irene Elsa Philip/ Ann Grace Philip/Alexia Elsa Alex/Rebecca Varghese	Shawn Nirmal/Austin Suban/Noah Mathew/Reece Thomas	Nathan George/Nathanael Jacob Ninan/Danil Bijoy George/Adis Thomas Panicker
<b>Instrument</b>	Irene Elsa Philip	Ann Grace Philip	Shawn Nirmal
<b>Bible Search</b>	Alexia Elsa Alex	Shawn Nirmal	Austin Suban
<b>SENIOR</b>			
<b>Solo (English)</b>	Aleena Thomas	Diya Mariam Ninan	Aaron Oommen
<b>Solo (Malayalam)</b>	Aleena Thomas	Diya Mariam Ninan	Sairah Varghese
<b>Elocution</b>	Abigail Thirsa Thomas	Aaron Oommen	Aleena Thomas
<b>Drawing</b>	Diya Mariam Ninan	Abigail Thirsa Thomas	Feba Susan George
<b>Group Song</b>	Diya Mariam Ninan/ Sairah Varghese/Feba Susan George/Leah Praveen	Aleena Thomas/Graceline Elizabeth Joshy/Stellina Ann Sajith	
<b>Instrument</b>	Stephin Sajith		
<b>Bible Search</b>	Aaron Santhosh + Stepin Sajith	Leah Praveen	Aaron Oommen





**OVBS-2023 - 21st to 24th September - Registrations have begun**

**St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Cathedral, Melbourne**



# MARTHA MARIYAM VANITHA SAMAJAM

The first MMVS meeting for the new financial year was conducted on 16 July and new office bearers were elected as below:

- **Secretary:** Mrs. Annamol Ashly
- **Joint Secretary:** Mrs. Reni Anil
- **Treasurers:** Mrs. Shiney Sajith

MMVS along with our Vicar express sincere thanks to outgoing office bearers -Mrs. Shiny Jiju, Mrs. Manju Thomas, and Mini Jacob for their amazing service in leading the team for the last 5 years.

The monthly MMVS meeting will be conducted on the second Sunday of every month after Holy Qurbana. MMVS team organizing intercessory prayer during Shoonoyo lent on 03 & 10 August at 06:30 pm followed by reading of the Psalms.

## OCYM & MGOCSM



Throughout the month of July, SMIOC MGOCSM & OCYM have continued to meet for their fortnightly bible studies. The youth first start for the vespers and compline services, followed by a meditation on a theme, character, or portion from the bible.

On July 6, Jessie Cheriyan conducted a study on the theme - Happiness and on July 19, Sam Jacob conduct a study on the theme - Forgiveness.

The SMIOC MGOCSM & OCYM conducted its debut International Student Meet & Greet on Sunday 23 July 2023.

It was an opportunity for the new batch of international students to be welcomed into the SMIOC Melbourne family, having the opportunity to connect with other International students, both past and present, talking to local students, and hearing from a professional in the migration industry.





## COUPLES' FELLOWSHIP

The couples fellowship meeting was held on the 30 July at the Church parsonage. It was presided by Rev. Fr, Aji K Varughese.

New office bearers were elected during the meeting as below:

- Mr. Alex Kallupurackal
- Mrs. Jisha Mathew

The Vicar along with the members expressed their gratitude towards the exemplary leadership and dedication of the outgoing office bearers Mr. Binil Joy and Mrs. Manju Thomas.

## ARTICLE - ABIDE IN GOD

The words of Jesus in St John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

I would like to present here the concept about abiding in God. Abiding in God refers to having a close and intimate relationship with Him. It means surrendering our own desires and selfish ways, and instead, aligning ourselves with the love, grace, and guidance of God.

Abiding in God is not just about going to church on Sunday or reciting prayers; it is about living a life that reflects the character of God. It is through our actions, words, and intentions that we can be a vessel of God's love and grace, making a positive difference in the world.



Irene Elsa Philip

However, abiding by God is not always easy. We are constantly bombarded with distractions, temptations, and pressures from the world around us. But it is during these times that we must stay firm and hold on even tighter to our relationship with God.

So how do we abide in God? It starts with a sincere desire to know him more intimately. Here are 3 ways in which we can abide by God

- Set time every day to pray – Prayer is a way for us to communicate with God. Where we can express our thoughts and needs and our voice. We should make it a priority to dedicate time each day to pray to God.
- Read the Bible – Bible is the living word of God, it is through the bible that we learn about who God is, and his love for us. So let us find time in our busy lives, to read the bible and meditate.
- Living a life of obedience – Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commands" – St John 14:15. Obeying God's command is an expression of love and trust. Honor your father and mother, and you shall live long. We have heard this commandment being said multiple times. However, have you ever understood the true meaning of this? The meaning of this commandment is to regard your parents with great respect and high esteem. For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles his father or mother must surely die.'

In conclusion, abiding in God is not a one-time event, but a lifelong commitment. It requires humility, trust, and surrender. Let us strive to abide in God daily, seeking his presence, guidance, and love, so that we may live a life that glorifies him and brings blessings to ourselves and others.

## DRAWINGS

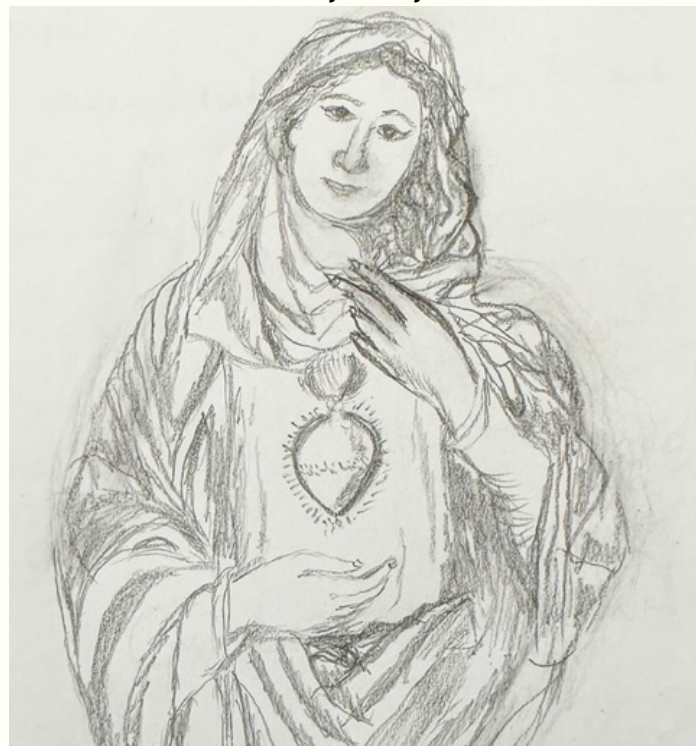
Jesus Loves You



Abigail Jacob



St. Mary - Pray for us



Mrs. Jisha Mathew



## PRAYER GROUP

06 Aug	- ST THOMAS	No Prayer meeting
13 Aug	- ST. KURIAKOSE	Residence of <b>Mr. Anoop Idichandy Alex</b> , South Morang.
20 Aug	- ST. DIONYSIOS	No Prayer meeting
27 Aug	- ST GREGORIOS	Residence of <b>Mr. George Daniel Alex</b> , Wyndham Vale

# MISSION OUTREACH SERVICES

## ST DIONYSIUS INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION, BALLARAT

Rev. Fr. Aji K. Varughese celebrated the sacrament of the Holy Qurbano for the St Dionysius Indian Orthodox Congregation, Ballarat at the St Alipius Parish, Ballarat East, on Friday 21 July 2023.



**ST GEORGE INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION, GEELONG**

Rev. Fr. Aji K. Varughese celebrated the sacrament of the Holy Qurbano for the St Dionysius Indian Orthodox Congregation, Ballarat at the Wesley Uniting Church on Sunday 30 July 2023.

SMIOC Sunday School Junior Choir assisted Achen in the Qurbana by leading the choir.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FEAST OF ST. MARY & PARISH CONVENTION

"Mary's memory - Blessing for us be - May her pray'rs for us - Be a fortress thus"

### Programs:

- 1 - 13 Aug: 6:30 PM Evening Prayer & St Mary's Intercessory Prayer
- Sun, 13 Aug: 8:00 AM Holy Qurbana & Flag Hoisting
- Mon, 14 Aug: 6:30 PM Holy Qurbana
- Thu, 17 Aug: 6:15 PM Evening Prayer & St. Mary's Intercessory Prayer
- 7:15 PM Convention message via ZOOM by Rev. Fr. Jobsam Mathew, Administrative Officer, OSSAE
- Fri, 18 Aug: 6:15 PM Evening Prayer & St. Mary's Intercessory Prayer
- 7:15 PM Convention message via ZOOM by Rev. Fr. Ebey Philip, Karthikappally
- Sat, 19 Aug: 6:30 PM Evening prayer, Gospel Message, Perambulation, Benediction & Nercha
- Sun, 20 Aug: 8:00 AM Holy Qurbana, Perambulation & Nercha  
*[Chief Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Liju Samuel, Vicar of St George IOC, Brisbane]*
- Sun 20 Aug: 11:00 AM Harvest Festival & Auction



## HARVEST FESTIVAL - 2023

SMIOC Melbourne

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops" - Proverbs 3:9

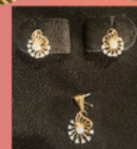
GOLD COIN - LOCKETS

AMERICAN AUCTION - DIAMOND SET

RAFFLE DRAW (IPAD | \$200 grocery | Juicer | ++++)

AUCTION ITEMS

- Icons & Photos
- Electronic Items
- Grocery Items - Non Perishables
- Kitchen Appliances
- Plants
- Food Items (fresh) eg: Beef Fry, Pickles etc
- Home Made Bakery Items (fresh)
- Any Other Special Items



Please bring your offerings before 10:00AM, Sunday 20 Aug 2023

# St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Cathedral, Melbourne

## FAMILY GET TOGETHER & ONAM - 2023

When: 09 Sep 2023 from 09:30AM

Where: St. Mathews Parish - 95 William St, Fawkner VIC 3060

[Access Car Park via Lowson St]

### Cultural Performances from Kids and Adults

- Athapookkalam - അത്തപ്പുകളം
- Maveli - മാവേലി
- Musical Chair - കസേര കളി
- Thiruvathira - തിരുവാതിര
- Vanchippattu - വഞ്ചിപ്പാട്ട്
- Lollies Picking - മിഠായി പിറക്കൽ
- Tug of War - വടം വലി , etc.

### Onasadhya - ഓണസദ്യ

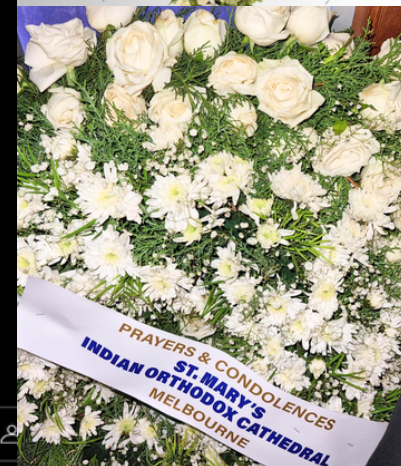
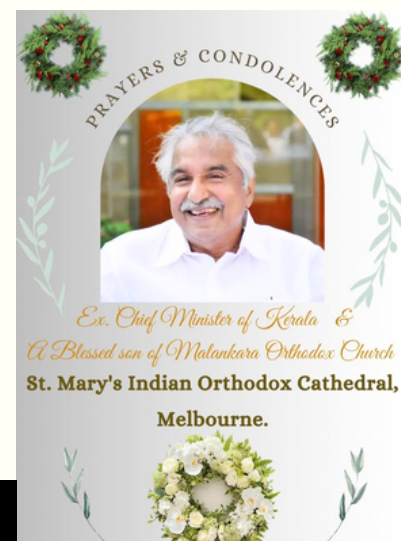


## CONDOLENCES

St. Marys Indian Orthodox Cathedral Melbourne extends its deepest condolences to a visionary leader, Former Kerala Hon. Chief Minister Mr. Oomen Chandy.

Mr. Chandy was an outstanding leader who touched the hearts and lives of millions. He was a staunch believer with the Orthodox ideologies engrained and embedded in his life.

Cathedral Managing Committee member – Mr. Anil Marcus paid the floral tribute on behalf of the Cathedral at the funeral of Hon. Oommen Chandy, the blessed son of Malankara Orthodox Church.



## CONTACT US

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 Cathedral: @SMIOCMelbourn  
 MGOCSM & OCYM: @SMIOCYouth  
 MGOCSM & OCYM: @SMIOCYouth

## BULLETIN EDITORIAL BOARD

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**Spiritual organization representatives:** Mr. Jacob Ninan, Mr. Alfy Alex, Mr. Thomas Kurian,  
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 Mr. Lalu Abraham, Mr. Roney Abraham, Mr. Thomas Panicker, Mr. Rejo Thomas.

### The Feast of Transfiguration

