

# St. Mark's Bulletin



സെന്റ് മാർക്സ് മാർത്തോമ്മാ ചർച്ച്, റാമ്പാ

Volume 6, Issue 1

January - March 2010

## Message from Achen

Dearly beloved in Christ,

*"The eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end". Deut: 11:12.*

Our Heavenly Father has given us one more year in our life. He has promised his ever remaining presence with us for each day of the year by saying 'Fear not, I will be with you always'. So with much hope and complete trust in Him, let us proceed to lead a meaningful and witnessing life in the New Year.

This quarter we begin with the new financial year. And we are entering into the Lenten Season. This is the time to walk through our Master's foot prints, identifying with His sacrificial life. Though Jesus was by very nature God (Philippians 2:6), he didn't grasp at his prerogatives or flaunt his rights, he made himself nothing (Greek kenoo), taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness...." (Philippians 2:7). The Greek verb kenoo means "make empty". Jesus literally "emptied himself" of all the privileges to which he was heir. He didn't just take a low place, he took the lowest place. He was very conscious about his mission and for that he fasted forty days and forty nights. We are called to bear or identify with His vicarious suffering so as to carry out His mission successfully.

By the grace of the Almighty we could conduct many programs in the last quarter in a meaningful way. Parish Day along with the Annual Convention conducted was a blessing to everybody. Family Picnic was yet another program which was enjoyed by everyone. Thanksgiving Day was observed with special services and with first fruit collection which was done in the first time in our Parish. House to House Caroling and Xmas eve programs were done in a befitting manner. Moreover our children and youths who participated in the Ecumenical Talent Search Competitions were bagged most of the prizes. I wholeheartedly appreciate one and all who have labored for the success of all these programs and also I appreciate each individual family for your generous contribution towards the one day income offertory and Christmas collections, particularly towards Mexico Mission apart from help extended to other requests came from India.

As we are entering into a new financial year, we remember the earnest effort of the office bearers of the previous year and hearty welcome to the new office bearers and may the almighty father bestow his blessings upon them so as to do their duties for the extension of His Kingdom. Anniversaries of different organizations are to be conducted in this quarter. And also to participate in the Ecumenical Xmas and New Year programs scheduled to be held on 2nd Jan 2010. Moreover the 115th Maramon Convention will be held from February 14th to 21st 2010. Let's pray for the blessing of the Convention.

May the Loving Lord be with you and help you to fulfill His will in your life. Wishing you all a Christ filled and Prosperous New year 2010.

Tampa,  
01-01-2010

Yours in His Vineyard,  
Sd/-  
T.Johnsonachen.  
(Vicar)

## *This Quarter from the Annals of Church History .....*

**1 January, 1622:** New Year starts from 1 January instead of March 25. The Roman Catholic Church adopts January 1 as the beginning of the year, rather than March 25. Till that time it was generally accepted that the New Year began on 25 March.

**3 January, 1653:** Oath of Coonan Cross – A public expression of the independence of Malankara Church. Believers tied ropes to the granite cross in front of the Church in Mattanchery, Cochin and by touching the ropes took the oath severing their ties with Roman Catholic Church. This incident is known as the Oath of Coonan Cross. (Coonan means Bent – The Cross slant to one side during oath taking ceremony)

**6 January, A.D. 548:** Change of date of Christmas. The Jerusalem Church still observes Christmas on this date (6 January). The Western Church moves to celebrating the birth of Jesus to 25th December.

**7 January, 1965:** Final Judgment on the Daniel Case from Supreme Court of India. In this case, Mr. K N Daniel and others sought to remove Juhanon Mar Thoma from the post of Metropolitan on the claims that the Metropolitan rejected the faith of the Mar Thoma Church. After 10 years of litigation in a number of lower courts, the judgment was given in favor of the Juhanon Mar Thoma by the Supreme Court of India.

**11 January, 2000:** Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan passes away. He became a priest on 5 January, 1945 and was consecrated as Bishop in 1953. 1976, after the demise of Dr. Juhanon Mar Thoma, he became our Metropolitan.

**8 February, 1975:** The Consecration of Joseph Mar Irenaeus as a Bishop of Mar Thoma Church along with Late Easow Mar Thimotheos. Born on June 27, 1931, he was consecrated as Metropolitan (XXI Marthoma) on Oct. 2, 2007.

**14 February 1919:** Formation of Sevika Sanghom in a meeting held at the Maramon Convention.

**14 February, 1843:** Consecration of Mathews Mar Athanasius by the Patriarch of Antioch. Nephew of Abraham Malpan, Mathews became deacon at the age of 13 and was ordained as Bishop at the age of 23. He became the Malankara Metropolitan in 1852 through the Royal declaration of the Maharaja of Travancore. He is the first Metropolitan after reformation in the Malankara Church.

**25 February, 1905:** Formation of Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam in a meeting held at the Maramon Convention

**9 March, 1895:** Beginning of Maramon convention under the leadership of Most. Rev. Titus I Mar Thoma Metropolitan.

\*Adapted from the website of Kuwait Mar Thoma Church  
Published by John Philip Nalloor

## Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members 2010

Abraham P Chacko	Vice President
M. Abraham	Secretary
Thomas A Abraham	Treasurer
John V. Abraham	Accountant
Eapen Mammen	Lay Ministrant
Mathew Verghese	Lay Ministrant

### Representatives of organizations/Prayer groups

Cherian P. Kurian	Brandon Prayer Group
Berty Mathew	Tampa Prayer Group
Minita Saji	Sunday school
Rohan Abraham	Youth Fellowship
Saramma Varghese	Sevika Sanghom
Jacob Valliyil	Edavaka Mission
Jacob Varghese	Yuvajana Sakhyam
Thomas Angail	Choir

### Mandalam/Dioc Assembly Representatives

Varghese K Abraham	Sabha Mandalam
Mathews Thomas	Dioc Assembly

### Auditors

Dr. Saji Koshy
Philip Roy Mathew

## Special offertories during the quarter

January 3, 2009	Outside Kerala Mission
February 7, 2010	Medical Mission
March 7, 2010	Diocesan Sunday
March 28, 2010	Theological Seminary

## Special collections during the quarter

Raseesa	During Holy week
Self Denial	During Holy Week
Hoskote Mission	Good Friday

## MARAMON CONVENTION - 2010

This year's Maramon convention will be held from Sunday, February 14, 2010 to Sunday, February 21, 2010 at the historic banks of river Pampa in Maramon. This is the 115<sup>th</sup> year of the convention. Over half-million people are expected attend various meetings held over a period of 8 days. Please remember the convention in our prayers so that it may be a blessing to our church and all participants.

## BIRTHDAYS FOR THE QUARTER

1-Jan Arun Abraham  
1-Jan Gifty Susan Abraham  
1-Jan Jolly Johnson  
2-Jan Elizabeth Valliyil  
2-Jan Anita Jacob  
3-Jan Anju Abraham  
5-Jan Mariamma Mammen  
5-Jan Sheena Alexander  
7-Jan Sheldon Alexander  
8-Jan Dr. Philip K Thomas  
9-Jan Mathew Verghese  
14-Jan Saly Daniel  
16-Jan Amy Alex  
18-Jan Suparna Narayan  
18-Jan Sheena Stanley  
19-Jan Saleen S Mathew  
19-Jan Anne Scott Jones  
20-Jan Annmarie Abraham  
21-Jan Jacob Simon  
21-Jan Saurav Narayan  
21-Jan Shereena Stanley  
21-Jan Saramma Varghese  
23-Jan Mariamma Koshy  
25-Jan Somya Jose  
25-Jan Abraham Thomas  
30-Jan Bindu Cherian  
31-Jan Rebecca Karakad  
5-Feb Oommen P George  
6-Feb Mathai Abraham  
8-Feb Abraham C Thomas  
11-Feb Sheeba George  
11-Feb Sheela John  
11-Feb Aaron Mathew Thomas  
12-Feb Vinoy George  
12-Feb Tom Kurian  
13-Feb Mariamma I Pothen  
14-Feb Saji Koshy  
16-Feb Hannah Alex  
20-Feb Abey Abraham  
20-Feb Nathan Karakad  
21-Feb Joshua Eapen  
23-Feb Simi Rachel Mathew  
23-Feb Sruthi Elizabeth Mathew  
25-Feb Binu Alex  
25-Feb Dolly Mathews  
25-Feb Mathews Benny  
25-Feb Adithya Mathews  
26-Feb Suja Alex  
28-Feb Saji Mathew

## Birthdays contd...

1-Mar Amit Cherian  
1-Mar Jana Mammen  
1-Mar Deepa Thomas 2-Mar  
3-Mar Varghese K Abraham  
4-Mar Cherrian K Cherian  
9-Mar Caroline Kurian  
11-Mar Joji Jacob  
15-Mar Gracy Angail  
16-Mar Tommy M Thomas  
19-Mar Bini Koshy  
21-Mar Samuel J Thattamannil  
23-Mar Raji Abraham  
23-Mar Marykutty Easow  
25-Mar Anita Verghese  
27-Mar Alisha Sarah Mathew  
29-Mar Bijy Abraham  
31-Mar Saramma Samuel

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FOR THE QUARTER

4-Jan Prasad Mathai & Marsha Mathai  
4-Jan Saji Koshy & Minita Saji  
4-Jan Thomas Karakad & Susan Karakad  
12-Jan Cherian P Kurian & Aleyamma Kurian  
14-Jan Alex Kiran George & Sheba George  
16-Jan Binu Eapen & Mini Eapen  
16-Jan Santhosh Alexander & Sheena Alexander  
17-Jan Bertie Mathew & Renu Thomas  
19-Jan Thomas A Abraham & Thankamma Abraham  
20-Jan Philip Varghese & Nisha Sarah Mathew  
27-Jan Oommen Alexander & Mariamma Alexander  
6-Feb Vinoy George & Beena George  
11-Feb Thomas Abraham & Mary Abraham  
14-Feb Mathew Paul & Nisha Paul  
25-Feb Thomas Mathew & Manjusha Mathew  
1-Mar Samuel Mathai & Jiji Mathai  
20-Mar John Verghese & Anita Verghese  
20-Mar Mathew Skariah & Mariamma Mathew

## **EVENTS AND PROGRAMS DURING THE QUARTER**

### **Sunday March 7, 2010 – Diocesan Sunday**

The day is set apart to remember the Diocese of North America and Europe, its activities and programs, and its leaders especially the Diocesan Bishop, Diocesan Secretary, Treasurer, Council members and all the Assembly members. Highlights of this Sunday are pulpit exchange, special services, and special collections to support the mission activities sponsored and supported by our Diocese.

### **Sunday March 28 – Sunday, April 4, 2010 – Holy Week**

Programs during the Holy (Passion) week include the following:

- Sunday, March 28, 2010 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
(*Palm Sunday*)
- Monday, March 29, 2010 7:00 PM Evening Service
- Tuesday, March 30, 2010 7:00 PM Evening Service
- Wednesday, March 31, 2010 7:00 PM Evening Service
- Thursday, April 1, 2010 7:00 PM Holy Communion  
(*Maundy Thursday*)
- Friday, April 2, 2010 9:30 AM Good Friday Services
- Sunday April 4, 2010 8:00 AM Holy Communion  
(*Easter Sunday*)

**LECTIONARY FOR THE QUARTER**

DATE	THEME	I LESSON	II LESSON	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
03-Jan-10	Proclamation of Truth (Outside Kerala Mission)	Isa.56:1-8	Acts.17:16-31	Eph.4:25-32	St. John.12:20-26
10-Jan-10	Temperance Sunday - "Jesus who liberates"	Prov.23:19-34	Eph.5:1-11	Gal.5:16-21	St. Luke 15:11-32
17-Jan-10	Ecumenism Sunday - Unity at the Local level	Isa.60:1-7	Eph.4:1-8	2 Pet.1:1-11	St. John.17:20-26
24-Jan-10	Call for Christian Discipleship	Isa.42:1-7	2 Timo.2:1-13	1Pet.4:12-19	St.Luke.14:25-33
31-Jan-10	Fall of Creation	Gen.3:1-15	Jam.3:1-12	Rom.5:12-19	St.John.3:1-16
07-Feb-10	Holistic healing that Jesus gives: Healing Ministry Sunday	2 Kings 5:1-14	Acts 3:1-10	James 5:13-19	St. Mark 7:31-37
14-Feb-10	Redemption and Transformation: BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT	Exodus 15:22-27	Romans 12:1-8	Ephe. 4:17-24	St. John 2:1-11
21-Feb-10	Jesus Christ who recognizes the oppressed.	2 Kings 20:1-11	1 John 2:1-17	Acts 5:12-16	St. Mark 1:40-45
28-Feb-10	Fellowship and Liberation through Jesus Christ	1 Sam. 18:1-20	Acts. 8:14-22	Phile. 8-22	St. Mark 2:1-12
07-Mar-10	Jesus Christ who honors faith DSIOCESAN SUNDAY	Isa. 45:1-8	Acts. 16:6-15	Gal. 2:11-21	St. Matt. 15:21-28
14-Mar-10	Christ's victory over evil powers	Isa. 59:12-21	Rom.8:31-39	Eph.6:10-20	St. Luke 13:10-17
21-Mar-10	Faith proclamation that removes darkness	Isa.42:1-9	Acts.12:1-11	1 Pet.3:8-22	St. Mark 10:46-52
28-Mar-10	Hosanna – PALM SUNDAY	Zech. 9:9-17	Col. 1:15-23	Phil. 2:5-11	St. Matt. 21:1-11

**മലങ്കര സഭാതാരക**

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