

**Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam Navathi Year**

Akhila Malankara Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam had conducted a Leadership Training Programme and Navathi Inauguration of the Samajam at Mar Gregorious Orthodox Valiyapally in Baroda on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February. Smt. Sushama Joseph had attended the programme as representative from St.Mary's Cathedral, Ernakulam.

The Group started the outward journey from Ernakulam on 8<sup>th</sup> February, which reached Baroda (Vadodhara) at 5 am on 10<sup>th</sup> February. 275 delegates from all the 30 Dioceses in India were attended. The Venue was graced with the esteem presence of H.G Yuhanon Mar Policarpus Metropolitan, H.G Thomas Mar Athanasios Metropolitan and H.G Dr.Geevargheese Mar Yulios Metropolitan. They Inaugurated the Leadership Training and Navathi Celebrations. There were three classes conducted on Leadership Training Programme on 10<sup>th</sup> February. The active Choir sang melodious welcome song to welcome all the participants.

The subject of the first class was "Christian Women Leadership-Challenges and Responsibilities" Rev.Fr.Dr.Bijesh Philip, Pricipal Nagapur Seminary conducted the class. Achan is in his talk highlighted three major responsibilities of woman ie Security, Kinship & Beatification. Besides this Bijesh Achan made references to the book of Revelation and Gospel of John ch.7 regarding the necessity of "Living water" flow from us. The leader ship should be in such a way that it leads to the blessing of others. All women should adapt the quality of Mother Mary and keep in mind whatever one see and observe.

The second class was about "Women Leadership in Church". Mrs. Mercy John, Teacher Nagapur Seminary conducted the

(Contd..Editorial)

was the right one. The distance to heaven is only the distance to your friend. When God selects us for any important mission, it is the same outlook in us that He reckons as the criterion.

**Prayer Meetings**

St. George Unit (Kaloor Area) 04-03-2018 - 4 pm Mr.George Thomas C-3,Saranya Apartment Puthiya Road,L.F.C Road Kaloor,Kochi-17.Ph:9544329154	St. Marys Unit (Central Area) 11-03-2018 - 4 pm Mr.Alexander Kurian.P T.D.Road, Kochi-11 Ph: 9847260486, 4027782
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class. Prof. Mary Mathew, General Secretary, handled the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of class. The Subject was about "Navathi Project". Madam enlightened that the first meeting of Samajam was conducted by Mother Mary and Elizabeth (Bible story). From Gospel of St.Luke, madam quoted one important verse, "From now all generation will call me blessed. "She also explained the qualities of a "Leader".

The Inauguration of "Navathi" took place after the Holy Qurbana on Sunday 11-02-2018. All the three Metropolitans were there to bless the occasion. The members of Ahmedabad Vanitha Samajam performed a parade of 90 ladies dressed in traditional white Christian dress 'Mundu, Chatta & Kasavu neriyathu' with lighted candles, representing the 90 years Samajam has completed in 2018.

The first meeting of Samajam took place at Kaviyoor St.Sleebea Church on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1928 (1104 - Edavom 15<sup>th</sup>) under the leadership of Fr.Berskeepa, who was appointed by H.G Mar Evanios Metropolitan. The name "Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam" was decided at this meeting. Rev.Fr.M.C.Kuriakose was first president and Smt. K.M.Annamma was the General Secretary. Within one year Samajam was able to open 10 branches. The "Motto" of the Samajam came into existence. It is as follows - Pray, Practise and Illuminate".

The programme was concluded after the evaluation of the 2 days functioning and interactions of delegates with each other. The Metropolitans blessed all the participants and the meeting was concluded with prayers. (Prepared by Sushama Joseph) ■

(From The Metropolitan's Pen Contd.)

justification! It is unbearable to see such cruelty from the followers of Jesus who made himself a sacrifice to give everlasting life to the human race. Was it to 'protect' the Saviour of Mankind who repeatedly instructed his followers on their correct conduct towards their opponents?. It is nothing short of a diabolic deed to assault people in the name of protecting one's faith. Such erratic conduct cannot be part of true faith. Is it not the responsibility of the Church to serve humanity and ensure peace?. Is it not the responsibility of the true faithful to achieve a level of justice superior to that of erratic and vacillating politicians? ■

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# PARISH News

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**EDITORIAL**

**THE PATH TO HEAVEN**

God gives greater responsibilities to those who have discharged the duties assigned to them with careful regard and rectitude. When God chose Amos as His prophet for the people of Israel, Amos was only a shepherd. That is why Amos told Amazia, the priest of Bethel: "I was not a prophet, neither was I the son of a prophet; but I was a herdsman and a gatherer of the figs of sycamore trees."(Amos 7:14). Amos, the keeper of sheep, was chosen to be the keeper of the people of Israel.

We have read about God's selection of the stammering Moses for leadership. God told Moses, "I myself shall prove to be with your mouth and I will teach you what you ought to say"(Exodus 4:12). This selection shows that even the weakest among men carry out momentous responsibilities when they are empowered with God's presence.

Jesus chose, during his earthly mission, only persons from the common stratum of society as his apostles. They were ready for hard work, obedient to their Master and prepared to face any tribulation for the sake of their Master. They never hankered for any earthly gain when they dedicated themselves to the mission of Jesus. They were attracted to the discipleship under Jesus, knowing very well that they would suffer much in their special role.

The most important instruction from Jesus to his followers was to live for the welfare of others. This is the essence of the commandment that every person should love his neighbour just as he would love himself. Once a sage called his disciples and enquired as to what would be the distance to heaven. One of them replied that heaven is beyond the blue sky. Another said that the distance to heaven is equal to the distance to the temple on top of the hill nearby. The sage was not satisfied with the replies received and repeated the question to a third disciple. That disciple only touched his friend on the shoulder and stood looking into his eyes. The sage agreed that his answer

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**FROM THE METROPOLITAN'S PEN**

**DO NOT KILL**

Dr. Yakob Mar Irenaios Metropolitan

'They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain', Jehovah has said (Isaiah 65:25).



None has a right to destroy his own life or the life of another person. The first murder in the human generation occurred when that law was forgotten and love was discarded. Abel became victim to his own brother's murderous assault. Violence is not part of God's creation and yet it found its place in the midst of creation through Cain. Violence is the cruel mind that seeks to annihilate anything that obstructs one's will or desires. However, the truth remains that the wicked deed does not in any way help the murderer to achieve his secret intentions. Duncan could not sit on the royal throne for long after eliminating King Lear. It is abundantly clear that murder is no answer to problems, as evil cannot exist for long.

The inter-group murder taking place in north Kerala is nothing but meaningless cruelty. The human mind and society at large will be restless till the waves of violence subside. The divine revelation made by Isaiah is a signpost to a non-violent way of life. When man bows his head before the commandments of God, peace illuminates all spheres of social and personal life. It is a terrible evil to employ hired killers to commit murder, protecting oneself from imprisonment. When people engaged in health-care try hard to save patients from death, it is totally against social life to destroy human beings, with wanton delight. Their blood cries to heaven from the earth.

Today, autocracy is universally condemned. In an autocratic system, murders are frequently committed, unquestioned. But in a democratic set-up, to kill even the innocent for political gain will not further the cause of democracy. God will demand from the killers the price of the destroyed life.

Even within the Churches, there have been cases where persons holding divergent views were eliminated and one wonders under what spiritual

(Contd. on page 4):

Vicar's Letter

**LENT IS THE SPRING SEASON FOR FLOWERS OF GOODNESS** Fr. Simon Joseph

When we meet a person, clean in appearance, perfumed in body and dressed in the best garments, we are tempted to say, 'O, you look beautiful and wonderfully dressed today!'

Lent is a time of preparation. It is indeed a time for improvement. Bible study, fellowship in worship, prayer, prostration and fasting are spiritual aids meant to renew and control the soul, the body and the mind.

During this season, it is imperative that we discard certain old habits, while receiving and retaining the good ones. We must accept and hold on to that which is good and let go that which is bad.

A thought entertained by many in recent times is that during Lent we must keep away things that we like most. But the most important thing in Lent is to accept or reject things according to God's will and not according to our own will. Prophet Isaiah exhorts very clearly to stop doing evil and learn to do that which is good. Apostle Paul asks us to clothe ourselves with Christ. Lent is the time to introspect and enquire whether we have lost the essentials of Christian discipleship.

Lent must integrate our human character with God's nature. The following words of the Lord must resound within us: 'Let the one who has not committed any sin throw stones'. People whom we have condemned are more than what we can count. Are we not like the Pharisee who claims before God that he is different from the publican? Do we not ask, like Cain; 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Lent should help us to embrace the virtues of God's love, forgiveness, mercy and salvation that we find manifested on the Cross of Jesus. Lent must bring wholesome contentment. Prophet Haggai's book speaks of a situation of unsatisfied existence where clothes in abundance do not protect one's body

from cold and the hardest labour does not yield safety and satisfaction. It speaks of a stage when man is unable to say 'enough'. In the dispute between Martha and Mary, Jesus tells Martha that she was burdened with too many things while her sister Mary has chosen that which is good. Lent must lead us to choose the good that gives us satisfaction.



Forgiveness of sin through the sacrament of Holy Confession confers the blessedness of the man whose 'transgressions are covered and sins forgiven'. The formality of the tradition bound Confession, without repentance, is pretence, leading to perpetuation of sins. One must bow before God in Confession with true repentance of sins and a profound sense of God's presence. There must be a conviction of the remission of sins granted by God. The example of the sinful woman at the feet of our Lord must help us to grieve over our sins.

We should not fill our hearts with filth and dirt. Discard all hatred, enmity and jealousy. Let us make our hearts flower baskets of forgiveness, love and mercy. May this season of Lent transform us to a likeness of Jesus, manifesting in our lives God the Father.

**Baptisms**



**Tessa Mariam Vinay** and **Tania Sarah Vinay** daughters of Dr. Vinay Vargheese Thomas and Dr. Betsy Annie Koshy, G-6, Mooleppat, Panampilly Nagar received baptism on 04-02-2018. Baptism service led by His Holiness Basellios Mar Thoma Paulose II.

**Thomas (Zach Thomas Varkey)** son of Mr. Susmith Varkey Thomas and Mrs. Anisha Mariam Philip, Pullolickal, Thykoodam received baptism on 03-02-2018.

**Yohannan (Santoniyo Jose)** son of Mr. Santhosh Prakash and Mrs. Remya Jose, Manjuveliyil, Ernakulam South received baptism on 08-02-2018.

*We pray for God's grace to the Baptised infants*

**Condolences**



**Dr. P.U. Baby** (68) Pulikkottil, St. Benedict Road passed away on 02-02-2018 and was buried in the Chittoor Road Cemetary on 03-02-2018.



**P.M. Philip** (86), Paret, Palachuvadu passed away on 08-02-2018 and was buried at Elamkulam Cemetary on 09-02-2018.



**Dr. P.C. Alexander** (57), Poovathur, Thevara passed away on 13-02-2018 and was buried in Thevara St. Thomas Church Cemetary on 14-02-2018.

*Our respectful condolences*

Ernakulam Orthodox Gospel Convention

**MELTHO 2018**

Conducted on February 23,24,25.



9<sup>th</sup> Meltho Orthodox Gospel Convention of Orthodox believers of parishes of Ernakulam City was conducted on 23,24 and 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2018. H.H.Moran Mar Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II and HG Yuhanon Mar Policarpose had given blessings at the convention. Famous convention speakers Rev.Mohan Joseph, Rev.Saji Amayil and Rev.A.P.Markose gave messages on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

and 25<sup>th</sup> respectively. Prof.Priya Jacob was the speaker at family meet on 24<sup>th</sup> and Prof.Dr.Varghese Mathew took class for O C YM/MGOCMSM meeting on 25<sup>th</sup>. Rs.2,10,000/- collected at offetry on 25<sup>th</sup> was donated to H.Hanna Old Age Home.

**Special Days**

**March**

- 07 Wednesday Mid Lent
- 11 Sunday Crippled Women (Kapitho)
- 18 Sunday (Samyo), Blind
- 23 Friday The Fortieth day of great Lent
- 25 Sunday Palm Sunday & Feast of Annunciation to the Mother of God (Suboro)

**29 Thursday**

- Pesaha
- 30 Friday Good Friday
- 31 Saturday Gospel Saturday,7.30am Holy Qurbana at Elamkulam Chapel & 11 am Holy Qurbana at St.Mary's Ernakulam Cathedral Church (Kymtho) Easter

**April**

- 01 Sunday (Kymtho) Easter

**Wedding**

The marriage between **Issac** (Son of Dr.Sherry Issac and Dr. Pushpa Issac, Pazhayidath, Church Landing Cross Road) and **Anna** (daughter of Mr.Sam Mathew and Mrs. Mary Mathew, Evarath Kizhakkethil Cheppad) was solemnized in the Cathedral on 04-02-2018 by HH Basellios Marthoma Paul II.

*Greetings and good wishes to the couple*

**Holy Qurbana Timings**

**Elamkulam Chapel :** Mar. 11 - 07.00 am, Mar. 18 - 10.00 am, Mar. 25 - 07.00 am

**Cemetery Jn. Chapel:** Mar. 18 -07.30 am  
Every Saturday H. Qurbana at 6.45 am

**Special events**

1. **M**onthly Orientation on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 10am to 12.30pm
2. **T**here will be a "Spirituality and Moral guidance" class for children above 13 years of age on 11-03-2018 from 11am to 12.30pm. Class will be handled by Fr. Renju .P.Koshy. Intrested children may register their names.
3. **T**hree days convention of our parish will be from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Merlin T. Mathew, Puthenkavu, will be delivering message on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> from 7.p.m Very.Rev.Bezalel Ramban, Basil Dayara Pathanamthitta will be speak on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Mr.P.J.Jacob, Kattanam will be giving message on 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7pm.