



St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

THE EPISTLE

MAY, 2008

MESSAGE FROM VICAR



"The Lord God took the (hu)man and put him(her) in the garden of Eden to work it and to take care of it" Gen. 2:15

"The creation waits in eager expectation

for the sons of God to be revealed. ...in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time." Rom. 8:19-22

My dear sisters and brothers in the love of our Lord,

During this month the Church observes two important incidents of faith, the Ascension of our Lord and the Day of Pentecost. As per our Lectionary, we very poignantly move ahead with the thoughts, experience, and power of resurrection. It basically speaks about one's 'life in Christ', which is irreducibly a life in the power of the 'Spirit of the resurrected Lord'. This is something that should challenge one's otherwise morbid and indifferent attitude and perception of 'spirituality'!

In this context I find it very challenging to place together and ponder over the observances of "Earth Day" and the 'Pentecost'. Our proclaimed faith in the 'Spirit' as the "Lord and giver of life" (see the Nicene Creed) attains vital implications! The faith communities' awareness of the 'threats to life' – both at the individual and collective levels of existence – is evident not only in the scriptural references but in the responses to the historical predicaments too. This is well reflected in the discussions of the ecumenical bodies like the World Council of Churches. From the theme "Man's disorder and God's design" (1st

Assembly – 1948) through the current 'Theology of Life Studies' one can find the stirring-up actions of the Spirit. Searches for 'sustainable' alternatives (1970s) and questions concerning the 'integrity of life' (1990s) gained much momentum. 'Ecological concerns' gained recognition in the political and government levels. The proposition of Earth Day by Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1969 and the observance of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 were pointed out by experts as the second phase of ecological activism in the US; Theodore Roosevelt's efforts to preserve the national parks, being pointed as beginning the first phase. Al Gore's much acclaimed book "Earth in the Balance" with its passionate depiction of the "distressing images of environmental destruction" is placed in the third phase wherein a change in the perception of economic growth and environmental activism as mutually exclusive, and supports for environmental legislations are sought.

The Biblical affirmations of the role of the Spirit in generating and sustaining life give the spiritual energy for the environmental activism to be seen as participation in God's acts of recreation, redemption and the sustaining of life in its wholeness. It is the Spirit of God that was hovering over the chaos that creates life in order and beauty. It is this very Spirit that challenged and called many to be the co-creators and agents of life in the history of the people of God. The Spirit of Pentecost all the more powerfully harmonizes and reconciles the forms of life that were estranged and strewn apart in actions of arrogance, ignorance, and ungodliness. In today's reality of increased diversities, the harmonizing, healing and reconciling acts of the Spirit should be made experiential through the 'spiritual' life of individuals and communities. That is how the transformation of the world becomes real by the grace of God (cf.

the theme of the 9th WCC Assembly 2006 – "God in your grace transform the world").

Let us become more humble before the awesome acts of the life-giving Spirit, eschew our self-centered predatorily pursuits of power and possessions, and make ourselves submissive to the 'hovering Spirit' so that 'order' and 'life' may be restored and prevail.

Affectionately yours in the Lord,
Koshyachen

"WHEN YOU ARE IN A
HOLE, STOP
DIGGING!"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Vailiya Thirumeni</i> | 2 |
| <i>Church Building</i> | 2 |
| <i>Church Activities</i> | 3 |
| <i>Lectionary</i> | 3 |
| <i>Prayer Meetings</i> | 3 |
| <i>Birthdays</i> | 3 |
| <i>Anniversary</i> | 4 |
| <i>ABCs of Christianity</i> | 4 |

THE MAR THOMA CHURCH DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

DALLAS REGION JOINT HOLY COMMUNION AND RECEPTION FOR
MOST REV. DR. PHILOPOSE MAR CHRYSOSTOM MAR THOMA VALIYA METROPOLITAN

&
MOST REV. DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN

"WE ARE, IN EFFECT,
BULLDOZING THE
GARDENS OF
EDEN" (AL GORE)

PLACE:
DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER
(Main Ballroom - Level 2)
650 S. GRIFFIN STREET
DALLAS, TX 75202
TEL: (972) 939-2700
www.dallasconventioncenter.com

DATE & TIME:
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2008, 9:00 AM
Holy Communion Service
Followed by Reception

FOR INFORMATION:
Rev. Vinoy Daniel, Convener, Regional Committee, Vicar
Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch (972) 939-0699
Rev. Johnson George, Vicar
Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton (972) 329-4230
Rev. C. K. Koshy, Vicar
St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas (972) 226-0976
Rev. James Thomas, Vicar
Sehion Mar Thoma Church, Dallas (214) 227-2847



MOST REV. DR. PHILOPOSE MAR CHRYSOSTOM
MAR THOMA VALIYA METROPOLITAN



MOST REV. DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA
METROPOLITAN



RT. REV. DR. EUYAKIM MAR. COORILOS

LIGHTED
TO
LIGHTEN
Free Parking is available nearby
Your presence, support
and prayers are requested.

New Church Building Update

-by Koshy Thomas

Foundation work is going very well! Even though the recent rains have slow down the work a little, we were able to get back on schedule. Initial foundation, plumbing, utility works are in place and moving to the trenching process for foundation and slab. Survey to stake parking area and grading will be done simultaneously. As for the steel structure, the anchor bolt plan

and shop drawing plans were reviewed and sent for the final stage. Various sub-committees are at work for audio/video, stain glass & interior and souvenir. I urge each and every person of our St. Pauls to take ownership of this church building process in any kind so that the Lord can work within us to do this noble project for our faith community.

Condolences

We offer condolences to the family of Late Mr. Abraham Chacko who was called to God's presence on April 5, 2008. His sister, Thankamma Chacko also passed away on April 10, 2008. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time of mourning.

Mother's Day 20008

-Contributed by Jaisy Raju

"Sons are heritage from the Lord,
Children a reward from him.
Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
Are sons born in one's youth.
Blesses is the man
Whose quiver is full of them..." (Psalm 127:3-5)

A MOTHER is that special creation of the Almighty God whom he has gifted with the unique power of giving life to a living being. As said in the Jewish proverb "A Mother understands what a child does not say". What a true statement? I was able to understand and communicate with my children even when they were paralyzed, unresponsive, and unable to talk. I always say the best thing for a woman in life is; being a MOM, the love, the care and the pain a mom goes through to care for a child or to raise a

child is a blessing and it is the gift from God. There is no velvet as soft as mothers lap, I think that's why when Joel used to sleep on my lap he used to say "Mom, this is the most softest pillow in the whole wide world". A MOTHER can see what is not there and imagine the impossible. But a MOTHER require comfort, inner confidence and self control, which she also gets it though her children. When I try to find my comfort and confidence in books like Death and Dying and Why Bad Things Happens To Good People, I encourage all the MOMS to look at your children and be proud and thank God for your blessings.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!!!!



Church Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.
Sunday, May 3 & 10 - Diocesan Exam Preparation
Sunday, May 11 - Diocesan Examination
Saturday, May 17 - Outreach Program
Sunday, May 18 - Teacher's Meeting
Sunday, May 18 - Semester Exam

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

Saturday, May 10 at 10am - Bible Study at the Residence of Mrs. Anney Thomas
Saturday, May 24 at 10am - Bible Study at the Residence of Mrs. Annamma Chacko

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 7pm - Bible Study at the Church.
Saturday, May 8-10 - Mexico Mission Trip
Saturday, May 18 - Bake Sale
Saturday, May 24 - Sonic Car

Hop Fundraiser

Saturday, May 31 - Wal-Mart Car Wash Fundraiser

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Sunday, May 11 at 6:30pm - Meeting at residence of Mr. Jiju Thomas, 1709 Chapman Dr, Mesquite, Tx. Ph: 972-288-3528

PARISH MISSION:

Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.
Sundays - Intercessory Prayer

MALAYALAM CHOIR:

Sundays, May 11 & 25 - Practice sessions after Holy Qrubana.

ENGLISH CHOIR:

Saturdays, May 10 & 24 at 10 am - Practice Sessions

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mr. Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, Tx.

Lectionary Information

Sunday, May 4, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)

Concern to the needy

Lesson 1: 2 Kings 4:1-7 **Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-10

Lesson 2: James 1:19-27 **Gospel:** Luke 3:1-14

Sunday, May 11, 2008 - (English Service)

Pentecost Sunday - Worship in the Spirit

Lesson 1: Joel 2:28-32 **Epistle:** Ephesians 4:17-24

Lesson 2: Acts 2:1-13 **Gospel:** John 16:7-15

Sunday, May 18, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)

Trinity Sunday

Lesson 1: Genesis 18:1-15 **Epistle:** 1 John 5:1-12

Lesson 2: Ephesians 2:11-22 **Gospel:** Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, May 25, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)

Sacred Music Sunday - Sing Praise to the Lord

Lesson 1: Exodus 15:1-18 **Epistle:** Colossians 3:12-17

Lesson 2: Revelation 7:9-17 **Gospel:** Luke 1:46-55

Prayer Meetings

COMMON FELLOWSHIP MEETING - Saturday, May 10 @ 7pm, St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

| AGAPE | EMMANUEL | EBENEZER | MANNA | SHALOM |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| LEADER: MATHEW BABU 972-771-1058 | LEADER: MATHEW SAMUEL 972-494-5545 | LEADER: ANNA JOHN (LIZY) 972-289-2675 | LEADER: P.P. CHERIAN 972-203-2018 | LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY 972-681-7083 |
| Saturday, May 3 @ 6:30pm Mr. Matthew Babu 119 South Lake Dr. Rockwall, TX | TBA | TBA | Saturday, May 3 @ 7:00pm Mr. Anil Mathew 302 Creekwood Dr. Sunnyvale, TX | TBA |
| Saturday, May 31 @ 6:30pm Mr. Raju Mathew 3114 Chalkstone Dr Rowlett, TX | | | Saturday, May 17 @ 7:00pm Mr. P. P. Cherian 316 Stone Ridge Sunnyvale, TX | |

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|------------|--------|------------------|----------|--------|---------------------|------------|
| 1-May | Rev. Biju P Simon | Mesquite | 15-May | Sheela Sherry | Garland | 25-May | Jelin Varghese | Rowlett |
| 1-May | Varghese P.G | Garland | 16-May | Abraham Mepurath | Mesquite | 26-May | Chacko T. Oommen | Garland |
| 2-May | Asha Abraham | Mesquite | 16-May | Asha Thomas | Garland | 27-May | Salomi Chacko | Garland |
| 4-May | Nisha Jacob | Garland | 18-May | Thomas Koshy | Mesquite | 27-May | Thomas George | Rockwall |
| 5-May | Stanley Varghese | Garland | 19-May | Mathai Abraham | Mesquite | 28-May | Matthew Babu | Rockwall |
| 7-May | Alice Jelin | Rowlett | 20-May | Kurien Easo | Mesquite | 28-May | Gemini Mathew | Sunnyvale |
| 7-May | Leelamma Mammen | Rockwall | 20-May | Mathew Mathai | Mesquite | 28-May | Mini John | Mesquite |
| 8-May | Janse John | Mesquite | 20-May | Susamma Varghese | Garland | 28-May | Philipose M.V. | Dallas |
| 8-May | John Thomas | Garland | 21-May | Leelamma Jacob | Garland | 29-May | Mathew Kurian | Mesquite |
| 8-May | M.M.Mathai | Sunnyvale | 21-May | Liana Cherian | Garland | 30-May | Abraham Koshy | Mesquite |
| 10-May | George C.George | McKinney | 21-May | Sherry P George | Garland | 30-May | Podiyamma Johnkutty | Mesquite |
| 10-May | P.V.George | Sunnyvale | 22-May | Abraham N.V. | Mesquite | 30-May | Rajankunju | Mesquite |
| 12-May | Phil Mathew | Sunnyvale | 22-May | Princey Varghese | Garland | 30-May | Serine Chacko | Mesquite |
| 13-May | Ancil Mathew | Sunnyvale | 23-May | Jessy Thomas | Mesquite | 30-May | Susan Mathew | Mesquite |
| 13-May | Vinod Cherian | Garland | 23-May | Vinu Ipe | Garland | 30-May | Sherly K Jacob | Mesquite |
| 13-May | John Yohannan | Mesquite | 24-May | Sam Koshy | Mesquite | 30-May | Susan John | Sunnyvale |
| 15-May | Allen Mathew | Garland | 24-May | Susheela Thomas | Mesquite | 31-May | Babu John | Mesquite |
| 15-May | Janet Philip | Greenville | 25-May | Ajay Varghese | Rowlett | 31-May | Jaisy Raju | Mesquite |
| 15-May | Melvin | Garland | 25-May | Anupa Zachariah | Mesquite | 31-May | Laly Abraham | Mesquite |
| 15-May | Miriam Easo | Mesquite | 25-May | Hanna M.John | Garland | 31-May | Philip P.S. | Greenville |
| | | | | | | 31-May | Raju George | Mesquite |

ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH

2425 GUS THOMASSON RD.
MESQUITE, TX 75150

Phone: 972 613 9080

PARSONAGE ADDRESS
5906 BLUE OAK DRIVE.
GARLAND, TX 75043.
972 226 0976

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 4-May | Mrs.&Mr. James Mepurath | Sunnyvale |
| 4-May | Mrs.&Mr.Raju George | Mesquite |
| 9-May | Mrs.&Mr.Varghese Alexander | Garland |
| 9-May | Mrs.&Mr.George P.C. | Mesquite |
| 16-May | Mrs.&Mr.Samkunju K.O. | Sunnyvale |
| 17-May | Mrs.&Mr.Mathew Kurian | Mesquite |
| 17-May | Mrs.&Mr.Mathewkutty Geevarghese | Mesquite |
| 18-May | Mrs.&Mr.Saji P. George | Sunnyvale |
| 18-May | Mrs.&Mr.Jelin Varghese | Rowlett |
| 23-May | Mrs.&Mr.Thomaskutty Thomas | Garland |
| 23-May | Mrs.&Mr.Thomas Mathew(Valsan) | Mesquite |
| 28-May | Mrs.&Mr.John Thomas | Garland |

"Are you tired of writing Checks? Are you environmental friendly? Consider signing up for Direct Bank Draft of Your Monthly Pledge. For more details contact the trustees or secretary"

ARTICLES NEEDED!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT ANY ARTICLES IN ENGLISH OR MALAYALAM, PLEASE SEND IT TO: JACOBKAB@HOTMAIL.COM

PRESIDENT

REV. C. K. KOSHY

VICE PRESIDENT

MR. EASOW CHACKO

SECRETARY

MR. SAJI P. GEORGE

TREASURER

MR. OOMMEN KOSHY

ACCOUNTANT

MR. THOMAS GEORGE

LAY LEADERS

MR. BABU P. SIMON

MR. SOJI SKARIAH

"The ABC'S of Christianity"

Contributed By: Joselin Mathew

Accept Jesus Christ into your life
Be a follower of Christ
Created, we are to serve him
Do what is right for he is watching you
Everything is possible by him and him alone
Fear not, he is always with you
God loves you so much that he sent his only son to us
He hears our prayers
In three days he ascended
Justice will be served by him in the end
King of Kings he is
Like no other God
Mountains bow down to him
Nailed to the cross he was for our sins
Open your hearts to him he understands you
Passion he gave to all
Questioned he was by the Pharisees
Read his word (bible) for that is the way to him
Surrender to him and everything will be alright
The Alpha (the beginning)
Under human form he came to us
Very different he was among all
Was the light of the World
Xpect that he will come again
Yes! He is the son of God!
Z in Greek means Omega (the end) which he is

