



# 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!"

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# 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**

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

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MR. BABU P. SIMON

MR. SOJI SKARIAH

**"The ABC'S of Christianity"**

Contributed By: Joselin Mathew

Accept Jesus Christ into your life  
**B**e a follower of Christ  
**C**reated, we are to serve him  
**D**o what is right for he is watching you  
**E**verything is possible by him and him alone  
**F**ear not, he is always with you  
**G**od loves you so much that he sent his only son to us  
**H**e hears our prayers  
**I**n three days he ascended  
**J**ustice will be served by him in the end  
**K**ing of Kings he is  
**L**ike no other God  
**M**ountains bow down to him  
**N**ailed to the cross he was for our sins  
**O**pen your hearts to him he understands you  
**P**assion he gave to all  
**Q**uestioned he was by the Pharisees  
**R**ead his word (bible) for that is the way to him  
**S**urrender to him and everything will be alright  
**T**he Alpha (the beginning)  
**U**nder human form he came to us  
**V**ery different he was among all  
**W**as the light of the World  
**X**pect that he will come again  
**Y**es! He is the son of God!  
**Z** in Greek means Omega (the end) which he is

