



The Mar Thoma

ECHO



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## Message From the Diocesan Episcopa



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of the Risen Lord!

The church all over the world was observing the passion and death of Jesus Christ and also celebrating Easter, the day of the Resurrection of Christ. The event gives renewed spirit to the faith community, by sharing the painful experiences in life as well as the hope of new life that we receive. The risen Christ gives peace and hope to the perplexed and disheartened. The alarming explosion and killing of hundreds of innocent worshippers in Sri Lanka on Easter day is a real threat that is being instigated for the peace processes in various parts of the world. The peace that Christ brings transcends human barriers. The continued presence of the 'risen Lord' in the life of people is an inspiration to move on in peace with confidence and courage. The question of the risen Lord to Simon Peter, "do you love me more than these" that was heard by the early disciples resonates in the minds of the faithful even today.

It is to be noted that the ministry of Jesus Christ affirmed the centrality of life because Jesus had given himself, as a living sacrifice, for the life and renewal of God's creation. In Christ we have a glimpse of the gift of peace that was demonstrated through the forgiveness, preserving human dignity and care for the weak. One has to understand that peace is lost when injustice, poverty and disease, as well as armed

conflict and violence, inflict wounds on the bodies and souls of human beings. The in Christ experience helps a believer to enjoy the new life or life in abundance. St. Paul clearly says, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). Life will have meaning and purpose only in relation to Christ. New life in Christ will bring hope for the future. Everyday living needs to be seen as an in Christ experience that will add to the beauty of life.

It is appropriate to mention here that the renewed spirit of the Mar Thoma community was evident in the recent Mar Thoma Meet organized at Birmingham on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The fellowship and the spiritual awakening give momentum to the growth in the life of the faith community. Thank God for the blessings that we receive and the participation of all members. Pray that God may continue to guide us in our way forward.

With prayerful regards,

Mar Philoxenos

Bishop, UK & Europe Zone.

## Editorial

### In Christ

*If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

# IN CHRIST

We celebrated Easter a few weeks before and it gave us the assurance that we are no longer slaves to sin, but we have an eternal future secure in Christ. We are a new creature, perfected in Christ, a child of the King. In Him, we are complete. The saving act of God was the death and resurrection of Jesus, who lived a sinless life and suffered on the cross. Christ was punished for our sin in His death. His resurrection was the proof God had accepted that suffering on our behalf. Since our salvation is the result of this historical event, we describe it in the past tense (Eph. 2:8; 2 Tim. 1:9). Those who have put their faith in Christ are already saved.

In Christ, we exchange the old for the new, the imperfect and incomplete for that which is incorruptible. In Christ, Paul explains, we become a new creation: “The old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (v. 17). We can be thankful that God’s regenerative work in us has nothing to do with our earthly heritage or our personal accomplishments. No matter whether your ancestors were royalty or peasants, no matter what continent your family of origin claimed, we all need God’s salvation through Jesus in order to be part of His family. In Him, we are made new.

In this volume we are focusing on the subject of **in Christ**, We’ll see that in order to find our true identity we need to take our eyes off ourselves and look at Jesus. Scripture passages from the New Testament will show us that we are saved and justified in Christ alone, we are

called to be holy and mature in Christ, and we are a new creation in Him. We’ll praise God for His love, for making all things new, and for the freedom we have in Him.

We are supposed to change when we encounter Jesus in our lives, when we say we are new in Christ that change need to be seen in our life. Jesus changes lives. After an encounter with Him, Zacchaeus committed to repaying everyone he had cheated and gave half his possessions to the poor. Peter was transformed from a reckless fisherman who denied Christ to a bold preacher of the gospel who led thousands to faith in Jesus. And Paul changed from leading a zealous persecution of the church to becoming a missionary who planted churches and took the gospel to Europe.

If we believe in Christ and if we believe we are new in Christ, we need to show that change in our everyday life. Let’s pray for getting that experience of being in Christ in our lives.



## **A Synopsis of the Bible classes for men at the Maramon convention**

The early morning separate Bible classes for men, women and children have always been a quintessential part of Maramon Convention. This author thanks God Almighty for the blessed opportunity that he had in attending these classes taken by the two main speakers of the convention.

**Monday the 11th of February 2019**

**Speaker---Arch Bishop Rev. John Tucker Sentamu**

*Translator---Rev. Sam T Koshy*

Rev. Sentamu based his talk on Philippians Chapter 1. His Grace also referred to John Ch. 15, verses 9 -11 and exhorted what Jesus had told his disciples. " Love each other as I have loved you."Rev. Sentamu reiterated the heart of the matter which is obedience to Jesus. This provides us with inexhaustible joy. Living in Jesus is a way of life. There are two sides to this intimate relationship. Jesus calls his disciples " friends". Rev. Sam Koshy who did the translation coined the words " Akshayamaya Sneham".

We can talk to the Father with freedom. Rev. Sentamu urged the gathering to put God at the centre of their lives. He added that prayer is like a river and affirmed that letter to the Philippians is the perfect text of inexhaustible love.

In Acts Ch. 16, verse 9, we read that Paul had a dream about Macedonia. Paul had written the letter to the Philippians from prison. Philippians ch. 4 reveals the hard life that Paul had endured in prison. Philippians ch.1 tells us the secret of the inexhaustible joy. Jesus is magnified in us whether we live or die. As more and more people follow Jesus, the image of Jesus gets bigger. This increases our joy. Rev. Sentamu said that he is at his happiest when someone turns to Christ. In Philippians ch. 1, verse 1, Paul and Timothy address themselves as slaves (servants) of Jesus. Rev. Sentamu said that in the eyes of God he was a saint and a friend of Jesus. In the eyes

of fellow Christians, we are all brothers and sisters. All are one in Him. He drew our attention to the testimony of Paul in Philippians ch.1, verse 21--"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." As far as Paul was concerned, Christ was at the centre of his living. Rev. Sentamu asked " Are we grateful to our fellow Christians? " Paul keeps the Philippians in his heart. There is no doubt we all share in God's grace.

Acts ch.16 shows the amazing beginning of the Philippian church and the testimony of Lydia the rich woman who traded in silk. An earthquake had brought a jailer to Jesus. Soon he and his family were baptized. We also read about the slave girl with the evil spirit, engaged in fortune-telling, turning to God and experiencing the Holy Spirit. Paul had the Philippians close to his heart sharing in God's grace with them in prayer. In verse 9 of Philippians ch.1 Paul gives the message--Grow in faith and knowledge and love. Grow in understanding and discernment. Grow in practical holiness. In short, grow in Christ. Paul was in prison and was not focussing on himself. He felt strongly that his imprisonment had brought him closer to Jesus. Rev. Sentamu exhorted the brothers to live like true citizens of Heaven and be its ambassadors on earth, united in one spirit and living a life that reveals Jesus. Paul told the Philippians that they should not be intimidated by their opponents and that they should be confident in their Gospel. He goes on to say that it is a privilege to follow Jesus Christ and suffer for Him. Rev. Sentamu reiterated the truth that our citizenship is in Heaven and that we are ambassadors here on earth. We need to live according to His will. Philippians ch.1 sums up the exceeding joy if Jesus is at the centre of our life. In response to a question from the floor about his suffering in Uganda under the then dictatorship, Rev. Sentamu mentioned the personal torture he had suffered under the brutal regime of Idi Amin. He was in and out of hospital for 10 years with half of one lung dysfunctional. He had survived all those years by glorifying God and saying " My life is in Christ."

## Tuesday the 12th of February

**Speaker---Rev. Sentamu**

**Translator-Rev. Sam Koshy**

Paul's letter to the Philippians ch.2 was the basis of the morning's talk by Rev. Sentamu. In Ch. 1 we learned that Christ should be at the centre of our living. In ch.2 we are told to hold Christ at the centre of our thinking. In verse 5 we read that our attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Sentamu mentioned that in the Benedictine Community, the important person is the new brother who has just joined it. We fail if we do not receive the kingdom of God like a child. Rev. Sentamu mentioned the story of the mother of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa during the apartheid era. She used to cook and serve food for the white bishop of Johannesburg. ArchBishop Desmond Tutu was only seven years old. Whenever the Bishop entered the kitchen, he used to take his hat off as a mark of respect to her. Once the young Desmond asked the Bishop why did he bother to take his hat off to his mother. The Bishop replied that one day her seven-year-old son would become a bishop himself!

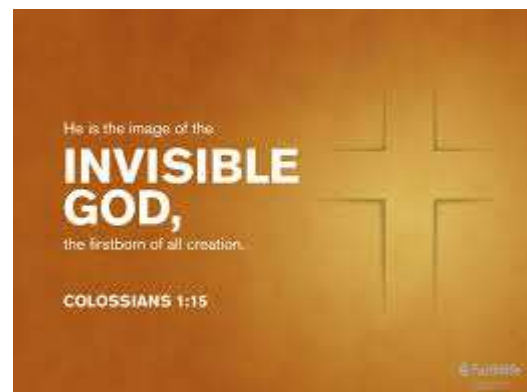
Rev. Sentamu told us that the Son of God-incarnate had always existed with God and that Jesus is 50% divine and 50% human. The speaker referred to Colossians ch. 1, verses 15-19. Jesus existed with God from the beginning of Time. The fullness of God lived in Jesus. The incarnate Son of God came to this world to redeem it. Jesus is the way to God, the way to life. Jesus is the fulfilment of God's plan to save the world. The flesh He took on was the true human flesh. We will be resurrected one day because Jesus had risen from the dead. God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to save it. God came himself in Jesus. God the Father glorified His Son. Rev. Sentamu stressed on the importance of absolute obedience to God. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father mending broken hearts and renewing our lives. We should have humility and live as

He lived and serve others even if we do not get recognised. We may go through trials and tribulations but the God of Resurrection is here to help us. Look at the Cross of Jesus. Christ is risen.

Rev. Sentamu made a reference to Ephesians ch. 2 verse 10--For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. In Hebrews ch.10, verse 10, we read that we have been made Holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

In summary, Jesus Christ should be the centre of our thinking and mind, to provide us with inextinguishable joy

A question was raised from the floor about good and bad thoughts. In reply, Rev. Sentamu mentioned that people blame the Devil for their bad thoughts and that one should not confuse sin with satan. Devil is real. Temptations are our sins and we have to repent. Temptation comes from pride, ambition or sinfulness. Rev. Sentamu told the gathering to look at the humility of Jesus. Temptation leads to disobedience. Jesus survived all temptations and epitomized humility.



**Wednesday The 13<sup>th</sup> of February 19**

**Speaker--Rev. Sentamu**

**Translator-- Rev. Sam T Koshy**

Rev. Sentamu based his discourse on Philippians Ch. 3, verses 5-14. Paul affirmed strongly that Jesus was at the centre of his goals. The venerable Archbishop of York discussed in some detail the question of identity. Identity can be in relation to ethnicity, status, gender, sexuality and so on and so forth. But there is no doubt that our true identity is in Christ. God created us in His own image. Paul says that all our identities are worthless unless and until our aims and goals are in Jesus.

Paul tells us to inspect our past and present and plan for the future just as an accountant does with a client's accounts. Pharisees were part of the reformation movement in the church. Let us not forget the fact that Paul was a Pharisee. Rev. Sentamu remarked that even evangelical movements that had started with a spirit of renewal have separated and divided people. In verse 6, Paul admits that he had persecuted the church with zeal; yet remaining perfect in the eyes of the Hebrew Law.

Rev. Sentamu reminded us the challenge we face which is that we should know and obey the law. Ignorance of the law is no excuse from a legal perspective. Because of Jesus, we have the law. In verses 7 and 8, Paul makes the confession that whatever profit he had had, he considered all those as loss. Because of Jesus, he had accounted all those gains as worthless.

Rev. Sentamu proclaimed that our baptism confirmation does not take us far. His Grace exhorted us to look at our past with the eyes of an accountant and that we should know Christ intimately. In verse 10, Paul sheds light on the potential of Christian life. Paul wants to share in Christ's sufferings. When Christ was crucified, God was working." I want to see God work in my life now" said Paul. In the present, Paul sees himself as a sportsman, concentrating on the race ahead and aiming to win the prize. Rev.

Sentamu remarked that we should all be pushing ourselves to the finishing line. The key words are "Compete and Finish". Our Christian life involves daily prayer, Bible study and meeting God's people. Commitment in any sphere requires constant training. Christian life is no exception.

The Archbishop touched on a story about Dr. Billy Graham, the Chicago- born and bred evangelist supremo. When he was a youngster, the local church that he had used to attend was burned down. He was devastated but God gave him the mission of a global evangelist. Rev. Sentamu made a reference to Ephesians ch.4 and urged us to open our hearts to Jesus. His Grace testified that he had become a Christian aged 10 and that he had done his first sermon aged 17. Referring to Hebrews ch.12: verses 1 and 2, Rev. Sentamu urged us to train for Christ and look at the future with the eyes of a foreigner. The same zeal that Paul had had in persecuting Christ, he had carried on serving Him. "My citizenship is in Heaven. Hence, I am the ambassador of God on earth. We are all foreigners on earth. If we do not live as ambassadors of God on earth, we have not understood the Gospel.

A brother from the gathering asked why is it that he has not seen a smiling God. In reply, Rev. Sentamu said that Jesus Christ had a sense of humour and that the fullness of God was revealed in Jesus Christ. Another question from the floor was in relation to the search for our identity-should we not keep our identities? The reply was " We read that the name Pharisee is a double-edged sword. We are made in God's image. Because of Adam, we lost that image. We see the full image of God in Jesus Christ. Rev. Sentamu concluded by saying " In Christ and in Christ alone I have my identity."

**Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 19**

**Speaker--Rev. Samingalaso Raymond Kumalo**

**(South Africa)**

**Translator---Rev. Sunil John**



Rev. Kumalo had his sermon based on Matthew Ch. 20; verses 20-28. It was all about leadership in the church. He asked "What does God expect us to do by being leaders?" Leadership prepares us to influence people to aim for common objectives and goals. Basic principles of organisation apply to the church as well. There are rules to run God's household. Rev. Kumalo mentioned four facts about leadership. (a) Born leaders who have it in them to lead, looking for opportunities. (b) Some leaders have leadership thrust on them. (c) People who have learned to lead. (d) People who want to be leaders on their own choice.

The church grows and thrives owing to good leaders. From AD 52 to the present time the church has survived because it had had good leadership at all levels. Leadership in the church is a mission and this mission emanates from God. The church exists to carry out this God-given mission. Rev. Kumalo referred to Matthew ch.28 verses 16-20 which describe the Great Commission. God's mission is to redeem the world. Mission crosses all frontiers--religious, social, cultural, racial, economic and so forth. Jesus tells his disciples to cross these frontiers. The sons of Zebede did not understand the principles of leadership, remarked Rev. Kumalo.

The concept of servant leadership came to the fore in the modern church around 1970 or so.

The idea can be misunderstood easily. Political leaders lead according to people's will. In the church it is different. Here the leader acts according to God's will. God would give us roles befitting our abilities. In the ministry of the church, each and every role is important. The church expects the leadership to follow a holistic approach. Leadership is defined by humility. Rev. Kumalo made a reference to 1 Peter ch.5: verse 5----"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Servant leadership enables us to engage, share ideas, debate, and if required, differ with respect. Servant leadership is a very active one. A learning servant of Christ would ask "Lord, what is that I can do for the church?" God is asking each and every one of us " Do you want to be a leader?" If you do, be a servant and do your best."

A questioner asked "How do we recognise a poor leader early enough to limit any damage?" In reply, Rev. Kumalo said that no leader is perfect. Only Jesus was perfect. Regular evaluation is required to see where and how the leader can improve and correct any mistakes. The leader should show humility to receive feedback and criticism and carry out self-evaluation periodically.





**Friday the 15th of February 19**

**Speaker Rev.Kumalo**

**Translator Rev. Sunil John**



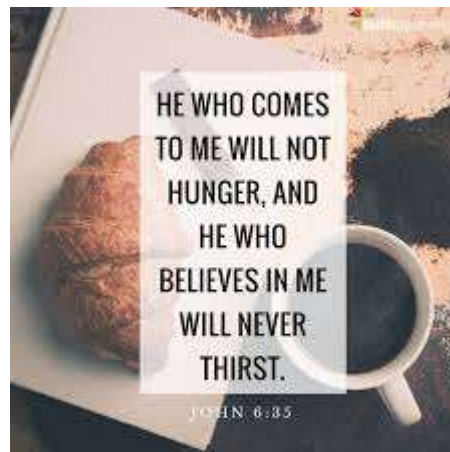
The story of the Exodus formed the basis for the morning's discourse. Rev. Kumalo referred to Exodus ch.3: verses 1-14. Moses was raised in the palace but he felt that he did not belong there. He took sides with the suffering people, the Israelites. He killed an Egyptian and eventually took control of the Israelites. God had appeared to Moses and made use of him. Rev. Kumalo pointed out that God understands our failures but uses our talents. All of us have resources of leadership. Moses, a fugitive, was not very eloquent and in fact was afraid of Pharaoh. Yet God made him leader of the Israelites.

Rev. Kumalo highlighted the fact that God multiplies our talents and increases our potential for leadership. Let us not forget that even Moses faced criticism and complaints about his leadership from the Israelites. Failures and rejections are all part of leadership. The leadership should get the consent of the people. We are not leading until everybody is free. The ideal leader should be able to involve each and everyone in the team even though some are slow in understanding. It would be very helpful if the leader has the art of persuasion and the ability to involve everyone in the process. For leadership to be effective and successful, it has to be protected by God.

Rev. Kumalo remarked that church is a congregation of memories, rituals and customs. We can rest assured that God is with us all along our journey. The Israelites ran out of food and God provided them with "Manna"-a glittering example of charity and the love of sharing resources. By nature, humanity is sinful. The Israelites collected more food than what they had needed.

Rev. Kumalo went on to say that leadership should be collaborative and that it should be shared. Leadership must be transferrable. We do our bit and then move on. Leadership is seasonal. Moses brings in Joshua to take up the reins. Leadership should aim for achieving goals in the day to day running of the church. It is poor leadership that concentrates on buildings and collections, ignoring the spiritual side of things.

Rev. Kumalo summarised his talk by emphasising the following points---(a) God raises leaders. (b) There should be an honest ongoing assessment of a leader's potential and pitfalls. (c) Leadership can be learnt. (d) Leadership should be resilient, charitable collaborative, shared, transferrable and should lead to outcomes for the glory of God and peace and blessings for mankind.



## **Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of February**

**Speaker--Rev. Sentamu**

**Translator--Rev. Sam T Koshy**

Rev. Sentamu's talk was based on Philippians Ch. 4 the essence of which was the message-- Jesus Christ at the centre of our life. In verses 4-7 we read-Be joyful. Do not be anxious in anything. Always be joyful in Christ. Going back to Philippians Ch. 1: verses 16 -18 Rev. Sentamu says that what matters is that Christ is preached and proclaimed. Paul reiterates in Philippians ch.1: verse 20 that Christ will be exalted in his body whether by life or by death. At the end of the day, Christ is what matters.

Rev. Sentamu referred to Jeremiah ch.17: verse 8 and Psalm 1: verse 3 and stated that our lives should be deeply rooted in Christ just as the tree with deep roots by the stream. This tree has green leaves always and it has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. God is looking for better men and women in His ministry. Paul is urging the Philippians (ch.4: verse 8) to think seriously about whatever that is true, noble, right, and admirable. The truth of revelation has to be assimilated thoroughly through a life-time of contemplation and meditation. All scriptures lead to Christ ; out of darkness to light. The word of God has to be fulfilled.

Rev. Sentamu expanded the thinking on what is right as opposed to what is convenient. If we choose what is right, life is going to be difficult. Freedom is not the right to do what we like but for doing what is right to do. The Archbishop urged the gathering to promote brotherly and sisterly love with the cautionary advice --hear no evil, see no evil, say no evil. We are called to be peacemakers, fixing our mind on the truth and doing our best. Rev. Sentamu advised us that instead of saying what is wrong with our church, we should be asking what is good with our church.

Going down memory lane, Rev. Sentamu narrated some examples of chronic negativism

that he had encountered in his church in Uganda all those years ago. He added that we cannot do the work of God if we have an attitude of negativism.

Rev. Sentamu started summing up by saying that we should focus our attention on the real, the righteous, the pure the loving, the helpful and the excellent and think positively with Jesus at the centre of our joy and hope. At the heart of Rev. Sentamu's Bible Classes lies the inextinguishable message that Christ should be at the centre of our living, thinking, planning, rejoicing, peace, trust, identity, goals and aims, serenity and moderation.

Addressing the gathering as the holy people of the Mar Thoma Church, Rev. Sentamu bid us farewell by saying "Obey the Lord and His Commands."

Six days of learning from the Holy Bible based on the discourses of two eminent theologians and servants of God had been a very blessed experience. Let us thank God Almighty for The Words spoken to us through Rev. John Sentamu and Rev.Samingalaso Kumalo.

*Prepared by Dr. Ninan Daniel Kurunthottikal,  
Member of Tabore Mar Thoma Church,  
Manchester*



# UK Europe Mar Thoma Family meet

Photo Courtesy: Sam Thomas \*

\*Photos in the photo Gallery

The First UK Europe Mar Thoma Family meet was conducted on 6th April 2019 at The Coton Green Church in Tamworth.

## Introduction

The council met in August 2018 and embarked on a plan driven by our Thirumeni to host a Family Meet in order to bring all Marthomites within the Zone together in an annual celebratory event. The vision was for a joyful celebration of coming together, of providing a platform to evolve relationship amongst members within the zone and on this occasion to give thanks to our Achens who served in the zone and who were being transferred out of the zone.

## Holy Communion

The day began by celebrating Holy Communion, led by our Thirumeni Rt Rev Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos. The service was truly an uplifting and moving experience. The Very Rev V T John, the Vicar General and 10 of our Achens were co-celebrants in the holy communion service. The Central Choir under the leadership of Rev Stanley Thomas led the singing during the service. The congregational strength was more than 900 which included members from Ireland & Germany. More than 600 members partook in the Holy Qurbana. The congregational response and singing during the holy communion welled within each member an emotive consciousness.

## Public Meeting

The Holy Qurbana was followed by a public meeting. Mr P M Mathew – Secretary of the Zonal Council gave the welcome address.

We are truly blessed to have an inspirational speaker in Rev Sam Koshy in our zone who delivered the devotional message. The theme of

the message was to ‘Redeem our families and Renew our Mission’.

Redeeming our Home based on a reflection from Luke19:10.

*Redeem our home from,*

- *Misconception by challenging us to be based on a commitment to God.*
- *Gadgetism that occupies our time that could otherwise be spent with the family.*
- *Redeem our home from permissiveness (Philippians 3:18,19)*

*Renew our home to Christian Mission by,*

- *Evangelising our home – Deuteronomy 6: 5 – 9*
- *Our homes to be intergenerational, working together – Psalm 128: 6*
- *Our mission to other families – Luke 1: 39 - 45*
- *Renew our home for the mission of the church – Acts 16: 12 – 15, 40*

Achen’s message was intergenerational and resonated well across all age groups with anecdotes and humour.

Dr Zac Varghese introduced the book ‘Festschrift’, brought out by The Diocese of North America on the occasion of our Thirumeni completing 25 years of service as an Episcopa. Thirumeni released the book in UK and in his presidential address gave thanks for being able to serve the church and sought our prayers and support as he continues in his ministry.

We had an occasion to honour and acknowledge the work done by Miss Amika George in campaigning for free menstrual products for school girls from low income families. Amika started the campaign after she learned that her peers were skipping school because of period poverty. Philip Hammond in his spring statement pledged funding to provide free sanitary products in all English secondary

schools. Her work has won her global and national awards.

As a zone, it is for the first time that we are able to felicitate our Achens who were being transferred from the zone with a presentation of a memento by our Thirumeni.

Very Rev V T John gave a response on behalf of the all the Achens to the felicitation.

The public meeting was compered by Mrs Lincy Philip.

### **Organisation Presentation**

The post lunch session in the afternoon was dedicated for presentation by the various Zonal Organisation. The Sunday School presented 2 songs as a centre with a participation of almost 200 children. The Sevikha Sangham, North and SouthZones, each presented a skit. The Youth, as a centre, presented a Song and a dance.

The Edavaka Mission presented a skit. There were presentations for the upcoming Zonal Youth and Family Conference to be held in July & August 2019. The post lunch session was compered by Mrs Lincy Philip & Mr Rony Eappen. The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr Bijo K Kuruvilla – Joint Convener.

The committee that planned and executed this unique event, involved members of the Council, Assembly Members, elected representatives from all churches and leaders of all the zonal organisations. It was challenging to bring all thoughts and ideas together but by God's grace it was a truly blessed event.

Committee Chairman: Rev Aji John  
Convenor: Mr Thomas Abraham  
Jt. Convenor: Mr Bijo Kurian Kuruvilla

## **Farewell**

### **Hermon MTC**



*Look forward for a new heaven and salvation which is symbolically represented when we kneel toward the eastern direction(Revelation 21:2-11)*

Farewell to our most beloved Jacob Mathew Achen. A person with dynamic leadership and vision. On Sunday, the 28th of April, the church came together after the Holy Qurbana Service to give farewell to our beloved Rev Jacob Mathew Achen, the passing out Vicar of our Church. Representatives from all organisations of the Church delivered felicitation speeches and presented Achen with gifts. Achen also delivered a Thank you speech and Choir sang a special song. On 30th of April, 30 members from our church came to gather at the parsonage, prayed and accompanied him to the BHX airport. Achen has transferred to Kerala (Kurathikad St Thomas Marthoma church). We would like to wish Achen and family all the best and may our Lord continue to shower blessing upon you and your ministry.

## St.John's Mar Thoma Church



St.John's Mar Thoma Church, London bade farewell to our Vicar Rev.Shibu Kurian, Sovy Kochamma, Aaron and Miriam on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April after the Holy Communion Service.

Achen will be at teaching at the Dharmajyoti Vidhyapeedam (Theological College), Faridabad, for a year and pursue higher studies thereafter.

We are grateful to their pastoral care and support that was given to us over the last three years. They shared our joys and sorrows, provided the healing touch and the much needed spiritual guidance to all our parishioners. Achen's great concern, loving and empathetic approach to sick and suffering people is an attribute which we should follow.

All parting in life is sad, and we will miss their company and fellowship in the life of our parish.

Be well, continue the good work, keep in touch, remember us in prayers is our message to our beloved Achen, Kochamma and children and we hope that God will provide the opportunity for us to meet again one day. Till then we wish them the best and God's choicest blessings in their pastoral journey.

-Members of St. Johns Mar Thoma Church.

## Sinai Mar Thoma Church



It was a privilege to have Very Rt. Rev V.T John Achen and lovely Kochamma in our Sinai Marthoma Church. It's tough to say goodbye to such an amazing Achen and his family. We just wanted you all to know how much we appreciate the vast range of opportunities, helpful guidance we have been given over the past three years and we will miss your powerful and inspiring sermons. We wish you nothing but the best as you move forward.



## St. James Mar Thoma Church



After 3 years in the post as the Vicar and President St James Mar Thoma church and the registered charity, Rev Stanley Thomas Achen and family have now returned to take up his new assignment as the Vicar of Mar Thoma Church Coonoor, Nilagiri, India.

Achen served the congregation with distinction. Through the celebration of the Holy sacraments, sermons, teachings, leadership and youthful enthusiasm, Achen have helped the parish to grow both spiritually and physically. Through various initiatives started by Achen, active participation of teens and youths in all aspects of the parish life have increased. The prayer groups are now better organized. Achen's leadership have been critical to the progress we have made in the redevelopment of the Mar Thoma Centre, London. This as well as the active participation of the youths will be a lasting legacy to Stanley Achen's time with us.

Parish held a fitting farewell to Stanley Achen, Sheja Kochamma and Children, Rose and Zac on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, to wish Stanley Achen, Sheja Kochamma, Rose and Zac a happy farewell, good health, good memory of their time with us in St James, abundant grace and blessing from the Good Lord as they moves on to work in the Good Lord's vineyard in Coonoor Mar Thoma Church.

## St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church London



Rev Dr Jacob Abraham served as vicar of St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church London from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. He also served as Vicar for All Saints Mar Thoma Church Peterborough. Achen's family members, Reena Kochamma, and 3 sons Milan, Alan and Melvin also accompanied him to UK. After completion of his tenure of 3yr in UK, Jacob Achen is send to Udaipur parish.

We all join-in, in wishing Jacob Achen and family all the best for the future, praying and hoping his working will attain new heights of Glory for Our God Almighty.

## Welcome

### St. Johns MTC, UK



Rev. Binu John Varghese is our new Vicar.

Achen hails from Mepral ,Tiruvalla and was ordained as a Priest of the Mar Thoma Church on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2004. Achen served the following parishes St Thom Mar Thoma Church, Edayarammulla, St Johns Mar Thoma Church, Kurichumuttom, Salem Mar Thoma Church, Chennithala Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Eramathoor, Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Anna Nagar, Chennai,

Achen was also the Director, Dr Joseph Mar Thoma Centre for Holistic Development, Anna Nagar, Chennai.

Currently Achen is the Faculty Member in the Department of Religion, Dharma Jyoti Vidhya Peeth, Faridabad.

Sujith Kochamma hails from Kallisserry,Chengannur and they have two sons ,Nived (8 yrs) and Netan (3 yrs).

We welcome to Achen, Kochamma ,Nived and Netan to the St.John's Mar Thoma parish in UK .

### Hermon MTC



We welcome our new Vicar Rev Saju Chacko Achen and family to Hermon Marthoma church. Achen is presently serving Vikhroli Marthoma church, Mumbai, India. Achen Home parish: Thelliyoor Salem Marthoma Church, Thelliyoor.

Kochamma: Jeslin Jolly Thomas

Childrens: Ashvath (9yrs)

Adonia (4yrs)

### St. James MTC



Rev KK Kuruvila achen have been appointed as the new Vicar of St James Mar Thoma Church London. Parish is prayerfully awaiting the arrival of Kuruvila achen, Remi kochamma and children Kerigma and Rhema.

## St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church



Rev Jobi Koruthu will be serving as vicar of St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church London from May 2019 onwards. He will also serve as Vicar for All Saints Mar Thoma Church Peterborough. Jobi Achen's family members Neena Kochamma and 2 son's Aebel and Aitan will also accompany him to UK.

Jobi Achen was working in St. Thomas English Medium School (Mar Thoma Mission) in Vapi, Gujarat (India). After completion of his tenure of 3yr in Vapi (Gurajat, India) Jobi Achen is assigned Parish in UK to continue his work in supporting Mar Thoma Community in UK.

We all wish Jobi Achen and family all the best for the future, praying and hoping his working in UK will attain new heights of Glory for Our God Almighty.

## Sinai Mar Thoma Church



We now look forward to the arrival of our new Vicar Rev Dr P.G George among us as we begin to start a new journey and grow together again with a new voice and a new approach. We look forward to a period with more continuity, stability and guidance from P.G. George Achen. Let this be the beginning of a new phase in our Sinai Marthoma Church





## Photo Gallery

