

# St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Pune.

(Mumbai Diocese)

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15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020



Vicar's Desk

*Beloved in Christ,*

Hearty Congratulations to our 135 members and families in the Parish, as we have reached a milestone in our journey towards our ultimate goal. Our Church, St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Pune, part of Mumbai Diocese and under the Holy Apostolic See of Antioch & All the East, celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020 since the establishment of our own Church in Pune on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 1995.

On this occasion I thank God for making this possible. Let us also offer our prayerful obeisance to Mother Mary our Patroness Saint (main Altar), St. George (left side Altar) and St. Gregorios (right side Altar) and all our spiritual fathers. We also remember all those members who are now no longer with us but whose foundational contributions led us to be where we are now. I offer my prayers for all.



Yours in His service,  
**Fr. Eldho Kodyattil**

## FOREWORD

**“BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL; AND FORGET NOT HIS REWARDS.” Ps. 103:2**

A song by the Psalmist which indeed relates to our Parish while we recount the blessings the Almighty has showered on us.

Our parish, growing through its natural childhood problems and difficulties, has now reached the stage of a strong, healthy person; thanks to the help and prayers of all the souls who earnestly worked behind it. Yet, we have a long way to travel, much to achieve, and many steps to climb. In our journey towards fulfilling our aspirations, we are motivated by the Words of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, “My grace is sufficient for thee.” With belief and faith in His promise we march forward. Thank You, Lord Jesus.

Holy Mass for our faithful, had started way back in the year 1952 in St. Paul's Church, when L.L. HG Abraham Mor Clemis along with Rev. Fr. Jacob Parayil and Rev. Fr. Kurian Kaniampampil who had come to Pune. After the Holy Mass, HG discussed with the Bishop of Bombay and made arrangements for conducting Holy Mass regularly for the Jacobite Syrian Christian faith in Pune.

*(Prior to 1952, there is a mention of Syriac Orthodox Patriarch, Ignatius Peter IV of having visited Pune to meet Pulikkottil Mar Dionysius on their way to Madras in the year 1875 and to meet the Governor to address matters concerning the faithful in Kerala.)*

In 1964, after the litigation between two factions of our Church was settled, both Parishes, Jacobite Syrian Church and Orthodox Syrian Church functioned as a single unit here under the Bishop of Outside Kerala Diocese. However, in 1972 the controversial issue of the Throne of St. Thomas cropped up again. The devoted faithful discussed with L.L. HG Geevarghese Mar Gregorious of Perumpally and on HG's suggestion, Very Rev. Fr. Anthroyose conducted the Holy Qurbana in All Saints' Church, Kirkee.

Subsequently, as per request and advice of HG Geevarghese Mar Gregorious, Very Rev. Fr. Jacob Kuriakal of Bombay came to Pune on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1975 and conducted Holy Mass in Dehuroad which was a red-letter day in the history of St Mary's Jacobite Church, Pune. Thereafter regular services were conducted in different Churches of Pune.



On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1976, L.L. HB Baselios Paulose II, the Catholicose of the East, appointed a young, dynamic priest, Rev. Fr. A. A. Mathews (*Now, HG Mathews Mar Evanos, Metropolitan of Kandanad, residing near Kadamattam*) as Vicar. Under his leadership, the infant parish progressed considerably for 8 years. It was during this time that St. Marys Society was formed in 1979 with Late Mr. D. Mathews, Late Mr. K M Thomas, Late Mr. V A Varkey, Late Mr. P J John, Late Mr. P J Joseph, Late Mr. K A Abraham, Late Mr. N M Jacob, Mr. V K Kurian, Mr. T Joykutty, Mrs. Saramma Mathew, Mr. P U Kuriakose as Trustees.

In due course, the infant Parish felt the necessity of having its own place of worship and part of the plot on which our Church stands today was purchased on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1979. It was on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1983, the then Catholicose, HB Baselios Paulose II; and the Diocesan Metropolitan L.L HG Thomas Mor Theophilos came to Pune and HB laid the foundation stone for the Church building after celebrating the Holy Qurbana.

On the initiative of Vicar Rev. Fr. Raju John, in May 1984, the remaining part of the plot was purchased. To overcome the financial shortfalls, musical programmes were conducted which were performed for free by the well-known singer K. G. Markose. The response from coupon sales and souvenir was very good and helped us overcome the dire financial need of the time.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 1991, HG Thomas Mar Thimotheos was appointed as Diocesan Bishop and under his efficient and able leadership and guidance motivated us to start the construction of a Church-cum-Community Hall. Rev. Fr. Wilson Jacob was appointed as Vicar in 1992 following which we planned the construction of a prayer hall, and the ground floor was completed. The Holy Mass was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995 and temporary consecration was done by our Diocesan Bishop HG Thomas Mor Thimotheos when Rev. Fr. K.V. John was the Vicar.

The construction of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to start a Play School (for the less privileged children living in the surrounding area) was completed in the year 2000 during the tenure of our Vicar Fr. K.P. Cherian in the year 2000. Subsequently we also constructed the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to add classes for our School.

In the year 2000, our Vicar Rev Fr. Kuriakose George (*Now, HG Kuriakose Mor Eusebius*) took charge. It was his vision to remodel the interiors and Madbaha of the Church to be the best. After planning, work commenced in the year 2002 and it was completed as scheduled. The Holy Mooron Koodasha was conducted by HB the Catholicose Aboon Mar Baselious Thomas 1 as the main celebrant, and the diocesan bishop HG Mor Thimotheos together with HG Mor Athanasious as Co-celebrants on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2003. This remarkable event could not have been possible without the untiring efforts of Mr Krishnankutty and Mr Paulose and their teams from Kerala who did the interiors. The Madbaha was designed by Chev. K.V. Johny, Architect and town planner from Mumbai.

Our ***Kurishinthotti*** was remodelled and then inaugurated on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 by our Metropolitan, HG Thomas Mor Alexandrios in the presence of earlier Vicar Rev. Fr. Philipose Kurian. It was dedicated in the name of Mother Mary, St. Ignatius Elias and St. Basil. It is heart-warming to see that people of other faiths too offer prayers and light candles in front of the Kurishinthotti.

Under normal circumstances, Holy Qurbana every Sunday is effectively and beautifully assisted by our Susrusha Sangam and Choir.

Our Church presently has the following Units functioning towards our extended activities and social outreach;

- 4 Prayer Groups as per broad residential area, namely;
  - St. Gregorios, St. Ignatius, St. Basil and St. George.
- Sunday School
- Youth Association
- Vanitha Samajam
- Elders Forum
- Vishwasa Samrakshana Samiti
- Good Samaritan (Medical Professionals outreach)
- St. Gregorious Foundation  
(Financial aid for higher education to deserving students)

As part of our social outreach we have a fully functional Public School in the name of St. Mary, for children living around our Church area for Std till Xth. It is an English medium school and follow the State Board and we have around 850 students.

The Parish possesses a plot of land measuring 6 Acres in Talegaon. Several development plans are envisaged there.

Land for the Cemetery was allotted to us in the year 2012 by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Pune.

We take this opportunity to thank the Church Vice President, Mr. P V Yohannan; Secretary Mr. Vijoy Mathew; Trustee Mr. Joy Mathewkutty; and the Committee Members for the smooth functioning of all Church activities. May God continue to bless us as we enter into a new era. We also seek for the sustained blessings of our Patriarch, HH Moran Mor Ignatius Aprem II, our Catholicose, HB Aboon Mor Baselious Thomas 1 and our Metropolitan HG Thomas Mor Alexandrios in taking us further in our journey towards heaven.

## ***Vicars who had served this Parish***

- 1) Very Rev. Jacob Kurickal Cor-Episcopa
- 2) Rev. Fr. Abraham Valiyaparambil
- 3) Rev. Fr. A A Mathew (*HG Mathews Mor Ivanios*)
- 4) Rev. Fr. K K Joseph
- 5) Rev. Fr. R V Markose (*Late HG Markose Mor Coorilose*)
- 6) Rev. Fr. Thomas Samuel
- 7) Rev. Fr. Raju John (1986-1990)
- 8) Rev. Fr. Baby John
- 9) Rev. Fr. Abraham Aliyattukudy (1990-1992)
- 10) Rev. Fr. Wilson Jacob (1992-1994)
- 11) Rev. Fr. K V John (1994-1997)
- 12) Rev. Fr. K P Cherian (1997-2000)
- 13) Rev. Fr. Kuriakose George (2000-2006) (*HG Kuriakose Mor Eusebius*)
- 14) Rev. Fr. Philip Vaidyan (2006-2009)
- 15) Rev. Fr. Bobby George (2009-2012)
- 16) Rev. Fr. Joseph Vazhayil (2012-2015)
- 17) Rev. Fr. Philipose Kurian (2015-2018)
- 18) Rev. Fr. Eldho Kodyattil (*Present Vicar*)

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Fr. Eldho Kodyattil  
Vicar.