

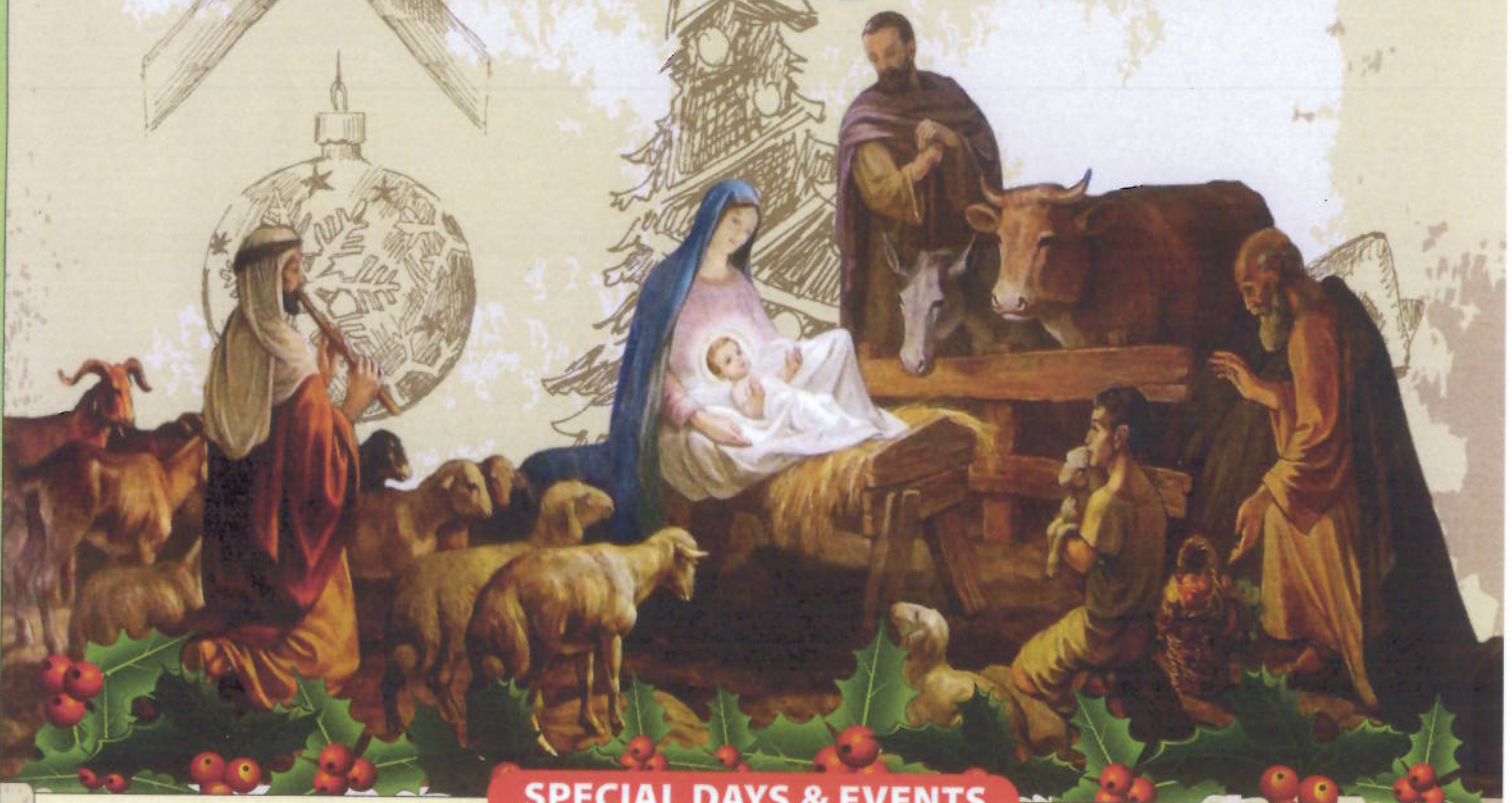
Vol. 9
DECEMBER 2013



PARISH BULLETIN

ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL - DUBAI

Merry Christmas!
& Happy New Year



SPECIAL DAYS & EVENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Dec. Sunday of St. Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Women's day), Lent of Advent begins | 19 Dec. Remembrance of St. Thomas (Getting pierced with the spear) |
| 3 Dec. Memorial feast of HG Thoma Mar Dionysius Metropolitan (Pathanapuram Tabore Dayara) | 21 Dec. Martyrdom of St. Thomas (Apostle of India) |
| 8 Dec. Feast of the birth of John the Baptist Sunday (Children's Day)
Memorial feast of Mar Baselios Augen 1 Catholicose (Devalokam Catholicate Aramana) | 22 Dec. Sunday before Christmas Genealogy Sunday |
| 13 Dec. Memorial feast of HG Daniel Mar Phelexinos Metropolitan (Pathanamthitta Basil Dayara) | 25 Dec. Christmas (Birth of Lord Jesus) Lent of Advent ends. |
| 15 Dec. Sunday of Annunciation to St. Joseph | 26 Dec. Feast of the glory of St. Mary. Feast of Jacob Mar Polycarpus |
| 17 Dec. Memorial feast of Mar Baselios Gheevarghese 1 Catholicose (Vakathanam Vallikkattu Dayara) | 27 Dec. Massacre of the Infants |
| | 29 Dec. First Sunday after Christmas |
| | 31 Dec. Last Day of the Year, Vigil for New Year |



Fr. Lany Chacko
Asst. Vicar

“Make ready, O Bethlehem: let the manger be prepared, let the cave show its welcome. The truth has come, the shadow has passed away...”

Month of December brings the seasons of feasts and fast. Annually, on the first of December, our Holy Orthodox Church marks the beginning of the Nativity Fast in preparation of the grand celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we prepare for the feast of birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Feast of Martyrdom of st Thomas, and New Year, it seems scarcely possible to me and I imagine to you also, that another year is already approaching its end.

The Birth of our Lord took place in a humble manger. During these Lenten days let us humbly prepare our own manger, which is our soul, our heart, our mind, our body. Prepare it all so that our Lord may be born within it. Let us allow our Lord, Emmanuel, to live and dwell in us. Let us embrace Him who has offered it and who once again is a king it available to each of us. Let us love Him with all our heart and mind. Look so that we may find the glowing star and follow it. This glowing star will lead us to the source of Light, the One who is the Light of the world, the One Who illumines and sanctifies everyone who comes into the world, His World. It would have been useless for Christ's supreme Christmas Message to be born in Bethlehem if He is not also born in our heart. There is a need for the Christ to be born in us. It is urgent that the star of Bethlehem shines over us to announce the birth of that Christ within the living depths of our consciousness.

Only then will we be able to offer glorious hymns proclaiming His Birth and Incarnation, remembering and living the event that brought joy to the world on that silent and holy night in Bethlehem. Like the wise men, worship Him with pure joy, whom they sought out for so long, and traveled from so far to see. They continue to inspire us to be vigilant and determined to fight off every obstacle and challenge that would attempt to keep us at a distance from our Lord. They continue to be examples of the courage needed to worship Christ without fear of “the world” which continues to convince us to reject Him. They continue to encourage us to be confident and to stay the course in our own individual journeys toward Christ. And, of course, Herod is troubled because of his fear of losing power and authority. There are those who, today, fear submitting them to Christ, not realizing that submission to Him is, in fact, “putting Him on” ourselves; it is the acquisition of the power of choosing life over death, which is – the ultimate freedom!

As we prepare to enter a New Year, with all the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, let us reflect on our lives and realize that our Lord loves us and helps us to correct and fix our failures and mistakes by living our lives in Him. It is His grace and love which enables us to live this way, to ascend the heights, meet new challenges, and serve Him with gladness. With this way of life, we will not only draw closer to God but also to our brothers and sisters as well, learning the language of love, how to better communicate with each other, using the gifts that He has given us-peace and love-so that we can live in harmony with one another, without bitterness, strife and hatred.

As we also celebrate the feast of martyrdom of st. Thomas (December 21) this month. St. Thomas would speak today, to those of us who have seen their hopes and dreams destroyed how Jesus' life had intercepted his own and how his fears and his doubts were destroyed in the presence of Jesus. And then, with a radiant, joyful face with St. Thomas, Apostle to India, let us recount joy at seeing and knowing the Jesus and say. “My Lord and my God!”.

Let us thank the Almighty Lord for His abundant blessings He has showered upon us in this earthly sojourn. When we turn back we have nothing to boast but everything is the Grace of God. It is blissful if we analyse our past life and find out the drawbacks and failures we have faced and correct it by meditating the Grace of God and proceed with new spirit of hope and vision.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



നളികോട്.....

കാതോലിക്കോട് പുനഃസ്ഥാപനം കഴിഞ്ഞത് 100 വർഷം പിന്നിടുന്നതോടെ മലങ്കര സഭയുടെ അഭിമാനമായി ലോകീകുന്ന ദുബായ് ഇടവക സ്ഥാപിതമായിട്ട് 45 വർഷങ്ങൾ പിന്നിടുന്നു. വളരെ ചെറിയ തുടക്കത്തിലൂടെ മലങ്കരസഭയ്ക്കൊക്കാനും തണലേകുന്ന തരത്തിൽ വളർന്ന ദുബായ് സെന്റ് തോമസ് ഓർത്തഡോക്സ് കത്തീഡ്രൽ ഇടവകയുടെ ചുമതലക്കാരനാകാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതിൽ അഭിമാനമുണ്ട്.

പ്രിയ സഹോദരി സഹോദരന്മാരെ, കഴിഞ്ഞ ഒരു വർഷക്കാലം നിങ്ങൾ നൽകിയ സ്നേഹത്തിനും, സഹകരണത്തിനും എങ്ങനെ നന്ദി പറയണം എന്തെന്നിരിക്കില്ല. പക്ഷെ ഒന്നെന്നിരിക്കിലും ഹാരാ ആദ്യം, ഇടവക പെരുന്നാൾ, കൊയ്ത്തു പെരുന്നാൾ, ഫാദിരി കോൺഹറൻസ്, പുതിയ ഹരിഷ് ഹാൾ കുദാര ഇവയൊക്കെ വിജയകരമായി നടത്തുവാൻ സാധിച്ചത് നിങ്ങളുടെ ഏവരുടേയും അകമഴിഞ്ഞ പിന്തുണയും, എന്റെ സഹപ്രവർത്തകരുടെ കലവകിട്ടാത്ത സഹകരണവും, എല്ലാറ്റിനും ഉപരി പരമകരുണിക്കനായ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ വലിയ കരുണയും കൊണ്ടാണെന്നു്. നിങ്ങളോരോരുത്തരോടും ഹൃദയത്തിന്റെ ഭാഷയിൽ നന്ദി അറിയിക്കട്ടെ.

വീണ്ടും ഒരു ക്രിസ്തുമസ് കാലം കൂടി വരവായി. ക്രിസ്തുമസ്സെന്റെ അനന്തപ്രസാദത്തിന്റെ വേളയിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്കെവർക്കും സന്തോഷകരമായ ഒരു ക്രിസ്തുമസ്സും, സമ്പൽ സമൃദ്ധമായ ഒരു പുതുവർഷവും 2013 മാനേഷിംഗ് കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ പേരിൽ ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി ആശംസിച്ചുകൊണ്ട്.

സ്നേഹത്തോടെ,
ബാബുഷി ഷോർജ്ജ്
സെക്രട്ടറി

St.Thomas Mount - Mylapore

According to legend, St Thomas or Doubting Thomas, one of the 12 apostles, came to South India soon after Jesus Christ died. He is said to have arrived in Cranganore in AD 52 and spent the next 12 years along the Malabar Coast, spreading the Gospel and converting the local population. He gradually moved eastwards and finally settled in mylapore. He spent the last years of his life in a cave on little Mount, from where he would walk every day to the beach, resting for a while and preaching in the groves. It is said that one day in AD 72, while praying on the Mount of St Thomas, he was mortally wounded by a lance and fled to little mount, where he was buried in the crypt of the small chapel he had built. This is today the Basilica of san Thome, and the large stained-glass window depicts his story. The portuguese colonized mylapore in the early 16th century, lured by accounts left by the 13th-century Venetian traveller, Marcopolo, who had visited the early Nestorian chapel here. The saint holds a special place in the hearts of Indians and was decreed the Apostle of India in 1972.ns and was decreed the Apostle of India in 1972.

Little Mount & Mount of St.Thomas
A Rock-Hewn Cave on Little Mount is believed to be the place where, in AD 72, the mortally wounded St.Thomas sought refuge. Near the modern Church of Our Lady of Good Health is the older Blessed Scrament Chapel built by the portuguese over the Cave. Inside the cave is the opening through which the fleeing saint is



said to have retreated, leaving behind a still visible imprint of his hand near the entrance. At the rear end of the caves is the Masonry cross before which St Thomas is said to have prayed. Legend claims that the spring originated when st Thomas struck the rock with his staff to provide water for his thirsty congregation.

About 3km southwest of Little Mount is the 95-m high Mount of St Thomas or Great Mount. A flight of 132 steps leads to the summit and the Church of Our Lady of Expectations built by the Portuguese in the 16th Century. The most important relic here is the ancient stone cross embedded into the wall of the altar is said to have been engraved by the saint himself. This is the legendary "bleeding cross" that miraculously bled between 1558 and 1704. Below the eastern flank of the Mount is the Cantonment area, with its shady streets lined with 18th century neo-classical bungalows.

Seventh Catholicos of the East in Malankara HH Baselios Marthoma Didymus I



His Holiness was consecrated as Bishop on August 24, 1966 and has been serving as Metropolitan of the Malabar Diocese of the church. He is the seventh Catholicos since the Catholicate of the East was relocated to India and 90th in the lineage of Catholicos of the East in the Apostolic throne of St. Thomas. He is also the 19th Malankara Metropolitan of the Church.

His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Didimos I was born on 29 October 1921 to Ittyavira Thomas of Mulamootil House in Nedumbram near Thiruvalla and Sosamma of Chiramel House in Mavelikara. He joined the Tabor

Dayara in Pathanapuram in 1939 and completed his high school education. He passed his Intermediate from C.M.S College, Kottayam in 1945, his B.A from National College, Tiruchirapalli in 1951, his B.T from Maston Training College, Madras in 1954, and his M.A from Christ Church College, Kanpur in 1961. He completed his training for priesthood under the disciplined guidance of Thoma Mar Dionysius and His Holiness Baselios Oughen, Catholicos of the East. He received from His Holiness Geevarghese II Catholicos of the East the order of Korooyo on 11 March 1942, full deaconship on 22 May 1947 and priesthood on 25 January 1950. He Has served as headmaster of Ponnayya High School, Thiruchirapalli and St. Stephen's High School, Pathanapuram, as Professor of English in St. Stephens College Pathanapuram and President of the Orthodox Youth Movement.

On 16 May 1965 His Holiness Baselios Oughen made him Ramban. The Malankara Syrian Christian Association, which met on 28 December 1965 at M.D Seminary, Kottayam, elected him to the high offer of Metropolitan. On 24 August 1966 at Kolencherry His Holiness Baselios Oughen Bava consecrated him as Metropolitan Thomas Mar Timotheos.

He became the Metropolitan of Malabar on 11 November 1966. He continues to serve as the General Superior of Mount Tabor Dayara and Convent in Pathanapuram. On 10 September 1992, the Malankara Association, which met at Parumala, elected him as successor- designate to the Malankara Metropolitan and Catholicos of the East.

His Holiness started his service to the Church as a monk when he was a teenager. He was called to the monastic life by the late Metropolitan Mar Dionysius of Niranam. He went through a rigorous monastic life that tuned up his body through hard work and his mind through intense discipline and his spirit through spiritual exercise. This writer believes Mor Baselios Didimos I is an exemplification of eastern monastic life. Our tradition of selecting bishops from the monastic ranks has a long history. Unfortunately due to discontinued monastic communities, we could not always select our bishops from thorough-bred ascetics period. Mor Didimos is an exemption to our recently fabricated monasticism as a preparation to receive the episcopate.


He has been deeply rooted in his monastic practices and exercises long before he became a priest and a bishop. He has witnessed many late nights during which our new Shepherd kept vigil in the chapel of Mount Tabor Monastery. Yes, indeed the church of Malankara is blessed to be shepherded by a monk of prayer.

Mar Didimos is not just a monk, who is enamored of some primitive practices of monasticism. He is endowed with erudition which he derived from his long career as a student of theology, mathematics and English literature. Prior to his consecration to the episcopate he had been a professional educator holding various positions in the academia. He was a mathematics instructor for many years, and was a high school headmaster for more than a decade. After receiving his post graduate degree in English literature he held his lectureship in English literature when St. Stephen's college of Pathanapuram came into existence. His Holiness is also rightly credited with his musical skills; his divine liturgies are musically mellifluous to the ears of the participants.

**മാർത്തോമ്മാ ശ്രീഹായാൽ സ്ഥാപിതമായ
ഏഴരപ്പള്ളികളിൽ ഒന്നായ
കൊല്ലം ദേവാലയം**

After his gospel in north Kerala St. Thomas went to the second best known port Quilon (Kollam), in Kerala for his mission. This Port city at that time was the Capital of Venadu kings (under Chera kingdom). The church built by St Thomas in Kollam, one of the great Catholic centers of India (in later stage), is believed to have existed for upwards of a thousand years, was destroyed in later years by seaerosion. The restoration of the original church was not possible and hence not done. Today there is a Roman Catholic Church at this place. It was erected by Pope John XXII in 1330.

"HONOR WIDOWS WHO ARE TRULY WIDOWS"
1 Timothy 5:3




DUBAI ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL CHARITY PROJECTS-2013

കരുണാലയം
Home for Terminated Widows

ST. GREGORIOS KARUNA BHAVAN-IDUKKI Supported By Dubai St.Thomas Orthodox Cathedral
നിരാലംബരായ വൃദ്ധ വിധവകൾക്ക് 60 ലക്ഷം രൂപ ചെലവിൽ ഇടുക്കി ഭദ്രാസനത്തിലെ അണക്കരയിൽ വൃദ്ധസദനത്തിന്റെ നിർമ്മാണം ആരംഭിച്ചു.

കുട്ടി പുഴയവും ചലനോപാധികളും
Kids' Heart & Caring Disabled

5 വയസ്സ് വരെയുള്ള കുട്ടികൾക്ക് പുഴോഗ ചികിത്സാ സഹായവും അംഗവിഹീനർക്ക് വീൽചെയറും മറ്റു ചലനോപാധികളും നൽകുന്നു.




ഇടവകാംഗങ്ങളുടെ പരിരക്ഷ
Members' Care

ദുബായ് കത്തീഡ്രൽ അംഗങ്ങൾക്കും ആശ്രിതർക്കും ചികിത്സ, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, വിവാഹം എന്നിവയ്ക്ക് സഹായം നൽകുന്നു.

കൂടാതെ ഇടവക എല്ലാ വർഷവും ചെയ്ത് വരുന്ന ജനറൽ ചാരിറ്റിയും നൽകി വരുന്നു.

PRAY, PARTICIPATE & PROMOTE



Vicar, Managing & Charity Committee - 2013

HOLY SERVICES, PRAYERS & MEETINGS

Fridays : 06.45 am - 07.25 am Night Prayer, Morning Prayer
: 08.30 am - 10.30 am Holy Qurbana

Fridays : 07.00 pm - 07.30 pm Evening Prayer
: 07.30 pm - 09.00 pm Holy Qurbana

Sundays : 07.30 pm - 08.00 pm Evening Prayer
: 08.00 pm - 09.30 pm Holy Qurbana

Tuesdays : 05.30 am - 07.00 am Holy Qurbana

Wednesdays : 07.30 pm - 08.30 pm Evening Prayer & Intercessory Prayer for St. Mary

Saturday, Monday, Tuesday : 07.00 pm - 07.30 pm Evening Prayer

Thursdays : 07.00 pm - 09.15 pm Holy Confession, Evening Prayer
Intercessory prayer to St. Thomas
Church Prayer Meeting & Choir Practice

Sunday School : 10.45 am - 12.10 pm All Fridays

Marth Mariam Samajam : 11.00 am - 12.20 pm All Fridays

M.G.O.C.S.M : 11.00 am - 12.20 pm All Fridays

Youth Movement : 11.00 am - 12.20 pm All Fridays

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULED PROGRAMMES FOR DECEMBER 2013

December 6th : SSFC & 12th Examination (O.K.R.) will be held as scheduled before.
65 Students for SSFC (10th) and 20 Students for 12th (Record Strength)
Other classes will be working as usual in the Parish Hall.

December 13th : Annual Examination for Beginners, KG-2, Class I to IX and Class XI will be conducted immediately after Holy Qurbana.

Oral Test for Beginners, KG-2, Classes I, II and Written Test for all other classes.

Final Result may be published on the same day in the Church Website as usual.

Sunday School closes for the Academic Year 2013.

ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMES OF DECEMBER 2013

December 6th Regular Meeting (10.45 am to 12.00 pm)

December 13th Regular Meeting (10.45 am to 12.20 pm)

December 20th Regular Meeting, Election of Office Bearers & Committee Members for the year 2014 (10.45 am to 12.20 pm)

December 20th Regular Meeting (10.45 am to 12.00 pm)

Divyabodhanam Class - Every Monday 8 pm to 9.30 pm (To increase general awareness of the Bible, Church History & Basic Beliefs of the Malankara Orthodox Sabha.)

OCYM Job Cell - Highly active Job Cell that matches job seekers with employers from a wide range of sectors.
(More Informations Contact Co-ordinator, Mr. Johnkutty Idicula : 055 4434847)

Email : ocymdubai@gmail.com Website: www.stthomasocymdubai.org
Job Cell : jobcellocymdubai@gmail.com
More Informations Contact: Secretary Mrs. Jishi Binny : 050 7052459

MOMS SCHEDULED PROGRAMMES

06/12 Regular meeting
Health check-up

13/12 Regular meeting

20/12 Regular meeting
Intercessory prayer

27/12 Regular meeting
Health check-up

Rev. Fr. T. J. Johnson	<i>Vicar & President</i>	050 2108180	frtjohnson@gmail.com
Rev. Fr. Lany Chacko	<i>Asst. Vicar</i>	050 8379905	frlanychacko@gmail.com
T. C. Jacob	<i>Trustee</i>	050 5141831	chackojacob19@yahoo.com
Babuji George	<i>Secretary</i>	050 5842528	bajigeorge@hotmail.com
Abraham P. A.	<i>Jt. Trustee</i>	050 6341316	abraham@alwahamechemical.com
Babu M. Kuruvilla	<i>Jt. Secretary</i>	050 7787152	bmanathra@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBERS LIST

CARDEX	NAME
S563	Sunson Varghese
S564	Sarun Zachariah Oommen
B313	Biju Mathew
R270	Romeo Thankachen
A346	Anoop Joseph Punnen
D71	Deepak Philipose
P157	Prajo Ponnachan
R271	Renjith V. John
H4	Helen Thomas
M356	Mathew Thomas
S566	Saji Mathew
A347	Aneesh Paily
K149	Kurian George
J614	Jinu Mammen Varughese
J613	Jacob George Thomas
D72	David Mathew Panicker
J615	Dr. John Cherian Varghese
J616	Joji George
R272	Rengith Skariah Philip
S567	Sibil Mathew Thomas
M357	Mathew Joseph
S568	Sujith Jacob
S569	Miss. Soniya Babu George
S565	Sam George
B314	Binoy Varghese
B315	Benny Varghese
M358	Monzy Thomas
G267	George Simon T.
M359	Mathew Shajee Varghese
L63	Lin Thomas Mathai
J617	Jencil Phil Philip
J618	Jijin V.J.
V263	Varghese Philip
J619	Joju Pulimoottil Chacko
B311	Biju Kollanoor
S570	Shinu Mathew
R273	Roshan Rajan
E41	Eldhose T. Varkey
J620	John Jacob Elanjickal
S571	Shibin Joseph Varghese
M360	Manoj Kanjirathingal Chummar
J621	Johan Thomas
N30	Naveen Jose
N31	Nidhin Isacc

ദുബായ് സെന്റ് തോമസ് ഓർത്തഡോക്സ് കത്തീഡ്രൽ ഇടവകയുടെ പുതിയ പാരിഷ് ഹാൾ കുരാശയുടെ വിവിധ ദൃശ്യങ്ങൾ

