

## St. Thomas (1)rthomox Cathedral Tiluthai PARISH BULLETN




Fr. Jackson M. John
Assistant Vicar

Dearly Beloved,

## Greetings to you all in the name of the One Triune God.

The culmination of this year's Great Lent has arrived with our entry into the Holy Week in the first week itself of April 2023. A time like no other, during this week, the Holy Church and all the faithful join together \& sojourn closely with Christ following His every step leading to His Passion, Crucifixion \& Resurrection.

The Holy Week begins with Jesus christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where the people receive him with flowers, palm leaves \& by spreading their outer garments before him in a royal welcome. However, Christ adds an element of humility to his kingly reception by riding into Jerusalem on a humble donkey. In the Church, this joy of Hosanna immediately gives way to the painful events that follow, and this change is reflected in a total change of theme, as the colour black imposes itself everywhere within the Church. The Golgotha, also shifts position to the steps of the Madbaha \& becomes the sole central focus all through the Holy Week.

The next significant event of the Holy Week is the Last Supper where Jesus eats the Passover meal with his disciples. He then institutes the Holy Eucharist, promising that -"Whoever eats my flesh \& drinks my blood shall have eternal life". This glorious act of Christ fulfils God's desire to forgive Adam for his disobedience \& lost chance in the Garden of Eden \& to give all humankind one more opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life.

St. Paul states: "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Since the fall of humankind, the most insurmountable forces that prevailed on earth were firstly, Satan \& his forces (the cause of the Fall \& the root of humankind's sin) and secondly Death, the inevitable \& inescapable end of all that lives.

Through His Crucifixion, Christ paid the ransom for the sins of all humanity by offering Himself as the perfect lamb for sacrifice. With this salvific act which culminated in His glorious Resurrection, which also shocked the celestial beings \& shook the very foundations of the universe, Christ broke the yoke of Satan \& Death in one blow, thereby re-manifesting the power of the Triune God as truly Almighty \& Supreme.

St. Paul underlines the impact of the Resurrection event saying, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless, and so is your faith." (I Cor. 15:14). The Easter event thus, forms the foundation of our Christian Hope of a life to come \& our faith in an eternal life which our Lord has prepared for us.
May the power \& glory of our Resurrected Lord strengthen us \& our families now and forever more!!!

## Fr. Jackson M. John

Assistant Vicar
St. Thomas Orthodox Cathedral Dubai

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## GREAT LENT \& HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME 2023

| Date | Day | Occasion | Time | Events |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 30 March | Thursday |  | 7.00 PM |  |
|  |  | $40^{\text {th }}$ Friday of the Lent |  | Evening Prayer \& Holy Qurbana |
| 1 April | Saturday |  | 6.30 AM |  |
|  |  | Lazarus' Saturday |  | Morning Prayer \& Holy Qurbana |
| 2 April | Sunday |  | 6.30 AM |  <br>  <br>  |
|  |  | Palm Sunday |  | Morning Prayer, Holy Qurbana \& Hosanna Service (Chief Celebrant:H.H. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Chrysostomos Metropolitan -Niranam Diocese.) |
|  |  | Vade-Dal-Mino Service | 7.00 PM | Evening Prayer \& Vade-Dal- Mino Service |
| 3 April | Monday |  | 7.00 PM |  |
|  |  | Haasha Monday |  | Evening Prayer \& Devotional Address |
| 4 April | Tuesday |  | 7.00 PM | mumujo mamiarono, wjom (n) |
|  |  | Haasha Tuesday |  | Evening Prayer \& Devotional Address |
| 5 April | Wednesday |  | 6.00 PM |  กi. \&ூ子రెஹృm |
|  |  | Passover - Maundy Thursday (Pessaha) |  | Evening Prayer, Night Prayer \& Pass Over Holy Qurbana |
| 6 April | Thursday |  <br>  | 6.00 PM |  |
|  |  | Feet Washing Service |  |  <br> Kalkazhukal Susroosha (Feet Washing Service) |
| 7 April | Friday |  | 7.30 AM |  |
|  |  |  | 7.00 PM |  |
|  |  | Good Friday | 7.30 AM | Good Friday Service |
|  |  |  | 7.00 PM | Evening Prayer, Vigil and Recitation of Psalms |
| 8 April | Saturday | B3:வ coml (สைonlø)- <br>  | 9.30 AM |  |
|  |  | Holy Saturday | 9.30 AM | Morning Prayer \& Holy Qurbana |
|  |  | ๒అฺทกัర | 6.00 PM |  <br>  |
|  |  | Easter | 6.00 PM | Evening Prayer, Holy Qurbana \& Easter Service |

Palm Sunday Chief Celebrant:
H.G. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Chrysostomos Metropolitan-Niranam Diocese.

Holy Week Chief Celebrant H.G. Dr. Yakoob Mar Irenaios Metropolitan-Kochi Diocese.

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## PARISH BULLETIN "

## EVENTS

Mid Lent


## EVENTS

MMVS - RETREAT \& MELTHO D'ALOHO 2023


## EVENTS

Catholicate Day Celebration



## EVENTS

OCYM CATHOLICATE DAY CELEBRATION


## EVENTS

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## OCYM DUBAI









## LAZARUS SATURDAY (Feast Day: April 1)



St. Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-4z; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village of Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives, about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus - whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Savior, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth." By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death. On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the
death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Savior that we celebrate on this day. According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealingaclay vessel,he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise.

## IMPORTANCE OF HOLY WEEK

## USHA`NE Palm Sunday (Feast Day: April 2)



On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was
to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today. The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

## HOLY THURSDAY (PESAHA: April 6)



On the evening of this day, which was the eve of the feast of unleavened bread (that is, the Passover), our Redeemer supped with His twelve disciples in the city. He blessed the bread and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist. He washed the feet of the disciples as an example of humility. He said openly that one of them was about to betray Him, and He pointed out the betrayer by revealing that it was he "that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish." And after Judas had straightway gone forth, Jesus gave the disciples His final and sublime instructions, which are contained in the first Gospel Reading of the Holy Passion (John 13:31-18:1 known as the Gospel of the Testament). After this the God-man went forth to the Mount of Olives, and there He began to be sorrowful and in anguish. He went off
alone, and bending the knees He prayed fervently. From His great anguish, His sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground. As soon as He had completed that anguished prayer, Io, Judas came with a multitude of soldiers and a great crowd; on greeting the Teacher guile fully with a kiss, he betrayed Him. The Lord Jesus was then apprehended and taken prisoner to the high priests Annas and Caiaphas. The disciples were scattered, but Peter, who was more fervent than the others, followed Him even into the court of the high priest, but in the end denied thrice that he was His disciple. Then our divine Teacher was brought before the lawless Sanhedrin and was interrogated concerning His disciples and His teaching. The high priest adjured Him before God that He tell them whether He was truly the Christ. And having spoken the truth, He was judged guilty of death, supposedly as one who had blasphemed. Then they spat in His face, beat Him, smote Him with the palms of their hands, and mocked Him in every way, throughout the whole night until the morning.
between two thieves. Although both blasphemed Him at the first, the thief at His right hand repented, and said: "Remember me, 0 Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom," to which our Savior answered, "Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." As He hung upon the Cross, He was blasphemed by those who were passing by, was mocked by the high priests, and by the soldiers was given vinegar to drink mixed with gall. About the ninth hour, He cried out with a loud voice, saying, "It is finished." And the Lamb of God "Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) expired on the day when the moon was full, and at the hour when, according to the Law, was slain the Passover lamb, which was established as a type of Him in the time of Moses. Even lifeless creation mourned the death of the Master, and it trembled and was altered out of fear. Yet, even though the Maker of creation was already dead, they pierced Him in His immaculate side, and forthwith came there out Blood and Water. Finally, at about the setting of the sun, Joseph of Arimathea came with Nicodemus (both of them had been secret disciples of Jesus), and they took
down the all-holy Body of the Teacher from the Cross and anointed it with aromatic spices, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. When they had
buried Him in a new tomb, they rolled a great stone over its entrance.
tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the windingsheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions. Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday. As we celebrate this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Savior's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honor of the Lord; in honor and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labor that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.
him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia. His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name.

## Spiritual Organization Schedule April 2023

## ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT (OCYM)

April 9th- Easter Celebration.
April 23rd -Book Exhibition related to World Book Reading Day

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Regular Classes for Sunday School will start on April 16th New Sunday after Easter.There will be no Sunday School classes on April 2nd (Hosanna) and April 9th (Esater)
Registration for teachers and volunteers for this year OVBS (June 25th-July 2nd) will start from April 16th .

## MOMS

Regular Meeting on Every Sunday after Holy Qurbana.

## MGOCSM

April 1st -Retreat lead by H.G Dr. Yakoob Mar Irenaios from 10 am to 12 pm.
April 16th -Career counselling session at our church. For registration please contact: +971543114215.

## DIASPORA

April 1st -Retreat lead by H.G Dr. Yakoob Mar Irenaios from 10 am to 12 pm.
April 10th-Get together Meet \& Greet with Thirumeni H.G Dr.Yakoob Mar Irenaios at 8pm in Church.


## ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL-AREA PRAYER MEETING SCHEDULE - TIME 8.00 PM

| Date | Day | Week | Area | Host Name | Cardex | Address | Contact NO: |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $10^{\text {th }}$ April 2023 | Monday | 2 | Karama | Mr. Babugi George | B 046 | Flat 301, Al Hasher Bldg, AI Haj Cafeteria Bldg. Oud Metha | 0556123959 |
| $15^{\text {th }}$ April 2023 | Saturday | 3 | Sharjah \& Other Emirates | Mr. Baiju Baby/ Mr. James Abraham | B 284/1727 | Parish Hall @ Church | $\begin{aligned} & 055 \text { 5083243/ } \\ & 0568160795 \end{aligned}$ |
| $15^{\text {th }}$ April 2023 | Saturday | 3 | Yousuf Baker Fridge Murrar Naif | Mr. Alex Babu | A 358 | Flat 404, Kuwait Building, Al Murar, Deira | 0551890261 |
| $17^{\text {th }}$ April 2023 | Monday | 3 | Al Qusais | Mr. Mintoo Jacob Raj | M 316 | Dubai Residential Oasis Building |  |
| $22^{\text {nd }}$ April 2023 | Saturday | 4 | Sharjah Al Nahda. | Mr.Deepu Oommen/ Mr. Philip Mathew. | D 058/P115 | Parish Hall @ Church | $\begin{aligned} & 055 \text { 9494135/ } \\ & 0505189971 \end{aligned}$ |
| $22^{\text {nd }}$ April 2023 | Saturday | 4 | Satwa | All Together |  | OCYM Hall @ Church | 0503757596 |
| $24^{\text {th }}$ April 2023 | Monday | 4 | Mirdiff Silicon Oasis (MSO) | Mr. Mathew Varghese | M 230 | Flat 504, Khoory Building 1, Al Warga 1 | 0552711035 |
| $24^{\text {th }}$ April 2023 | Monday | 4 | Karama | Mr. Philip TG | P 085 | Flat 401, Al Nasr Plaza Residence, Oud Metha | 0505583622 |

## ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, DUBAI OFFICE BEARERS \& MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2023

| Sr.No. | Name | Post | Cardex No. | Mobile No | Email ID |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | REV.FR. BINISH BABU | PRESIDENT \& VICAR |  | +971542525833 | vicar@stocdubai.com |
| 2 | REV.FR. JACKSON M. JOHN | ASSISTANT VICAR |  | +971542525834 | assistantvicar@stocdubai.com |
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| 1 | BIJUMON KUNJACHAN | HON.TRUSTEE | B149 | 0506567933/0542525835 | biju@ive.ae/trustee@stocdubai.com |
| 2 | M.JOSEPH VARGHESE | HON SECRETARY | J330 | +971542525836 | secretary@stocdubai.com |
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| 4 | BENEDICT VARGHESE | HON.JOINT SECRETARY | B246 | +971542525837 | tgbenni@gmail.com |
| MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | SHAJI KOCHUKUTTY | EX.OFFICIO | S277 | +971 507559224 | shajikochukutty@gmail.com |
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| 10 | SUNIL RAJ EDWIN | AL QUASIS 1 | S615 | +971 508700822 | sunil.raj.edwin@gmail.com |
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| 12 | SHAII JOHN | AL NAHDA DUBAI | S746 | +971 501746047 | shajiishere@gmail.com |
| 13 | GEORGE VARGHESE( BIJI) | MUHAISNA/LULU VILLAGE /SONAPUR | G155 | +971508740702 | varghese@ttsinternational.ae |
| 14 | JOBBY GEORGE | MIRDIFF/SILICON OASIS/RASHIDIYA | J371 | +971563425262 | jobbygrg@hotmail.com |
| 15 | SIJO THOMAS RAJU | AL QUOZ/JABEL ALI | S467 | +971505631805 | sijothomasraju@gmail.com |
| 16 | SANTHOSH GEORGE | SHARJAH AL NAHDA | S672 | +971521299570 | santhoshprakkanam@gmail.com |
| 17 | ROBIN K.THOMAS | SHARJAH /OTHER EMIRATES | R238 | +971553006595 | thomasrobins_82@yahoo.co.in |



## New Members Joined in March 2023

| Sr. No. | Date | Cardex No. | Name | Place | Prayer Group | Mobile | Parish | Diocese |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 03/05/2023 | 1130 | uJu K. BABU | mullanikadu | MIRDIFF SILICON OASIS | 971559209144 | ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX VALYAPALLY, MULLANIKADU | THUMPAMON |
| 2 | 03/05/2023 | R451 | ROMY V. VARGHESE | KALUUMKAL | MIRDIFF SILICON OASIS | 971509600692 | ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH, KALLUMKAL | CHENGANOOR |
| 3 | 03/05/2023 | S845 | SUIITH JAMES | BARODA | AL QUoZ JABAL ALI | 971545065428 | MAR GreGorious orthodox syrian church, BARODA | AHMEDABAD |
| 4 | 03/05/2023 | S846 | SIBI SAM | BANGALORE | MIRDIFF SILICON OASIS | 971525321179 | ST. BASELIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH, MARTHAHALI | BANGALORE |
| 5 | 03/06/2023 | R452 | ROBIN THOMAS | venmony | KARAMA | 971565597420 | ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH, VENMONY | CHENGANOOR |
| 6 | 03/12/2023 | D113 | DEEPU SOMAN VARUGHESE | OMALLOOR | MIRDIFF SILICON OASIS | 971565757542 | ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX VALYA PALI, OMALLOOR | THUMPAMON |
| 7 | 17/3/2023 | 1884 | JIJO MATHEW JOSEPH | KUMBAZHA | AL QUSAIS | 971524730263 | ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX VALYA CATHEDRAL, KUMBAZHA | THUMPAMON |
| 8 | 19/3/2023 | S847 | SHERRY JACOB VAIDYAN | SASTHAMKOTTA | AL QUSAIS | 971567228533 | ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH, MYNAGAPALLY | KOLLAM |
| 9 | 24/3/2023 | J885 | JINTU PHILIP | ATHIRUMKAL | KARAMA | 971564778207 | ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH, ATHIRUMKAL | THUMPAMON |
| 10 | 26/03/2023 | A541 | ARUN V. THOMAS | NIRANAM | AL NAHDA SHARJAH | 971508547169 | ST. MARY' ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH, NIRANAM | NIRANAM |

