

CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

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June 1921: Beginning of Union Christian College in Alwaye. Union Christian College in Alwaye was established in June, 1921, as a joint venture of the Jacobite Anglican and Mar Thoma Churches in the Travancore-Cochin area.

June 1953: Beginning of St. Thomas College under the leadership of Rev. K. T. Thomas. St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry was established in June, 1953, by the Kozhencherry St. Thomas Mar Thoma parish and near by parishes under the able leadership of Rev. K. T. Thomas of the Kurumthottical family.

1 June, 1995: Dedication ceremony of Mar Thoma Teachers Training College, Ranny. A college for training the teachers (B.Ed Course) was established by the Church in Ranny (near Ranny- Vadasserikkara Road about 2.5 kilometers away from Ranny Mandiram Kavala) in 1995. Late Most Rev. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan was the main celebrant of the dedication ceremony.

1 June, 1868 (20 Edavam 1043 ME): Consecration of Thomas Mar Athanasius. Rev. Thomas (son of Abraham Malpan) was consecrated by Mathews Mar Athanasius as his successor in 1868 at the old seminary Church in Kottayam. It was during Thomas Mar Athanasius' time, that the Mar Thoma church lost almost all its property as the result of the "Seminary Case". Despite the loss, the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association was established in 1888. Though the episcopate of Thomas Mar Athanasius was a period of trial and suffering for the church it was also one of great spiritual promise for the future.

3 June, 1991: Rev. A. C. Zechariah passes away. Rev. A. C. Zechariah (born 03 July 1909) was a member of the Atthinillkunnathili family of Kuriannoor. After his education in Kolar Bible School; he became a priest in 1948. He was one of the co- founders of the Hoskote Mission Medical Center near Bangalore in the Karnataka State. Achen also served as the Field Director of the Karnataka Navajeevan Samathi and for few years he was the superintendent of the Kumbanad Dharmagiri Mandiram.

3 June, 1897: K.M. Varghese Kathanar passes away. K.M. Varughese Kathanar was born on 7 July, 1867, in Cherukakkassery Family of Arthattu Kunnamkulam parish. He got married at the age of 11 and his wife was 8 years old. After the death of his first wife he remarried and after his remarriage he never celebrated Holy Communion due to his personal belief that a remarried priest is should not celebrate the Holy Communion.

3 June, 1844: Formation of Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

English Merchant, Sir George William, founds the Young Men's Christian Association out of his London Meetings for prayer and Bible reading. In India YMCA was introduced in the last quarter of the 19th century. National Council of YMCA's in India was established in 1891.

5 June, 1414: Bohemian reformer Jan Hus (John Huss b.1373) appears before the Council of Constance in Germany. Instead of allowing him to state his beliefs, the council only permitted him to answer trumped-up charges of heresy. Hus was condemned and burned alive in the following July (6 July 1415).

7 June, 1900: Birth of Matthews Mar Athanasius Episcopa. Dr. Mathews Mar Athanasius Episcopa was a member of the Kurudamannil family of Ayroor. After obtaining the B.A; L.T Degrees he became the Headmaster of our Keezhillam School. He was behind the establishment of the Ashram High School at Perumbavoor. He became a priest in 1929 and Bishop in 1937. He gave able leadership to various organizations of our church. He was called home on 1 Dec 1973.

8 June, 1940: Rev. T. Koshy (Aatmaupakaari Achen- of CMS Church) Author of "Ennullhil-enum vasichchiduvaaan swargga"passes away. Rev. T. Koshy was born on 15 May, 1857, as the fifth son of Evangelist Thomas of Mukkadavu family of Kallada village in Quilon district. He became a deacon in 1895 and a priest in 1896. He was the editor of the magazine "Aatmopakaari" for forty years and was a talented artist and Hymn writer. The heading of the Malayala Manorama news paper is his work of art. Hymn Nos. 8(7), 31(29), 147(138), 149(140), 176(167), 186(175) and 274(235) in our Hymn book are his translation from English. Hymn nos. 10(9), 37(35), 190(179), 216(201), 220(205), 221(206), 246(224), 297(283), 316(311), and 344 are written by him. Achen passed away on 8 June, 1940 at the age of 83 in Mavelikkara.

5 June, 1661: English mathematician and physicist Isaac Newton (b.25 Dec, 1642) is admitted as a student to Trinity College, Cambridge. But the "greatest scientific genius the world has ever known" actually spent less of his life studying science than theology, writing 1.3 million words on Biblical subjects. Newton died in 1727 and was buried in the Westminster Abbey.

9 June, 68: Nero Claudius Caesar, the ruler to whom the Apostle Paul appealed for justice (Acts 25:10) and who ordered the first imperial persecution of Christians, commits suicide.

9 June, 1834: William Carey often called "the father of modern Protestant missions" dies, having spent 41 years in India without a furlough. His mission could count only about 700 converts, but he had laid a foundation of Bible translations, education, and social reform. He also inspired the missionary movement of the nineteenth century, especially with his cry, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God ". As per his will he was buried in the

Serampore Cemetery with the following inscription on the tomb stone “William Carey, Born August 17, 1761, Died 9 June, 1834, A wretched, poor and helpless worm, on thy kind arms I fall.”

10 June, 1682: Birth of Bartholomew Ziegenbalg. Ziegenbalg was born in a little Saxony town called Pulsnitz in southeast Germany. His parents were God fearing Christians with a missionary outlook. With the help of King Frederick IV of Denmark, Ziegenbalg and his friend started their sea journey to India on 29 November, 1705 and reached the coast of present Tamilnadu in a place called Tranquebar on 9 July, 1706. They were the first protestant Missionaries to India and so 9 July, 1706 is celebrated as the birthday of Protestant Missions in India. Ziegenbalg passed away on 23 February, 1719.

June 1881: Birth of Kottara Achen (Rev. K.M Jacob – Kottara, Pooyapally). Rev. K.M. Jacob, of Cherukarakunnil family of Kottara Bethel Mar Thoma Church was born in June, 1881. He became a deacon of the church in 1897, and priest on 8 October, 1903. He was the first convener of the Kottarakkara Mar Thoma Convention and was one of the founding members of the Jubilee Mandiram in Kottarakkara. For certain parishes he was the Vicar for more than 40 years. Achen was called to his eternal home on 28 March, 1984. Achen served the Church for more than 86 years and his name is in the Guinness book of world record under the entry – ‘longest religious service.’

11 June, 1850: Birth of David C. Cook. David C. Cook, a pioneer publisher of Sunday School materials, is born in East Worcester, New York. By his death in 1927, his company was the largest publisher of nondenominational Sunday School literature in the world.

11 June, 1876: Birth of Rev V. P. Mammen (Kattanathachen). Rev. V. P. Mammen was a student leader and he was deeply interested in church matters while he was a college student. In 1902, along with his friend Mr. K. M. Abraham, he started the SCS School in Tiruvalla. He was also behind the establishment of the Nicholson School. From 1905 to 1952, he was the General Secretary of Our Sunday School Samajam. Achen was called home on 9 March, 1952.

14 June, 1852: Birth of Peedikayil Stephanos Kathanaar, Mavelikkara. Achen is the author of the Shayana Namaskaaram “Njangalkullha Karththaaave – Njaaniha nidrayozhinjittu” which we use for our evening worships.

17 June, 1703: Birth of John Wesley. John Wesley was the founder of English Methodism. He was born in Epworth, Lincolnshire. His father, Samuel Wesley, was the resident vicar. His mother, Susanna, a strict disciplinarian took care of his education. His brother, Charles Wesley wrote many famous hymns. John Wesley passed away on 2 March, 1791.

18 June, 1985: Glory Mathew (b.27 July 1960), authoress of “En Priya nin ponkaram” passes away. She was born as the daughter of Captain T. T. Mathai and Deenamma in a very devoted, God fearing and traditional Christian family in Ranny. Glorymol was an outstanding and exemplary student in her secular studies. Her “record book” is still kept in the Titus II B.Ed. College. Her absolute faith in Jesus enabled her to write this song in 1985. She was called home, few days before her marriage.

19 June, 1834: Birth of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, one of the greatest Christian preachers. Spurgeon was born on 19 June, 1834, in a small Village of Kelvedon in the County of Essex, England. His lineage was well-known for its preachers but none reached the standard of Charles Spurgeon He started his ministry work as a Sunday school teacher and later he became one of the greatest preachers Christianity ever had. He was called home on 31 January, 1892.

19 June, 1566: James VI of Scotland, who later became King James I of England, is born. He wrote treatises on the divine right of kings, witchcraft, Biblical themes, and set into motion a translation of the Bible known as the King James Version (published in 1611).

19 June, 325: Bishop Hosius, a delegate at the Council of Nicea, announces the newly written Nicene Creed. Countering Arius (a priest from Alexandria) who taught that "there was a time when the Son was not, and God the Father ranks above the Son, Jesus Christ, and that both rank higher than the Holy Spirit", Hosius said that the Nicene creed describes Christ as "God from very God, begotten not made"(Son is fully divine and is equal to the father).

20 June, 1970: Rev. T. M. Mathai (b. May 17, 1883), Punnathundiyl, Kuriannoor passes away. After his theological education in Calcutta, he became deacon on April 7, 1913, and priest 1914. From 1913 – 1923, he was our missionary in Karwar, north Karnataka. He is the only Mar Thoma Priest who served as Military Chaplain of the British Army from 1923-1938. For many years he was the Scout Commissioner of Travancore and Kerala.

20-26 June, 1599: Synod of Diamper (Udayamperoor) was held under the presidentship of Alexis Menezas, the then Archbishop of Goa. One of the decrees of the synod about marriage reads as follows “No man shall be married hereafter, until he has attained the age of fourteen years at least, nor any woman before she is fully twelve.”

21 June, 1947: Problems in Thumpamon Chennirkkara Mar Thoma Parish. On 21 June, 1947, Rev. J. Varughese (b.11 April 1917) Vicar of the Thumpamon Chennieerkkara Parish and many members of the parish were severely beaten up in the Church compound in the midst of a funeral service by the non Christians of that area. The Church building was destroyed and the dead body along with the coffin was thrown out on the road. Communal tension prevailed in

that area for many days and after the intervention of the government authorities, the body was buried again in our cemetery on the third day.

22 June, 1714: Death of Mathew Henry, Bible Commentator. Mathew Henry was born on 18 October, 1662, as the son of a well-known clergyman. He was so frail at his birth that he was baptised when he was only a day old, lest he died within the week. As a boy he was physically weak, but mentally and indeed spiritually strong. He is said to have read aloud a chapter of the Bible when he was only three years old. His work is still published as "Matthew Henry's Commentary".

23 June, 1884: Hermann Gundert finishes the Bible Translation. Gundert started his Bible translation with the book 'The Song of Songs' on 25 Jan, 1843. He finished the entire Bible translation with the last verse of the book of Malachi on June 23, 1884.

25 June, 1865: Formation of China Inland Mission. English Missionary J Hudson Taylor is the founder of the China Inland Mission. Its missionaries were not having any guaranteed salary. They never appealed for funds. They trusted in God for all their needs and they even adopted the Chinese way of dressing.

26 June, 1892: Pearl S. Buck, Presbyterian missionary to China and author of the bestselling *The Good Earth* (1931), is born. She won the 1938 Nobel Prize for literature.

26 June, 1993: Rev. Dr. M. A. Thomas (b.10August, 1913) passes away. Achen was a member of the Madathethu Family of Ayroor Salem Parish. He was ordained on January 14, 1950. In addition to his parish duties he gave leadership for youth movements and Ecumenical programmes. From 1963 to 1980 Achen was the founder president of the Ecumenical Study centre in White Field, Bangalore.

27 June, 1880: Birth of Helen Keller in Tuscumbia, a little town of northern Alabama, USA. As a baby of nineteen months, Helen Keller was stricken with a severe illness which left her totally blind and deaf. Then Anne Mansfield Sullivan came to teach her and there began that remarkable story of her development into a woman of great culture and spiritual insight.

27 June, 444: Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria and author of several writings on the dual natures of Christ, dies. He opposed Nestorius (bishop of Constantinople), who supposedly taught there were two separate persons in the Incarnate Christ, one divine and the other human. Historians doubt, however, whether or not Nestorius actually taught this. In any case, Cyril deposed Nestorius in 430.

28 June, 1914 - 28 June 1919: First World War. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie on 28 June 1914 was one of the causes of the First World War. More than 65 million men fought in the First World War; over

eight million of them were killed. In addition, nearly nine million civilians died from starvation, disease, artillery fire and air raids. 300,000 houses, 6,000 factories and 1000 miles of railways were destroyed. The human cost of the war in terms of damaged minds and bodies, and ruined lives –was beyond calculation. The War came to an end on 28 June 1919 with the peace treaty signed at Versailles in France.

29 June, (15 Midhunam 1114 ME): Mr. Poikayil Yohannan passes away. Mr. Poikayil Yohannan (Poikayil Shri Kumara Guru) was born on 5 Kumbham 1054 M.E. (Feb 17, 1879) in Eraviperoor in Tiruvalla Taluk in a slave family. His masters gave him the name Yohannan and made him a member of the Mar Thoma Church. He studied the Bible thoroughly and became an evangelist of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. His messages were against social injustice and evils such as slavery, untouchability etc. the Church couldn't accommodate his teachings. He left the Mar Thoma Church and later founded the organisation PRDS- (Prathyasha Raksha Daiva Sabha).

30 June, 1981: Late Rt. Rev. Easow Mar Timotheos inaugurates the Mar Thoma School for the Deaf, Kasargod. It was started under the auspice of a wing of the diocesan Sevika Sanghom – Society for the service of women and children - SSWAC. Now it is one of the best deaf schools in Kerala.

