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Rev. P.J. Chacko  
Asst. Vicar

## Message

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,*

According to church calendar this year's lent season begins from Feb 3rd and ends on 23rd March. It is the season set apart by the church for fasting and prayer. It is an annual celebration of the memory of life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time of reflection and reformation.

The council of Nicea talks about a period of preparation that would last forty days and was practiced one form or another in the Christian world. These forty days are celebrated by the church as a memory of forty days of fasting by Jesus which we read in Mt.4:2, Mk.1:13 and Lk.4:2 for meditation and communion with God.

The observance of lent/ fasting aims to pull us away from ungodly influences and to strengthen and guide us to a new life in Jesus Christ. Fasting is not just giving up or refraining from certain food. Fasting without prayer is mere starving. Jesus teaches about fasting in Mt.6:16-18. When we do fasting do it to face God ward and man ward. We should evaluate whether the celebration of lent becoming a ritual rather than a reliving experience. Let us pray and hope that this year, our celebration would be a meaningful experience to each one of us.

May God bless you all.

Yours in His service,

**Chacko Achen.**

## From your Parish Secretary,

My dear Parishioners,

We have stepped into the year 2008 and the first month slipped into history. We always aspire to something new and feel that something new may happen. The external environment may change, but the real change has to come from within. The inner realm has to change for the better if we are to accept situations in life with proper understanding.

We may be able to think of countless reasons for feeling sad, upset or depressed. But instead of brooding over our own problems, let us think "What can I offer to the world". And just that thought, that positive thinking will help us to feel happier, to remain more and more open to all circumstances of life, which in turn will help others as well.

This years Christmas house visit concluded on 27th January and visited around 1400 subscribing members. On 1st February, we celebrated the harvest festival. The success of these activities was possible by the collaborative effort of all parishioners and in all humility I thank Almighty God for the strength he has blessed us with. The Vicars guidance, the dedicated and sincere efforts of the prayer group officials and the Kaisthana Samithy members deserves special appreciation.

Let the New Year be filled with God's love and grace.

With Prayers and Regards,

**Shaji.K.Thomas**

Parish Secretary

## Welcome to New Members ...

Sl.	Name	ID	Home Parish	Area	Contact No.
1	Mr. Neil Bob	N-17	Salem M.T.C. Angadickal	MC	06-5774241
2	Mr. Gibi Mathews	G-112	St. Thomas M.T.C. Mulakuzha Chengannur	BMN	06-5397510
3	Mr. Binu Panicker	B-161	St. Thomas Podiyatuville Kottarakkara	ABS	06-5355102
4	Mr. Philip Mathews	P-89	Sehion M.T.C. Varicad Tiruvalla	AJM	06-7442684
5	Mr. Reji Kunju	R-135	Bethel M.T.C. Kottarakkara	IM	06-5720544
6	Mr. Prince K. Samuel	P-90	Christos M.T.C. Ranni	AJM	050-3606840
7	Mr. Alexander Simon	A-212	Bethel M.T.C. Vayyattupuzha	BMN	050-1719031
8	Mr. Shaji Geevarghese Isac	S-307	St. Thomas M.T.C. Chunakara	ABS	050-3506656
9	Mr. Sunny Varghese	S-308	St. Pauls M.T.C. Chathankery	CA	050-5649241
10	Mr. Varghese K. Philip	V-119	Mar Thoma Congregation Dhanpuri	SCS	050-6983019
11	Mr. Santhosh Cherian	S-309	St. Thomas M.T.C. Pattoor	MM	06-5621422

## HOLY COMMUNION

>> Thursdays at 7.30pm. Fridays at 7.30am <<<<<< 1st Sunday at 8.00pm <<<<<<

>> Third Friday at 7.00pm >>>

>> English Service on Fourth Friday at 7.30am <<<<<<

### Lectionary & Area Acolytes

Date	Acolytes From	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle
07.02.08	BMN	Zechariah	Hebrews	1 John
08.02.08	CA	13: 1-9	10: 1-18	1: 5-10
14.02.08	IM	1 King	Acts	Colossians
15.02.08	DXB	17: 17-24	9: 23-35	1: 1-14
15.02.08 at 7pm	KHS			
21.02.08	MC	Joel	Acts	Philippians
22.02.08	Sunday School	2: 12-21	10: 34-48	4: 4-9
28.02.08	MM	Judges	Acts	Galatians
29.02.08	NS	4: 4-16	17: 22-31	3: 19-29
02.03.08	RCH			
06.03.08	RSQ	Isaiah	1 Peter	2 Corinthians
07.03.08	SCS	40: 1-11	4: 1-11	4: 1-12

### Area Prayer Meetings

Area	Date	Time	Venue	Hosted by	ID No.	Tel. No
DXB	8/2/08	6.30pm	Residence	Mr. Pazhoor Abraham Mathai	P.37	050-4501308
AJM	11/2/08	8.30pm	Church	Mr. Jacob Varghese	J.241	050-4281325
			Church	Mr. Varghese K. Thomas	V.80	06-7444630
CA	11/2/08	8.30pm	Church	Mr. Abraham Chako	A.48	050-7945193
			Church	Mr. Chacko Varghese	C.70	050-8541282
MM	12/2/08	8.30pm	Residence	Mr. Joy Varghese	J.34	06-5628620
MC	12/2/08	8.30pm	Church	Mr. Sajjan George	S.180	06-5557063
RCH	18/2/08	8.30pm	Church	Mr. Koshy Thomas	K.7	050-3631457
SCS	18/2/08	8.30pm	Church	Contact Area Secretary		
BMN	19/2/08	8.30pm	Residence	Mr. Anil Sam John	A.142	050-5591176
ABS	19/2/08	8.30pm	Church	Contact Area Secretary		
IM	25/2/08	8.30pm	Residence	Mr. George Kovoov	G.61	050-8618612
NS	25/2/08	8.30pm	Residence	Mr. George John	G.104	050-4276957
KHS	26/2/08	8.30pm	Church	Mr. Shibu Mathew	S.74	050-8064995
RSQ	26/2/08	8.30pm	Church	Mr. Shiby Varghese Tharakan	S.214	050-5518425
UAQ			On All Fridays except 3rd Friday, Contact Area Secretary			050-5173053

## Organization Events

### Sunday School

Friday at 10.15am

### Parish Mission

Sunday 08.30pm at Church

22.02.08 - Night Prayer at 9.00PM

### Yuvajana Sakhyaam

Saturday 08.30pm at Church

- 02.02.2008 Bible study
- 09.02.2008 Intercessory prayer
- 16.02.2008 Teens Yuvajana Sakhyaam
- 23.02.2008 Cottage Prayer meeting (At the Residence of Mr. Stephen Thomas Koshy (ID. S-233))

### Sevika Sangam

Wednesdays 08.30pm at Parish Hall

Fasting Prayer on 3rd Sunday at 09.30am at Church

## FASTING PRAYER

Every Friday 12.00 noon at Church

## CHOIR PRACTICE

Every Wednesday 08.30pm to 10.30pm

## Condolences

Rev. C.P. Wilson, 43 years Vicar, Marthoma Church, Philadelphia	Mr. Idikula John, 74 years, Father in law of Mr. Shery Mathew George, (ID S-101), ABS
Mrs. Laisamma Mathew, 59 years Sister in law of Mr. Cherian A. George, (ID C-67), DXB Sister in law of Mr. Abraham Georgekutty, (ID A-77), BMN	Mrs. Santhamma Abraham, 52 years, Sister in law of Mr. Joychan Korah, (ID J-184), CA
Mr. K.G. Philip, 67 years, Father of Mr. Arun Philip, (ID A-190), CA Father in law of Mr. Jose Samuel, (ID J-179), CA	Mr. P.I. Oommen, 87 years Father of Mr. Jacob Oommen, (ID J-90), MM
Mrs. Saramma Varghese, 70 years, Mother in law of Mr. Koshy Abraham, (ID K-57), AJM	Mr. Mohan Philip Father in law of Mr. Koshy Manu Simon, (ID K-64), IM

The Sharjah Mar Thoma Parish expresses heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members on the sad demise of their beloved ones. May God's care strengthen and comfort them

### Souvenir - 2008

To commemorate the 30th anniversary and 10th year of our own church complex a souvenir is being published. Your participation through advertisements in the souvenir is appreciated.

Contact the convener Mr. Jayan T. John, Mob: 050-7360263

JL. conveners Mr. Jose Daniel, Mob: 050-7971978,

Mr. George Thomas, Mob: 050-6561876

Chief Editor Mr. Varghese Samuel, Mob: 050-7961546

Those who are interested in giving articles may submit the same to the Chief Editor before 15th February 2008

### General Body Meeting

Date: 22.02.2008

Agenda: Election of Office Bearers and Auditors for 2008 - 2009

Election of Representatives to the Diocesan Assembly and Sabha Mandalam

All the parish organizations and prayer groups are requested to elect their representatives to the Kaistana Samity before 22nd February.

### Melody Carnival - 2008

(A Musical Evening conducted by Marthoma Yuvajana Sakhyaam Sharjah)

Date: Friday, 28th March 2008

Venue: Indian Association, Sharjah

Time: 6.00 pm

Singers: Rev. Sajjan P. Mathew (DSM & C),

Mr. Senu (DSM & C) and Ms. Radikha Thilak and troupe

**Entries restricted by pass // Pass available with Yuvajana Sakhyaam Officials**

### Angadiserru Thattu Gramam

(A project of Marthoma Yuvajana Sakhyaam Sharjah)

Community hall inauguration on 06.02.2008

By Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos

and Mr. A.P. Abdulla Kutty M.Pand Mr. K.C. Joseph M.L.A.

### Mar Chrysostom Valiya Metropolitan Navathy Hall

Contribute generously for the project.

### Navathy Donation

Become a part of METROPOLITANS NAVATHY PROJECT by donating Rs. 60,000/- for a house.

### Parish Mission Convention

February 3, 4, 5 and 6. Time: 8.00 pm Main Speaker: Evangelist Yona Jacob

### 113th Maramon Convention

10th February to 17th February

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Stephen Mathew (Vicar)

Tel 06-5674876, Mob 050-5877701

Email: stephenmathewachen@yahoo.com

Rev. P J Chacko (Asst. Vicar)

Tel 06-5749696, Mob 050-8627593

Email: asstvicar@marthomaparishsharjah.com