

Pulikottil Thirumeni

-1816

Founder of the Old Seminary



Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysius was born into the Pulikottil family of Kunnam-kulam. Malankara Metropolitan Valiya Mar Dionysius ordained him as a priest and appointed him as the Vicar of chattukulangara Arthatt Church. When Tippu Sultan attacked cochin in 1789, he insisted that the Vicar should join the Islam religion. But refusing to succumb to this pressure he spent his days in prayer. He took the initiative to renovate the Arthatt church, which was ravaged by Tiipu Sultan. Dr. Claudias Bukanan who visited Arthatt church on 6 December 1806 has given us ass account about Pulikottil Joseph Kathananr. On 27 August 1809 he was elevated to the rank of Ramban. After becoming Ramban, his activities were concentrated in Kottayam. He convinced the Travancore Resident Colonel Munro of the necessity of constructing 'House of Learning' (Seminaries) for training priests and the latter who was greatly interested, gave all support for starting the seminary. Queen Paravathi Bai of Travancore gave sixteen acres of land bordering the River Meenachil as gift to the Church and there a seminary was established.

In 1815 the Seminary started training priests. English education was started for the first time in Kerala here. On 21 March, 1815, Kidangan Mar Philexinos consecrated him as Malankara Metropolitan with the title 'Joseph Mar Dionysius'. The rulers of Travancore and Cochin sent forth 'Royal Proclamation' calling upon all Syrian Christians to respect and honor Joseph Mar Dionysius. Mar Dionysius had a for-sighted vision regarding the Church. He passed away on 24 November 1816. He was laid to rest inside the Chapel in the Old Seminary. His Death Anniversary is on 25 Novermber.

Cheppad Philipose Mar Dionysius

1781-1855



Cheppad Philipose Mar Dionysius was born into the Aangalimootil family in Cheppad in 1781. In 1825, Kidangan mar Philexinos consecrated him as Metropolitan Philipose Mar Dionysius at Cheriyaipalli, Kottayam. The ruler of Travancore issued a Royal Proclamation acknowledging him as Malankara Metropolitan. He was not on good terms with the English missionaries who worked in Malankara Church under the English Assistance commission. The foreign missionaries suggested to reform the 'Qurbana norms' according to the protestant standards, and to do away with the worship and prayer conducted for the dead, other suggestions included in raising of a fund to increase the salary of the priests, and giving ordination to only those priests who passed out from the Seminary and received the certificate from the Principal; The accounts of the Church every year must be submitted to the Resident for annual auditing the church services were to be conducted in Malayalam. The Metropolitan rejected all these suggestions outright. A meeting of the representatives of the church was convened in Puthiyacavu Church, Mavelikara in 1836 in order to discuss the recommendations of the missionaries. The Mavelikkara Padiola' was formulated in order to strongly resist the new reforms of the foreign missionaries. In 1846, the Patriarch sent Metropolitan Yuyakim Mar Kuriyos of Antioch to Malankara. Later of cheppad Thirumeni gave up the position of Malankara Metropolitan and retired from administrative matters. He passed among in 9th October 1855. He was laid to rest in St. George Church, Cheppad. His Death Anniversary is on 12th October.

Pulikootil Joseph Mar Dionysius Joseph Mar Dianasio was born on 12th November 1833, in the famous Pulikottil family of Kunnamkulam. His father was Tharu Kurien, the nephew of 'Mar Divanyosios II' who was founder of the famous Old Seminary at Kottayam and mother, Thadamma of Paigamukku 'Kuthuru' family. The name given to him at baptism was Joseph. Young Joseph started his education at the age of five and in 1843, he became a disciple of his uncle Fr. Joseph who taught him theology and Syriac.

Joseph being very studious and enthusiastic, mastered Hindustani and Sanskrit. Joseph was ordained as Koroyoo (Subdeacon) by Cheppatu Mar Divanyosios IV at the Kothamangalam Marthoman Cheria Pally on 10th October 1846 at his age of 13.

The Patriarchal delegate Mor Athanasios Sthephanos, ordained him to the order of Samshono (Full Deacon), at Kunnamkulam Arthat St.Mary's Church in 1849. On 23rd August 1853, Dn. Joseph was ordained as a Full Priest at Chalassery Church near

Kunnamkulam by Mar Koorilose Yuyakkim.

As per the decision of the Patriarch to ordain a new Metropolitan, Fr. Joseph Pulikottil was informally chosen as the candidate. After the Confirmation by the Patriarchal delegate and a meeting with him at Kolenchery Church, Fr. Joseph left for the Patriarchate at Mardin on 14th March 1864. He was felicitated at a grand function held in his native place, Kunnamkulam before his departure to Mardin. On 30th May 1864, Fr. Joseph Pulikottil boarded the ship from Cochin along with Mattummel Fr. Geevarghese and Kuthuru Tharappan of Kunnamkulam. They travelled through various ancient Syriac Christian areas of Basara, Bagdad, Mosul etc. and after 4 months journey they reached the Patriarchal Palace of Mardin, one of the oldest Syriac Christian settlements situated in Turkey on 30th August 1864.

The Church dignitaries and the local people gave a warm welcome to the Metropolitan-designate Fr. Joseph. Immediately after their arrival, within few days, Fr. Joseph Pulikottil Mattummel Fr. Geevarghese were infected with a serious illness. On 26th September, Fr. Geevarghese who was only 30, died of the epidemic and was buried at the Dayro church of Mardin.

Fr. Joseph Pulikottil, however as per God's will, was miraculously cured in a few weeks time and continued his stay for another eight months, visiting many of the nearby Syriac churches including the famous Suriyani Orthodox Dayro at Mardin, Deiro d'Mor Gabriel at Midayat, Turkey.

On 11th Medam as per the Malayalam Calender Fr. Joseph left for the church at Amida on the request of the Patriarch, for his ordination as Metropolitan. During the Holy Qurbano on 19th at Diyarbakir St. Mary's Church, the Patriarch formally announced the ordination of Fr. Joseph Pulikottil, which was scheduled for next Sunday.

The day before his consecration as Metropolitan, Fr. Joseph was elevated to the order of Ramban by the Patriarch. On Sunday early morning, of 26th Medam AD. 1865, Fr. Joseph was ordained at the famous Church of the Mother of God at Amida in Turkey.

During this historical Holy Synod held at Mulunthuruthy MarThoman Church, Mor Divanyasious Joseph was chosen as the Malankara Metropolitan and Head of the Local Synod. Thereafter he came to be known as Mor DIVANYASIOUS V, the title given to the chief prelate of the Malankara Church. On 30th August the same year, Holy Muroon was consecrated for the first time in Malankara, by the Patriarch of Antioch Mor Ignatius Peter IV assisted by the new Malankara Metropolitan Pulikottil Mor Divanyasious V and Metropolitan of Jerusalem, Mor Gregorius Abdulla (Later Patriarch of Antioch). Later, as



Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysius

1833-1909

Founder of the M D Seminary

per the decision taken at the Mulunthuruthy Synod, five Metropolitans were ordained for the newly formed dioceses by the Patriarch before His Holiness left for Mardin.

Kadavil Paulose Mor Athanasius (Thrikkunnathu Seminary, Aluva) and Chathuruthy Geevarghese Mor Gregorios (Parumala Thirumeni), who were ordained as Metropolitans in AD 1876, were the two closest companions of Mor Divanyasious V. The three worked in unison for the uplift of the Malankara Suriyani Church. He was instrumental in starting theological seminaries and English Medium Schools, all over Malankara. In 1870, a Syriac printing press, Sainthomas was started at Cochin, as per the request of Mor Divanyasious V, for publishing Syriac prayer books. At around the same time he started a Church magazine, Kerala Pathaka in Malayalam, which was later merged with another news magazine, Paschima Thara. But again in January 1892, under the guidance of Mor Divanyasious and with Edavazhikal E M Philipose as the Chief editor, another periodical of the Syrian Church, Edavaka Pathrika was started publishing from Kottayam MarThoma Press. This was a necessity to propagate the messages of the Syrian Church in Malankara. Parumala Church (Old Church) Build by Geevarghese Mar Gregorios was consecrated by Mar Dianasios and Mar Gregorios.

On July 11, 1907 Mar Dianasios breathed his last. On 29 April 1865 at Ameedh Patriarch Yakoob III elevated him to the rank of Ramban. On 30 April he was consecrated as Metroplitan Joseph Mar Dionysios. During the eventful forty-four years between 1865 A.D to 1909 he adorned the Malankara Metropolitan's position with extraordinary skill.

It was during that period that the Mulanthuruthy Synod, division of dioceses and the 'Holy Mooran Koodasha' took place.

Through his unstinted effort, spiritual organizations like Sunday School and Students movement, and Church institutions like Parumala Seminary, Kunnamkulam Sihiyon Bunglow, Kottapuram Seminary and M.D. Seminary developed.

The Royal Court passed the verdict in his favour in the Feformation Case. There after, the Marthoma Church was formed.

He passed away on 1st July 1909. His mortal remains were interred in the western side of the chapel in Old Seminary. His Death Anniversary is on 12th July.

Malankara Sabha Basooran Vattasseri Geevarghese Mar Dionysios was born on 31 October 1858 to Joseph and Aleyamma of Vattasseri family in Mallappally. He lived in Vettikal Dayara and Parumala Seminary in order to learn under the disciplined training of Parumala Mar Gregorios Metropolitan, the history of the Church, Syriac and the articles of Faith. He became on 16 October 1879 full deacon and on 18 January 1880 received priesthood from Parumala Mar Gregorios . Thereafter he was appointed to teach deacons at Parumala Seminary. He served as the principal of M.D. Seminary and the Malpan and Principal of old Seminary. On 2 November 1903 Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysios ordained him as a Ramban at the Old Seminary. On 27 February 1908, when the Malankara Association met at the old Seminary, he was chosen as the successor to the Malankara Metropolitan. On 31 May 1908 at Jeruselam, His Holiness Patriarch Abdulla consecrated him as Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Dionysios. He gave able leadership for establishing the Catholicate in Malankara on 15 September 1912. For the progress of the Church he started many spiritual organizations like Students Movements, Women's Samajam, Sleetbadas Samajam etc. He translated the liturgy from syriac into Malayalam and published a book on the tenents of the Orthodox faith called "Mathopadhesha Saram". He brought courageously to the utmost for the sovereignty and growth of the Holy throne of the Catholicose and earned this appellation of 'Sabha Basooran' he augured the golden period in the history of church's fight for independence. From 1909 to 1934 he served as the Malankara Metropolitan. On 23 February 1934 he passed away. His mortal remains were interred in the Old Seminary Chapel at Kottayam. His death Anniversary is on 23rd February.

Vattasseri Geevarghese Mar Dionysios

1858-1934

"Malankara Sabha Basooran"

His Holiness

Baselios

Paulos I

was born on 19 January 1836

to Murimattom Kurian and Mariamma in Kolencherry.

He received deaconship from Cheppad Mar Dionysius in 1843 and in 1852 he was ordained as Priest by Metropolitan Yuyakim Mar Kurilos.

He served for a long period as Vicar of Kolencherry Church. On

17th May 1877, His Holiness

Patriarch Pathrose

consecrated him as

Paulose Mar Ivanios at Cherallayam Palli,

Kunnamkulam and appointed him as Metropolitan of Kandanad diocese.

H H Baselios Paulos I

1836-1913

"First Catholicose of Malankara"



On 15th
September
1912, His
Holiness
Patriarch
Abdhedh
Messiah with
the co-
operation of
Vattasseril
Geevarghese
Mar
Dionysios
Metropolitan
and
Geevarghese
Mar
Gregorios
Metropolitan
elevated him
to the
Apostolic
throne of St.
Thomas as
Catholicos of
Malankara
church.
He passed
away on 2
May 1913.
He was laid
to rest in
Pampakuda
Cheriyapalli. His
death
Anniversary
is on 3rd
May.

**His Holiness
Baselius
Geevarghese**

I was born in 1870 as the second son of Karuchira Paulose. He was ordained as 'Koruya' on 13 June 1885, as deacon in 1892, on 16 August 1896 as priest and on 23 August as Ramban by Metropolitan Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios. He served as Manager in Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva from 1908 to 1910. On February 1913, he was consecrated as Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Philexinos. He was the Metropolitan of Kottayam and Angamaly diocese. He made Vallikattu Dayara his administrative headquarters. On 30 April 1925 at Niranam, the Holy Synod



His Holiness Baselius Geevarghese I
1870-1928
"II Catholicose of Malankara"

installed him
as the
Catholicos of
the East.
Through
prayer and
fasting he
achieved
spiritual
strength,
which helped
him to guide
the Malankara
Church into
green
pastures. He
passed away
on 17
December
1928 at
Neyyoor
Hospital. He
was laid to
rest on the
northern side
of Vallikattu
Dayara. His
death
anniversary is
on 17th
December.

The Third Catholicos of Malankara and Malankara Metropolitan His Holiness Beselius Geevarghese II was born to Ulah- anan and Naithi of Kallaserri family in Kurichi, Kottayam on 16 June 1874. On 24 April 1892, Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios ordained him as deacon and on 24 November and 27 November 1898 he was ordained as priest and Ramban respectively by Parumala Mar Gregorios.

As per the order of Parumala Thirumeni", he resided in Kadambanad church and took charge of the southern dioceses. He also served as Manager and Malpan of Old Seminary. He published books like "Sahodaran- marude Charithram". "Rehasya Prarthanakal". "Parudaisa", and "Mar Yuhanon

His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II

1874-1964

"III Catholicos and Malankara Metropolitan"



Mamdana".

On 8 September 1912, His Holiness Patriarch Abdhedh Meshiah consecrated him as Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Gregorios at Parumala Seminary. He was appointed as the Metropolitan of Thumpamon, Kollam and Niranam dioceses. On 15 February 1929. With the Malankara Metropolitan Vattaserril Geevarghese Mar Dionysios as the chief priest, he was installed as the Catholicos of the East. When the Association met on 24 December 1934 at M. D. Seminary, Kottayam, he was chosen as Malankara Metropolitan. It was a period when issues became very complex. Through prayer and fasting he received strength from God to lead his people for long years, courageously, inspiring his people to work for their church and for the glory of God. Following the peace pact of 1958, he had the good fortune to guide the destiny of the unified Malankara Church.

Apart from consecrating twelve Metropolitans, and ordaining more than thousand priests and deacons, he founded and consecrated many churches. On 22 April 1932 and on 20 April 1951 he conducted the 'Mooran Koodasha' at the Old Seminary. On 2 November 1947 he declared Parumala Mar Gregorios and Yeldo Mar Baselios as Saints. From his time onwards the offices of Catholicos and Malankara Metropolitan came to repose in one and the same person. Shedding luster like a Beacon illuminating the history of the church, he led it from glory to glory. He entered the eternal realms on 3 January 1964 at Devalokam Aramana He was laid to rest beside the Devalokam Aramana Chapel. His Anniversary is 3 January.

The Fourth Catholicos of Malankara and Malakara Metropolitan His Holiness Baselios Oughen I

was born on 26 June 1884 at Perumbavoor , Vengola, to Abraham Kathanar of Chettakulathukara family. He was ordained as deacon by Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios and in 1908 at Jerusalem he was elevated as Ramban Oughan. He was consecrated as Metropolitan Oughan Mar Timotheos on 15 May 1927 at Jerusalem. He was appointed as the fourth Metropolitan of Kandanad. He has left his imprint in several offices that he held during his life. He was principal of the Orthodox Theological Seminary, and the Metropolitan of Kandanad and Thumpamon dioceses.

On 17 May 1962, when the Malankara Association met at Niranam, he was chosen as the successor to the Malankara Metropolitan and Catholicos. It was on 22 May 1964 at M.D. Seminary, Kottayam that he was installed formally as the fourth Catholicos. As he was very old, he relinquished his position as Malankara Metropolitan to his successor on 24 September 1975. Having achieved exceptional scholarship in Malayalam and Syriac languages, he translated into Malayalam the 'Pemkisa Namaskaram' 'Prumiyonukal', ' Valiya Nombilae Namaskaram', 'Pattamkoda Shushrusha Kramangal' and 'Pallikoodasha Kramangal'. He also composed the 'Hood- omakal' for 'Holy Synods' and the 'State after death'. He passed away on 8 December 1975 at Develokam Aramana and was laid to rest near the Aramana Chapel.

His Annverary: 8 December.



His Holiness Baselios Oughen I

1781-1855

"IV Catholicose and Malankara Metropolitan"

The fifth Catholicos of Malankara Metropolitan His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma

Mathews I was born on 27 March 1907 as the youngest son of Vattakunnel Kurien Kathanar

and Olesha
Pulickaparampil
Mariamma in
Kottayam. He
took his B.A, B.
D. degrees.
Even as a
layman he had
achieved the
unique
distinction
studies and also
in the Canonical
Laws; he was
selected as a
member of the
Managing
committee in
1944. He
received on 18
August 1945 at
the Old
Seminary the
"Musmrono"
and on 19
August at mar
ELia Chapel he
became a full
deacon; on 27
October 1946 he
was ordained as
priest by His
Holiness Baselios
Geevarghese II
Catholicos of
the East. Later,
on 21
September
1951, he was
elevated to the
rank of Ramban
by His Holiness
Baselios
Geevarghese II
consecrated him
as Episcopa
under the name
Mahews Mar

His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews I
1781-1855
"V Catholicose and Malankara Metropolitan"



Athanasios. He was further elevated to the office of Metropolitan on 12 July 1959. In 1960, he became Head of outside Kerala Diocese of the Malankara church. He was unanimously elected as the Supreme Head of the church and successor to His Holiness the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan by the Malankara Association, which met on 31 December 1970 at M.D. Seminary, Kottayam. On 24 September 1975, he became Malankara Metropolitan. On 27 October 1975, at the Old Seminary, he was installed Catholicos as His Holiness Baselius Marthoma Mathews I. He executed many administrative innovations and helped to

strengthen the sovereignty of the Malankara Orthodox church and its right to have its own sovereign Head. He was able to project the name and fame of the church at the international level. On 27 April 1991, due to failing health he relinquished his office. On 8 November 1996 he passed away, and was laid to rest in Develokam Aramana. Anniversary: 8 November.

St. Thomas a disciple of Jesus Christ, who came to Kerala in 52 A.D. is the founder of the Christian community in Kerala. The Brahmin families who got converted to Christianity and the Churches he established heralded the advent of a new era of enlightenment. The Christians of Kerala are known by different names: Marthoma Christians, Malankara Nasranis, Syrian Christians, mapillas, Tharisians, 'Arupathinalkurs' and soon. History infers that these people who had achieved oneness with the cultural mainstream were in religion Christian, by worship Eastern and by culture completely Indian. Margamkalipattu, Ramban Pattu, Knanya Thoman Plaque (345 A.D) Tharisapalli Royal decrea (849 A.D), Viraraghava Royal decree (230 A. D? 14 A.D?) these historical records are pointers to the golden age of the bygone years of the Mar Thoma Christians. Though Malankara Church had connection with the Persian Church so far as

St. Thomas

AD 52-AD 72(Dec-21)

the Apostle of India



leadership was concerned in administrative matters the Archdeacon or Archdeacon was the supreme regional spiritual leader. The Archdeacon guided the believers in all things relating to the religious, social, political and racial matters. Only Keralite priests were selected for this important post. The names 'Jathiku Karthavyan' and 'Jathiku Thalavan' also knew the Archdeacon. The Archdeacons evolved a regional administrative set up based on 'Marthoman Law' embedded in the Marthoman traditions. The palliyogam or (Church committee) consisted of the required number of representatives of the laity and the Vicar. These parish committee used to execute the administration of the Church. It is clear that they established a completely free/ independent 'Christian Republic'. We don't have an authentic list of the Archdeacons and Metropolitans who ruled the Church before the great Fathers bearing the name of Mar Thoma assumed spiritual leadership. Therefore, without attempting to include hypothetical statements regarding that, a brief history of the Fathers bearing the name of "**Mar Thoma**" is given below.

Mar Thoma I was the successor of Archdeacon Geevarghese pakalomattom who was the Archdeacon of Malankara Syrian church during and immediately after the Udaymperoor Synod (1599). (Archdeacon Pakalomattom Thomas). In 1653, at the Alangatt Church meeting (Yogam), twelve priests installed him as the Metropolitan of Malankara Syrian Church. To confirm this rank, the Metroplaitan and leaders of the Church together wrote letters to the patriarchs of Alexandria and Antioch to send a higher authority. In 1665 the Metropolitan of Jerusalem Mar Gregorios came to Malankara and conferred on Mar Thoma the Apostolic blessings.' Mar Thoma I' was a courageous man who protected the true faith and the independence of the Malankara Church. In Church history, 'Mar Thoma I' has been described as 'Mar Thoma I the great'. He passed away on 22 April 1670. His mortal remains are interred in Angamaly Church. His death anniversary is celebrated on 25th April.

Mar Thoma I

1653-1670

1st Catholicose

Mar Thoma

II is the nephew of the Mar Thoma I and in 1665 when the Metropolitan of Jerusalem Mar Gregorios came; he was consecrated as Mar Thoma II. Having shouldered the administration of the Malankara Church from 1670 and preserved the faith and given leadership to its activities, he passed away on 13 April 1686. His mortal remains are interred in the Niranam Church. His death anniversary is on 14th April.

Mar Thoma II

1670-1686

2nd Catholicose

After the end of Mar Thoma II's administration, in 1686 Metropolitan Mar Ivanios anointed another member of the Pakalomattom family as Mar Thoma III. He visited all the important Churches of Malankara during his regime and administered the Church efficiently. At the ancient St: Thomas Church of Kadambanad, he fell ill and passed away on 19th April 1688. He was laid to rest in St. Thomas (Valiya) Church, Kadambanad. His Anniversary is on 21st April.

Mar Thoma III
1686-1688
3rd Catholicose

In 1688 he was consecrated as Mar Thoma IV. It was during this period that as per the order of Catholicos Elisa of Baghdad that the Nesthorian Metropolitan started propagating Nesthorian faith. But Mar Thoma IV opposed him stoutly and nullified the blasphemous Nesthorian beliefs. He consecrated his successor and passed away on 24 March 1728. He was laid to rest in Martha Mariam Church at Kandanad. His Death Anniversary is on 25th March.

Mar Thoma IV
1688-1728
4th Catholicose

Mar Thoma IV

consecrated a member of the pakalomattom family as Mar Thoma V. As a result of the rejection by a faction of his authority, an attempt was made to bring foreign Metropolitans and change his name 'Mar Thoma' and consecrate him Metroplitan under the name 'Mar Dionysius'. But he did not submit to this, and stood firmly working relentlessly for the independence of the Malankara Church. On 18 Dhanu 1754 the foreign Metroplitans signed an agreement declaring that they would not give ordination to anyone without the permission of

Mar Thoma V

1728-1765

5th Catholicose

the Malankara
Metropolitans
nor interfere
in
administrative
aspects of the
Church. Mar
Thoma V
passed away
on 8th May
1765 and his
mortal
remains are
interred in the
Niranam
Church.
Anniversary
8th May.

Mar Thoma VI
1765-1808
6th Catholicose

Valiya Mar Dionysius As the successor of Mar Thoma V, Marthoma VI was consecrated in 1761 at Niranam. In order to work in harmony with the Metropolitans of Antioch, he accepted on 10 July 1770 the name, Mar Dionysius. He was an extraordinarily capable, clever and shrewd administrator. It was on 8 April 1808 that he passed away. He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Church, Puthencavu. His Anniversary is on 8th April.

**Mar Thoma
VII** Valiya
Mar
Dionysius'
nephew
Ramban
Mathanw as
on 5 May
1796
consecrated in
Syrian
Church,
Chengannur
as Mar Thoma
VII. Though
his tenure was
(1808-1809)
was brief,
many
administrative

and leadership lessons were to be learnt from him. On I December 1808, the interest money (Vattipanam) that was collected as a fixed deposit of the Church was handed over to the Government and receipt thereof accepted. His demise was on 4th July 1809 at Kandanad. He was laid to rest at Kolencherry Church. Anniversery: 4th July. His Anniversary is on 8th April.

Mar Thoma VII

1808-1809

7th Catholicose

Mar Thoma VIII When Mar Thoma VII was bed- ridden and when his illness took a serious turn, his successor pakalomattom Thoma Kathanar was given the attire, the insignia and sceptre that go with the high office and brought to sick- bed. The sick Metropolitan placed his hand on him and consecrated him as the 8th Metropolitan on 2nd July 1809. When there was a difference of opinion regarding this consecration, on 13 August 1809 Ramban Philipose of Kayamkulam and Itoop Kathanar of Kunnamkulam were appointed to enquire into the case as to who put a ring and formally accepted him Metropolitan. He left for his heavenly abode in 1816 and his mortal remains were interred in Puthencavu Church. His Death Anniversarry is on 28th October

Mar Thoma VIII

1809-1816

8th Catholicose

Mar Thoma IX Mar Thoma VIII's Paternal brother Iype Kathanar was consecrated as Mar Thoma IX in 1815. One group of people argued that the consecration of Mar Thoma IX as Metropolitan was not valid and created a lot of commotion on that score. There after, as per the directions of Muntro the British resident the red attire, sceptre, crown and cross were taken away from him and he was deprived of the office of Metropolitan. He spent the rest of his life at Kadamattom Church in prayer and fasting. He passed away in 1817 and was laid to rest in Kadamattom Church.

Mar Thoma IX
1816-1817
9th Catholicose

Mar Thoma XI As Pulikottil Josehp Mar Dionysius' successor, punnathra Geevarghese Mar Dionysius became the eleventh Mar Thoma of the Malankara Church. He was the earlier Vicar-General of the Malankara Church. It was on 19 October 1817, that he was ordained as Geevarghese Mar Dionysius. He established friendly relation with the Missionaries who came to Malankara by giving them support, freedom and help whenever required. While serving as the Malankara Metropolitan, he passed away on 16 May 1825. He was laid to rest in Cheriyaipalli, Kottayam. His Death Anniversary is on 17th May

Mar Thoma XI
1817-1825
11th Catholicose

Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan was born in 1829 to Konatt Mathan and Palapallil Valiyaveetil Kunjalachar of Pampakuda. In 1875 he was ordained as Ramban by His Holiness Patriarch Peter III. On 3 December 1876, at North Paravur Church he was given the title "Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius" and was appointed Metropolitan of Thumpamon diocese. Due to health problems, he was not able to conduct diocesan administration for long.

He was very interested in learning and teaching Syriac and also in enriching the Syrian Literature and printing Syriac books. In 1879 a printing press for the syriac language was started in Pampakuda. After his demise on 12 March 1884, he was laid to rest in Pampakuda. Valiayapalli. Anniversary: March 22.

Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan
1829-1884

Mikhael Mar Dionysius Metropolitan was one of the fearless Metropolitans who lead the Malankara church through a time of great crisis. He was born in 1880 (Edavam 15), as the son of Alummoottil John Upadeshi of Kayankulam. Mikhael was summoned by Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius, the Malankara Metropolitan, who had arrived at the Kadisha church at Kayankulam and was ordained a deacon on Christmas day at the age of 18. Mikhail accompanied Mar Dionysius to Kottayam where he continued his education at M.D. Seminary and Old Seminary. He was ordained "shamshono" by Parumala Mar Gregorius and on Chingam 15, 1910 was ordained priest by Vattasseril Mar Dionysius.

Mikhael Mar Dionysius Metropolitan:

1880-1956

Fr. Mikhael served as member on the Kayamkulam town improvement committee and later in the Sree Moolam Praja Sabha. When schism rent apart the Malankara Syrian Church, Mikhail Kasheesho stood steadfast in his loyalty to the Patriarchate of Antioch. In September 1927, Mikhail Kasheesho was ordained Metropolitan Mar Dionysius by Patriarch Elias III. Mar Dionysius led a very simple life, giving away much of his possessions to the poor and needy. He was the founder of the Malankara Sunday School Association. Until his death on January 18, 1956, Mar Dionysius was considered a pillar of strength for the church. His mortal remains are interred at Panampady church. Anniversary: January 18.

Alvarez Mar Julius Metropolitan Fr. Alvarez was the Catholic priest who in 1887 left Goa and Ceylon and joined the Malankara Syrian church. Parumala Mar Gregorios Metropolitan ordained him as Ramban. On 29 July 1889 at the Old Seminary Kottayam, he was elevated as Metropolitan Alvarez Mar Julius. This staunch freedom fighter of Goa and watch guard of the Church held on Zealously to the True Faith.

Alvarez Mar Julius Metropolitan:

1887-1913

He had to suffer a lot of persecution at the hands of the Portuguese for having accepted the Orthodox faith. On his passing away 23 September 1913 he was interred in Goa. His relics were on 5 October 1979 shifted to St. Mary's church, Panjim. Anniversary: 23 September.

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Metropolitan
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Paulose Mar Sevarios Metropolitan was born on 6 November 1910 as the son of Kunjityappan and Elijiya of Muliyrirkal family of the Cherai Valiyapalli diocese. He received the deaconship in 1926, the priesthood in 1930 and on 19 August 1934 was made of Ramban by Metropolitan Paulose Mar Athanasios at Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva. In 1939, he founded the Sion Ashram in Koratty. On 4 August 1946, His Holiness Patriarch Aphrem consecrated him as Metropolitan Paulose Mar Sevarios and put him in charge of Kochi diocese.

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Kuriakose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan As the sixth son of pezhemattom Chackochen and Illayachi of Pampady, he was born on 5 April 1885. He learned the Scriptures and Syriac under the disciplined tutorship of Vattaserril Geevarghese Malpan in Old Seminary, Kottayam . He received his deaconship on 5 February 1899, his priesthood on 28 July 1906 and the next day made Ramban by Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios.

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Kuriakose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan
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Alexios Mar Thevodosios Metropolitan On August 28, 1888 was born Mar Theodosios, known as M.M.Alexander alias Chandy, in the traditionally priestly family of Mattackal at Niranam to parents Mathai and Kunjadamma. He had his school education at Mar Gregorios Memorial High School, Thiruvalla and Mar Dionysius High School, Kottayam and College education (1912-15) in the C.M.S College Kottayam. At the age of 19 in 1907, Alexander was called to the Ministry of God and received ordination as Deacon. Dn. Alexander, following college education, joined Barisol Divinity College in East Bengal 1915 and later in 1918 Serampore for Theological studies. He received his deaconship from Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysios. In that year, Dn. Alexander was ordained a priest by Yuyakim Mar Ivanios at Parumala Seminary and called as Fr.Alexios. While at Serampore, Fr.Alexios had come in contact with Fr. PT.Geevarghese Panicker (Later Mar Ivanios) Both together established a unique monastery at Mundamala in Perinad near Ranni in 1918 at the 100 Acre land donated by E.J.John. This institution was named as Bethany. After Fr.Geevarghese Panickar joined Catholicism, Fr.Alexios alone worked with vigor and gave a new life to Bethany. Today Bethany has a complex of institutions of monastery, convent, schools and hospital.

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Meanwhile Fr.Alexios was elected as Metropolitan candidate by Malankara Association and was consecrated Metropolitan Alexios Mar Thevodosios on April 7, 1938 by Catholicos Basalios Mar Geevarghese II at Karmel Dayara, Mulanthuruthy. Diocese of Quilon and the Outside Kerala were assigned to the Metropolitan's charge. In 1957 Mar Alexios formed the Indian Orthodox Mission at Madras. Mar Theodosios also had taken keen interest in representing the Malankara Church in International Inter-Church forums and projecting its image to western Churches. Till 1953 he was a member of Central Committee of WCC. He left for his heavenly abode on 6 August 1965. His mortal remains are interred in Bethany Ashram Perunad. Anniversary: 6th August.

Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan

1889-1966

Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan was born to Thomas and Sosamma of Paiyanadath Vayaliparampil family in Nedumbaserry, Angamaly on 17 July 1889. He took his B.A degree from U.C.College, Aluva. He received his priesthood from Paulose Mar Athanasios. On August 1946 at the Patriarch Church in Homes, His Holiness Patriarch Aphrem I ordained him as Metropolitan with the title 'Geevarghese Mar Gregorios'.

He became the Metropolitan of the Angamaly Diocese on 27 January 1953. His demise was on 6 November 1966. He was laid to rest in Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva.

Anniversary: 6 November.

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1886-1968

Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolitan: It was on 20 June 1886 that he was born to Cherian Puravathen and Kunjumariamamma of Mookencheril family in Thripunithra. He took his B.A; L.T and B.Ed degrees .He was ordained as priest on 4 May 1926 by Yuyakim Mar Ivanios. In 1943 His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II ordained him as Ramban. On 15 May 1953, he was consecrated as Metropolitan Pathrose Mar Osthathios. He became the head of the Malabar Diocese. On 14 September 1924 he founded the "Sleebadasa Samootham" and gave leadership to missionary activities. He left for his eternal abode on 2 February 1968 and was laid to rest in Carmel Dayara. Anniversary: 2 February.

Thoma Mar Dionysios Metropolitan

1910-1962

Thoma Mar Dionysios Metropolitan was born into the family of Kallumpurath in Mavelikara on 8 June 1887 as the son of Mathew and Aleyamma. In 1937 he pursued higher studies in Theology at Oxford University. He received his deaconship from His Holiness Geevarghese II in 1934 and this was followed by his elevation as Ramban in 1937. On 6 May 1940 he was consecrated as Metropolitan Thoma Mar Dionysios. In 1944 he was made Metropolitan of Niranam diocese. He was a scholar and powerful orator. He founded the monastic order in Pathanapuram and Thumpamon and also many other institutions. He passed away on 3 December 1972 and was laid to rest in Mount Tabor Dayara in Pathanapuram. Anniversary: 3rd December.

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1889-1980

Yuhanon Mar Athanasios Episcopa: was born on 21 March 1928 to Vadakkal Varkey and Annamma of Chakkalaparambil family in Kottayam. He went for higher studies in Theology at Merphildil in England. On 14 June 1956 he was ordained as priest by Mathews Mar Athanasios. On 15 May 1978 Baselios Mar Thoma I Mathews Catholicos of the East consecrated him as Yuhanon Mar Athanasios at Pazhanji Church. He became the auxiliary Metropolitan of Kottayam diocese. He passed away on 2 October 1980. As he was a member of the Bethany Ashram in Perunad, Ranni, he was laid to rest at Perunad. Anniversary: 2 October

Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan

1829-1884

Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan was born in 1829 to Konatt Mathan and Palapallil Valiyaveetil Kunjalachar of Pampakuda. In 1875 he was ordained as Ramban by His Holiness Patriarch Peter III. On 3 December 1876, at North Paravur Church he was given the title "Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius" and was appointed Metropolitan of Thumpamon diocese. Due to health problems, he was not able to conduct diocesan administration for long.

He was very interested in learning and teaching Syriac and also in enriching the Syrian Literature and printing Syriac books. In 1879 a printing press for the syriac language was started in Pampakuda. After his demise on 12 March 1884, he was laid to rest in Pampakuda. Valiayapalli. Anniversary: March 22.

Mikhael Mar Dionysius Metropolitan was one of the fearless Metropolitans who lead the Malankara church through a time of great crisis. He was born in 1880 (Edavam 15), as the son of Alummoottil John Upadeshi of Kayankulam. Mikhael was summoned by Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius, the Malankara Metropolitan, who had arrived at the Kadisha church at Kayankulam and was ordained a deacon on Christmas day at the age of 18. Mikhail accompanied Mar Dionysius to Kottayam where he continued his education at M.D. Seminary and Old Seminary. He was ordained "shamshono" by Parumala Mar Gregorius and on Chingam 15, 1910 was ordained priest by Vattasseril Mar Dionysius.

Mikhael Mar Dionysius Metropolitan:

1880-1956

Fr. Mikhael served as member on the Kayamkulam town improvement committee and later in the Sree Moolam Praja Sabha. When schism rent apart the Malankara Syrian Church, Mikhail Kasheesho stood steadfast in his loyalty to the Patriarchate of Antioch. In September 1927, Mikhail Kasheesho was ordained Metropolitan Mar Dionysius by Patriarch Elias III. Mar Dionysius led a very simple life, giving away much of his possessions to the poor and needy. He was the founder of the Malankara Sunday School Association. Until his death on January 18, 1956, Mar Dionysius was considered a pillar of strength for the church. His mortal remains are interred at Panampady church. Anniversary: January 18.

Alvarez Mar Julius Metropolitan Fr. Alvarez was the Catholic priest who in 1887 left Goa and Ceylon and joined the Malankara Syrian church. Parumala Mar Gregorios Metropolitan ordained him as Ramban. On 29 July 1889 at the Old Seminary Kottayam, he was elevated as Metropolitan Alvarez Mar Julius. This staunch freedom fighter of Goa and watch guard of the Church held on Zealously to the True Faith.

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Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan

1889-1966

Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan was born to Thomas and Sosamma of Paiyanadath Vayaliparampil family in Nedumbaserry, Angamaly on 17 July 1889. He took his B.A degree from U.C.College, Aluva. He received his priesthood from Paulose Mar Athanasios. On August 1946 at the Patriarch Church in Homes, His Holiness Patriarch Aphrem I ordained him as Metropolitan with the title 'Geevarghese Mar Gregorios'.

He became the Metropolitan of the Angamaly Diocese on 27 January 1953. His demise was on 6 November 1966. He was laid to rest in Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva.

Anniversary: 6 November.

Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolitan

1886-1968

Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolitan: It was on 20 June 1886 that he was born to Cherian Puravathen and Kunjumariamamma of Mookenchery family in Thripunithra. He took his B.A; L.T and B.Ed degrees .He was ordained as priest on 4 May 1926 by Yuyakim Mar Ivanios. In 1943 His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II ordained him as Ramban. On 15 May 1953, he was consecrated as Metropolitan Pathrose Mar Osthathios. He became the head of the Malabar Diocese. On 14 September 1924 he founded the "Sleebadasa Samootham" and gave leadership to missionary activities. He left for his eternal abode on 2 February 1968 and was laid to rest in Carmel Dayara. Anniversary: 2 February.

Thoma Mar Dionysios Metropolitan

1910-1962

Thoma Mar Dionysios Metropolitan was born into the family of Kallumpurath in Mavelikara on 8 June 1887 as the son of Mathew and Aleyamma. In 1937 he pursued higher studies in Theology at Oxford University. He received his deaconship from His Holiness Geevarghese II in 1934 and this was followed by his elevation as Ramban in 1937. On 6 May 1940 he was consecrated as Metropolitan Thoma Mar Dionysios. In 1944 he was made Metropolitan of Niranam diocese. He was a scholar and powerful orator. He founded the monastic order in Pathanapuram and Thumpamon and also many other institutions. He passed away on 3 December 1972 and was laid to rest in Mount Tabor Dayara in Pathanapuram. Anniversary: 3rd December.

Yuhanon Mar Athanasios Episcopa

1889-1980

Yuhanon Mar Athanasios Episcopa: was born on 21 March 1928 to Vadakkal Varkey and Annamma of Chakkalaparambil family in Kottayam. He went for higher studies in Theology at Merphildil in England. On 14 June 1956 he was ordained as priest by Mathews Mar Athanasios. On 15 May 1978 Baselios Mar Thoma I Mathews Catholicos of the East consecrated him as Yuhanon Mar Athanasios at Pazhanji Church. He became the auxiliary Metropolitan of Kottayam diocese. He passed away on 2 October 1980. As he was a member of the Bethany Ashram in Perunad, Ranni, he was laid to rest at Perunad. Anniversary: 2 October

Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan

1829-1884

Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan was born in 1829 to Konatt Mathan and Palapallil Valiyaveetil Kunjalachar of Pampakuda. In 1875 he was ordained as Ramban by His Holiness Patriarch Peter III. On 3 December 1876, at North Paravur Church he was given the title "Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius" and was appointed Metropolitan of Thumpamon diocese. Due to health problems, he was not able to conduct diocesan administration for long.

He was very interested in learning and teaching Syriac and also in enriching the Syrian Literature and printing Syriac books. In 1879 a printing press for the syriac language was started in Pampakuda. After his demise on 12 March 1884, he was laid to rest in Pampakuda. Valiyapalli. Anniversary: March 22.

Mikhael Mar Dionysius Metropolitan was one of the fearless Metropolitans who lead the Malankara church through a time of great crisis. He was born in 1880 (Edavam 15), as the son of Alummoottil John Upadeshi of Kayankulam. Mikhael was summoned by Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius, the Malankara Metropolitan, who had arrived at the Kadisha church at Kayankulam and was ordained a deacon on Christmas day at the age of 18. Mikhail accompanied Mar Dionysius to Kottayam where he continued his education at M.D. Seminary and Old Seminary. He was ordained "shamshono" by Parumala Mar Gregorius and on Chingam 15, 1910 was ordained priest by Vattasseril Mar Dionysius.

Mikhael Mar Dionysius Metropolitan:

1880-1956

Fr. Mikhael served as member on the Kayankulam town improvement committee and later in the Sree Moolam Praja Sabha. When schism rent apart the Malankara Syrian Church, Mikhail Kasheesho stood steadfast in his loyalty to the Patriarchate of Antioch. In September 1927, Mikhail Kasheesho was ordained Metropolitan Mar Dionysius by Patriarch Elias III. Mar Dionysius led a very simple life, giving away much of his possessions to the poor and needy. He was the founder of the Malankara Sunday School Association. Until his death on January 18, 1956, Mar Dionysius was considered a pillar of strength for the church. His mortal remains are interred at Panampady church. Anniversary: January 18.

Alvarez Mar Julius Metropolitan Fr. Alvarez was the Catholic priest who in 1887 left Goa and Ceylon and joined the Malankara Syrian church. Parumala Mar Gregorios Metropolitan ordained him as Ramban. On 29 July 1889 at the Old Seminary Kottayam, he was elevated as Metropolitan Alvarez Mar Julius. This staunch freedom fighter of Goa and watch guard of the Church held on Zealously to the True Faith.

Alvarez Mar Julius Metropolitan:

1887-1913

He had to suffer a lot of persecution at the hands of the Portuguese for having accepted the Orthodox faith. On his passing away 23 September 1913 he was interred in Goa. His relics were on 5 October 1979 shifted to St. Mary's church, Panjim. Anniversary: 23 September.

Yuyakim Mar Ivanios Metropolitan was born in 1858 in the 'Karottuveetil house' Kandanad. He learned Syriac, canons and beliefs of the church under the disciplined training of Konatt Julius Thirumeni. He received his deaconship and priesthood from His Grace Mar Julius. He stayed for long periods in the Old Seminary and in the Parumala Seminary.

At Jerusalem, he was ordained as Ramban by His Holiness Patriarch Abdulla. When Patriarch Abdulla came to Malankara and demanded temporal authority, he joined hands with Vattaseril Mar Dionysius and stiffly resisted the move of the Patriarch. On 9 February 1913 at the Old Syrian church, Chengannur he was elevated as Metropolitan Yuyakim Mar Ivanios. He took up the administrative responsibilities of the Thumpamon and Kandanad dioceses. He left for his heavenly abode on 6 June 1925. He was laid to rest in Parumala to the West of where Parumala Mar Gregorios was interred. Anniversary: 6 June.

Yuyakim Mar Ivanios Metropolitan
1858-1925

Puthencavu Geevarghese Mar Philexinos

Metropolitan was born on 10 June 1897 as the third son of Thomas Kathanar of Puthencavu Kizhekethalackal family. He took his M.A and B.D. degree and he received his deaconship and priesthood from Vattaserril Geevarghese Mar Dionysios Metropolitan. He was made Ramban on 6 November 1929. On 3 November 1930 at Parumala church, he was consecrated as Geevarghese Mar Philexinos Metropolitan of Thumpamon diocese. He toiled for the overall growth of Thumpamon diocese and also for the prosperity of the Catholicate. He founded several schools. On 17 April 1951 he passed interred in St. Mary's Church, Puthencavu. Anniversary : 17 April.

Puthencavu Geevarghese Mar Philexinos
Metropolitan
1897-1951

Paulose Mar Sevarios Metropolitan was born on 6 November 1910 as the son of Kunjityappan and Elijiya of Muliyrirkal family of the Cherai Valiyapalli diocese. He received the deaconship in 1926, the priesthood in 1930 and on 19 August 1934 was made of Ramban by Metropolitan Paulose Mar Athanasios at Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva. In 1939, he founded the Sion Ashram in Koratty. On 4 August 1946, His Holiness Patriarch Aphrem consecrated him as Metropolitan Paulose Mar Sevarios and put him in charge of Kochi diocese.

He passed away on 17 March 1962 at Arthatt and was laid to rest in St. Mary's Puthenpalli, Arthatt.

Paulose Mar Sevarios Metropolitan
1910-1962

Kuriakose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan As the sixth son of pezhemattom Chackochen and Illayachi of Pampady, he was born on 5 April 1885. He learned the Scriptures and Syriac under the disciplined tutorship of Vattaserril Geevarghese Malpan in Old Seminary, Kottayam . He received his deaconship on 5 February 1899, his priesthood on 28 July 1906 and the next day made Ramban by Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios.

On 16 February 1929, he was consecrated the Metropolitan of Kottayam diocese with the title 'Kuriakose Mar Gregorios'. As Metropolitan of Kottayam diocese, he held its administrative responsibilities for thirty five years. It was in Pampady Dayara, that he breathed his last on 5th April 1965. His mortal remains were interred in the Dayara Church at Pampady.

Thirumeni's pocket watch also stopped exactly at 02:35 hrs at the time of his last breath and the same is still displayed at "Pothenpuram Dayara" of Pampady, Kottayam Dist along with the other belongings of Thirumeni. Although Thirumeni is still not declared as a Saint formally by the church, as experienced by many of us, he is a Saint in the true sense. There is testimony and as experienced by many, all the faithful's calls/prayers are answered by Thirumeni promptly, the same way he was taking care of the needy (irrespective caste, creed, religion etc) during his life time.

Thirumeni's Perunnal is celebrated regularly in a simple but appropriate way in our churches in Dubai and Abu Dhabi also. Pampady Thirumeni's biography written by Prof. K.M Kuriakose and Published by Indiana Publications should be read by all, especially our children. It will really be a devine experience. Anniversary: 5th April, Perunnal of H.H Kuriakose Mar Gregoriose (Popularly known as Pampady Thirumeni).

Kuriakose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan
1885-1965

Alexios Mar Thevodhosios Metropolitan On August 28, 1888 was born Mar Theodosios, known as M.M.Alexander alias Chandy, in the traditionally priestly family of Mattackal at Niranam to parents Mathai and Kunjadamma. He had his school education at Mar Gregorios Memorial High School, Thiruvalla and Mar Dionysius High School, Kottayam and College education (1912-15) in the C.M.S College Kottayam. At the age of 19 in 1907, Alexander was called to the Ministry of God and received ordination as Deacon. Dn. Alexander, following college education, joined Barisol Divinity College in East Bengal 1915 and later in 1918 Serampore for Theological studies. He received his deaconship from Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysios. In that year, Dn. Alexander was ordained a priest by Yuyakim Mar Ivanios at Parumala Seminary and called as Fr. Alexios. While at Serampore, Fr. Alexios had come in contact with Fr. PT. Geevarghese Panicker (Later Mar Ivanios) Both together established a unique monastery at Mundamala in Perinad near Ranni in 1918 at the 100 Acre land donated by E.J. John. This institution was named as Bethany. After Fr. Geevarghese Panickar joined Catholicism, Fr. Alexios alone worked with vigor and gave a new life to Bethany. Today Bethany has a complex of institutions of monastery, convent, schools and hospital.

Alexios Mar Thevodhosios Metropolitan

1888-1965

Meanwhile Fr. Alexios was elected as Metropolitan candidate by Malankara Association and was consecrated Metropolitan Alexios Mar Thevodhosios on April 7, 1938 by Catholicos Basalios Mar Geevarghese II at Karmel Dayara, Mulanthuruthy. Diocese of Quilon and the Outside Kerala were assigned to the Metropolitan's charge. In 1957 Mar Alexios formed the Indian Orthodox Mission at Madras. Mar Theodosios also had taken keen interest in representing the Malankara Church in International Inter-Church forums and projecting its image to western Churches. Till 1953 he was a member of Central Committee of WCC. He left for his heavenly abode on 6 August 1965. His mortal remains are interred in Bethany Ashram Perunad. Anniversary: 6th August.

Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan

1889-1966

Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan was born to Thomas and Sosamma of Paiyanadath Vayaliparampil family in Nedumbaserry, Angamaly on 17 July 1889. He took his B.A degree from U.C.College, Aluva. He received his priesthood from Paulose Mar Athanasios. On August 1946 at the Patriarch Church in Homes, His Holiness Patriarch Aphrem I ordained him as Metropolitan with the title 'Geevarghese Mar Gregorios'.

He became the Metropolitan of the Angamaly Diocese on 27 January 1953. His demise was on 6 November 1966. He was laid to rest in Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva.

Anniversary: 6 November.

Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolitan

1886-1968

Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolitan: It was on 20 June 1886 that he was born to Cherian Puravathen and Kunjumariamamma of Mookencheril family in Thripunithra. He took his B.A; L.T and B.Ed degrees .He was ordained as priest on 4 May 1926 by Yuyakim Mar Ivanios. In 1943 His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II ordained him as Ramban. On 15 May 1953, he was consecrated as Metropolitan Pathrose Mar Osthathios. He became the head of the Malabar Diocese. On 14 September 1924 he founded the "Sleebadasa Samooham" and gave leadership to missionary activities. He left for his eternal abode on 2 February 1968 and was laid to rest in Carmel Dayara. Anniversary: 2 February.

Thoma Mar Dionysios Metropolitan

1910-1962

Thoma Mar Dionysios Metropolitan was born into the family of Kallumpurath in Mavelikara on 8 June 1887 as the son of Mathew and Aleyamma. In 1937 he pursued higher studies in Theology at Oxford University. He received his deaconship from His Holiness Geevarghese II in 1934 and this was followed by his elevation as Ramban in 1937. On 6 May 1940 he was consecrated as Metropolitan Thoma Mar Dionysios. In 1944 he was made Metropolitan of Niranam diocese. He was a scholar and powerful orator. He founded the monastic order in Pathanapuram and Thumpamon and also many other institutions. He passed away on 3 December 1972 and was laid to rest in Mount Tabor Dayara in Pathanapuram. Anniversary: 3rd December.

Yuhanon Mar Athanasios Episcopa

1889-1980

Yuhanon Mar Athanasios Episcopa: was born on 21 March 1928 to Vadakkal Varkey and Annamma of Chakkalaparambil family in Kottayam. He went for higher studies in Theology at Merphildil in England. On 14 June 1956 he was ordained as priest by Mathews Mar Athanasios. On 15 May 1978 Baselios Mar Thoma I Mathews Catholicos of the East consecrated him as Yuhanon Mar Athanasios at Pazhanji Church. He became the auxiliary Metropolitan of Kottayam diocese. He passed away on 2 October 1980. As he was a member of the Bethany Ashram in Perunad, Ranni, he was laid to rest at Perunad. Anniversary: 2 October

Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysius was born into the Pulikottil family of Kunnam-kulam. Malankara Metropolitan Valiya Mar Dionysius ordained him as a priest and appointed him as the Vicar of chattukulangara Arthatt Church. When Tippu Sultan attacked cochin in 1789, he insisted that the Vicar should join the Islam religion. But refusing to succumb to this pressure he spent his days in prayer. He took the initiative to renovate the Arthatt church, which was ravaged by Tiipu Sultan. Dr. Claudias Bukanan who visited Arthatt church on 6 December 1806 has given us ass account about Pulikottil Joseph Kathananr.

On 27 August 1809 he was elevated to the rank of Ramban. After becoming Ramban, his activities were concentrated in Kottayam. He convinced the Tranvancore Resident Colonel Munro of the necessity of constructing 'House of Learning' (Seminaries) for training priests and the latter who was greatly interested, gave all support for starting the seminary. Queen Paravathi Bai of Travancore gave sixteen acres of land bordering the River Meenachil as gift to the Church and there a seminary was established.

In 1815 the Seminary started training priests. English education was started for the first time in Kerala here. On 21 March, 1815, Kidangan Mar Philexinos consecrated him as Malankara Metropolitan with the title 'Joseph Mar Dionysius'. The rulers of



Pulikottil Thirumeni

-1816

Founder of the Old Seminary

Travancore and Cochin sent forth 'Royal Proclamation' calling upon all Syrian Christians to respect and honor Joseph Mar Dionysius. Mar Dionysius had a far-sighted vision regarding the Church. He passed away on 24 November 1816. He was laid to rest inside the Chapel in the Old Seminary. His Death Anniversary is on 25 November.

Cheppad Philipose Mar Dionysius was born into the Aangalimootil family in Cheppad in 1781. In 1825, Kidangan mar Philexinos consecrated him as Metropolitan Philipose Mar Dionysius at Cheriyaipalli, Kottayam. The ruler of Travancore issued a Royal Proclamation acknowledging him as Malankara Metropolitan. He was not on good terms with the English missionaries who worked in Malankara Church under the English Assistance commission. The foreign missionaries suggested to reform the 'Qurbana norms' according to the protestant standards, and to do away with the worship and prayer conducted for the dead, other suggestions included in raising of a fund to increase the salary of the priests, and giving ordination to only those priests who passed out from the Seminary and received the certificate from the Principal; The accounts of the Church every year must be submitted to the Resident for annual auditing the church services were to be conducted in Malayalam. The Metropolitan rejected all these suggestions outright. A meeting of the representatives of the church was convened in Puthiyacavu Church, Mavelikara in 1836 in order to discuss the recommendations of the missionaries. The Mavelikkara Padiola' was formulated in order to strongly resist the new reforms of the foreign missionaries. In 1846, the Patriarch sent Metropolitan Yuyakim Mar Kuriyos of Antioch to Malankara. Later of cheppad Thirumeni gave up the position of Malankara Metropolitan and retired from administrative matters. He passed among in 9th October 1855. He was laid to rest in St. George Church, Cheppad. His Death Anniversary is on 12th October.



Cheppad Philipose Mar Dionysius
1781-1855

Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysius Joseph Mar Dianasios was born on 12th November 1833, in the famous Pulikottil family of Kunnamkulam. His father was Tharu Kurien, the nephew of 'Mar Divanyoious II' who was founder of the famous Old Seminary at Kottayam and mother, Thadamma of Paigamukku 'Kuthuru' family. The name given to him at baptism was Joseph. Young Joseph started his education at the age of five and in 1843, he became a disciple of his uncle Fr. Joseph who taught him theology and Syriac.

Joseph being very studious and enthusiastic, mastered Hindustani and Sanskrit. Joseph was ordained as Koroyoo (Subdeacon) by Cheppatu Mar Divanyosious IV at the Kothamangalam Marthoman Cheria Pally on 10th October 1846 at his age of 13.

The Patriarchal delegate Mor Athanasious Sthephanos, ordained him to the order of Samshono (Full Deacon), at Kunnamkulam Arthat St.Mary's Church in 1849. On 23rd August 1853, Dn. Joseph was ordained as a Full Priest at Chalassery Church near Kunnamkulam by Mar Koorilose Yuyakkim.

As per the decision of the Patriarch to ordain a new Metropolitan, Fr.Joseph Pulikottil was informally chosen as the candidate. After the Confirmation by the Patriachal delegate and ameeting with him at Kolenchery Church, Fr. Joseph left for the Patriarchate at Mardin on 14th March 1864. He was felicitated at a grand function held in his native place, Kunnamkulam before his departure to Mardin. On 30th May 1864, Fr.Joseph Pulikottil boarded the ship from Cochin along with Mattummel Fr. Geevarghese and Kuthuru Tharappan of Kunnamkulam. They travelled through various ancient Syriac Christian areas of Basara, Bagdad, Mosul etc. and after 4 months journey they reached the Patriarchal Palace of Mardin, one of the oldest Syriac Christian settlements situated in Turkey on 30th August 1864.

The Church dignitaries and the local people gave a warm welcome to the Metropolitan-designate Fr.Joseph. Immediately after their arrival, within few days, Fr.Joseph Pulikottil Mattummel Fr. Geevarghese were infected with a serious illness. On 26th September, Fr. Geevarghese who was only 30, died of the epidemic and was buried at the Dayro church of Mardin.

Fr. Joseph Pulikottil, however as per God's will, was miraculously cured in a few weeks time and continued his stay for another eight months, visiting many of the nearby Syriac churches including the famous Suriyani Orthodox Dayro at Mardin, Deiro d'Mor Gabriel at Midayat , Turkey.

On 11th Medam as per the Malayalam Calender Fr.Joseph left for the church at Amida on the request of the Patriarch, for his

Pulikootil Joseph Mar Dionysius

1833-1909

Founder of the M D Seminary



ordination as Metropolitan. During the Holy Qurbano on 19th at Diyarbakir St. Mary's Church, the Patriarch formally announced the ordination of Fr. Joseph Pulikottil, which was scheduled for next Sunday.

The day before his consecration as Metropolitan, Fr. Joseph was elevated to the order of Ramban by the Patriarch. On Sunday early morning, of 26th Medam AD.1865, Fr. Joseph was ordained at the famous Church of the Mother of God at Amida in Turkey.

During this historical Holy Synod held at Mulunthuruthy MarThoman Church, Mor Divanyasious Joseph was chosen as the Malankara Metropolitan and Head of the Local Synod. Thereafter he came to be known as Mor DIVANYASIOUS V, the title given to the chief prelate of the Malankara Church. On 30th August the same year, Holy Muroon was consecrated for the first time in Malankara, by the Patriarch of Antioch Mor Ignatius Peter IV assisted by the new Malankara Metropolitan Pulikottil Mor Divanyasious V and Metropolitan of Jerusalem, Mor Gregorious Abdulla (Later Patriarch of Antioch). Later, as per the decision taken at the Mulunthuruthy Synod, five Metropolitans were ordained for the newly formed dioceses by the Patriarch before His Holiness left for Mardin.

Kadavil Paulose Mor Athanasius (Thrikkunnathu Seminary, Aluva) and Chathuruthy Geevarghese Mor Gregorius (Parumala Thirumeni), who were ordained as Metropolitans in AD 1876, were the two closest companions of Mor Divanyasious V. The three worked in unison for the uplift of the Malankara Suriyani Church. He was instrumental in starting theological seminaries and English Medium Schools, all over Malankara. In 1870, a Syriac printing press, Sainthomas was started at Cochin, as per the request of Mor Divanyasious V, for publishing Syriac prayer books. At around the same time he started a Church magazine, Kerala Pathaka in Malayalam, which was later merged with another news magazine, Paschima Thara. But again in January 1892, under the guidance of Mor Divanyasious and with Edavazhikal E M Philipose as the Chief editor, another periodical of the Syrian Church, Edavaka Pathrika was started publishing from Kottayam MarThoma Press. This was a necessity to propagate the messages of the Syrian Church in Malankara. Parumala Church (Old Church) Build by Geevarghese Mar Gregorios was consecrated by Mar Dianasios and Mar Gregorios. On July 11, 1907 Mar Dianasios breathed his last. On 29 April 1865 at Amedh Patriarch Yakoob III elevated him to the rank of Ramban. On 30 April he was consecrated as Metroplitan Joseph Mar Dionysios. During the eventful forty-four years between 1865 A.D to 1909 he adorned the Malankara Metropolitan's position with extraordinary skill.

It was during that period that the Mulanthuruthy Synod, division of dioceses and the 'Holy Mooran Koodasha' took place. Through his unstinted effort, spiritual organizations like Sunday School and Students movement, and Church institutions like Parumala Seminary, Kunnankulam Sihiyon Bunglow, Kottapuram Seminary and M.D. Seminary developed.

The Royal Court passed the verdict in his favour in the Reformation Case. There after, the Marthoma Church was formed.

He passed away on 1st July 1909. His mortal remains were interred in the western side of the chapel in Old Seminary. His Death Anniversary is on 12th July.

Malankara Sabha Basooran Vattasseri Geevarghese

Mar Dionysios was born on 31 October 1858 to Joseph and Aleyamma of Vattasseri family in Mallappally. He lived in Vettikal Dayara and Parumala Seminary in order to learn under the disciplined training of Parumala Mar Gregorios Metropolitan, the history of the Church, Syriac and the articles of Faith. He became on 16 October 1879 full deacon and on 18 January 1880 received priesthood from Parumala Mar Gregorios . Thereafter he was appointed to teach deacons at Parumala Seminary. He served as the principal of M.D. Seminary and the Malpan and Principal of old Seminary. On 2 November 1903 Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysios ordained him as a Ramban at the Old Seminary. On 27 February 1908, when the Malankara Association met at the old Seminary, he was chosen as the successor to the Malankara Metropolitan. On 31 May 1908 at Jerusalem, His Holiness Patriarch Abdulla consecrated him as Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Dionysios. He gave able leadership for establishing the Catholicate in Malankara on 15 September 1912. For the progress of the Church he started many spiritual organizations like Students Movements, Women's Samajam, Sleebadas Samajam etc. He translated the liturgy from syriac into Malayalam and published a book on the tenents of the Orthodox faith called "Mathopadhesha Saram". He brought courageously to the utmost for the sovereignty and growth of the Holy throne of the Catholicose and earned this appellation of 'Sabha Basooran' he augured the golden period in the history of church's fight for independence. From 1909 to 1934 he served as the Malankara Metropolitan. On 23 February 1934 he passed away. His mortal remains were interred in the Old Seminary Chapel at Kottayam. His death

Vattasseri Geevarghese Mar Dionysios

1858-1934

"Malankara Sabha Basooran"

Anniversary is on 23rd February.

H H Baselios Paulos I
1836-1913
"First Catholicose of Malankara"



His Holiness Baselios Paulos I was born on 19 January 1836 to Murimattom Kurian and Mariamma in Kolencherry. He received deaconship from Cheppad Mar Dionysius in 1843 and in 1852 he was ordained as Priest by Metropolitan Yuyakim Mar Kurilos. He served for a long period as Vicar of Kolencherry Church. On 17th May 1877, His Holiness Patriarch Pathrose consecrated him as Paulose Mar Ivanios at Cherallayam Palli, Kunnam kulam and appointed him as Metropolitan of Kandanad diocese.

On 15th September 1912, His Holiness Patriarch Abdhedh Messiah with the co-operation of Vattasseril Geevarghese Mar Dionysios Metropolitan and Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan elevated him to the Apostolic throne of St. Thomas as Catholicos of Malankara church.

He passed away on 2 May 1913. He was laid to rest in Pampakuda Cheriya Palli. His death Anniversary is on 3rd May.

His Holiness Baselius Geevarghese I
1870-1928
"II Catholicose of Malankara"



His Holiness Baselius Geevarghese I was born in 1870 as the second son of Karuchira Paulose. He was ordained as 'Koruya' on 13 June 1885, as deacon in 1892, on 16 August 1896 as priest and on 23 August as Ramban by Metropolitan Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios. He served as Manager in Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva from 1908 to 1910.

On February 1913, he was consecrated as Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Philexinos. He was the Metropolitan of Kottayam and Angamaly diocese. He made Vallikattu Dayara his administrative headquarters.

On 30 April 1925 at Niranam, the Holy Synod installed him as the Catholicos of the East. Through prayer and fasting he achieved spiritual strength, which helped him to guide the Malankara Church into green pastures. He passed away on 17 December 1928 at Neyyoor Hospital. He was laid to rest on the northern side of Vallikattu Dayara. His death anniversary is on 17th December.

The Third Catholicos of Malankara and Malankara Metropolitan His Holiness Beselios Geevarghese II

was born to Ulah- anan and Naithi of Kallaserri family in Kurichi, Kottayam on 16 June 1874. On 24 April 1892, Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios ordained him as deacon and on 24 November and 27 November 1898 he was ordained as priest and Ramban respectively by Parumala Mar Gregorios.

As per the order of Parumala Thirumeni", he resided in Kadambanad church and took charge of the southern dioceses. He also served as Manager and Malpan of Old Seminary. He published books like "Sahodaran- marude Charithram". "Rehasya Prarthanakal". "Parudaisa", and "Mar Yuhanon Mamdana".

On 8 September 1912, His Holiness Patriarch Abdhedh Meshiah consecrated him as Metropolitan Geevarg- hese Mar Gregorios at Parumala Seminary. He was appointed as the Metropolitan of Thumpamon, Kollam and Niranam dioceses. On 15 February 1929. With the Malankara Metropolitan Vattaserril Geevarghese Mar Dionysios as the chief priest, he was installed as the Catholicos of the East.

When the Association met on 24 December 1934 at M. D. Seminary, Kottayam, he was chosen as Malankara Metropolitan. It was a period when issues became very complex. Through prayer and fasting he received strength from God to lead his people for long years, courageously, inspiring his people to work for their church and for the glory of God. Following the peace pact of 1958, he had the good fortune to guide the destiny of the unified Malankara Church.

Apart from consecrating twelve Meropolitans, and ordaining more than thousand priests and decons, he founded and consecrated many churhes. On 22 April 1932 and on 20 April 1951 he conducted the 'Mooran Koodasha' at the Old Seminary. On 2 November 1947 he declared Parumala Mar Gregorios and Yeldo Mar Baselios as Saints. From his time onwards the offices of Catholicos and Malankara Metropolitan came to repose in one and the same person. Shedding luster like a Beacon illuminating the history of the church, he led it from glory to glory. He entered the eternal realms on 3 January 1964 at Develokam Aramana He was laid



His Holiness Beselios Geevarghese II

1874-1964

"III Catholicose and Malankara Metropolitan"

to rest beside the Devalokam Aramana Chapel. His Anniversary is 3 January.

The Fourth Catholicos of Malankara and Malakara Metropolitan His Holiness Baselios Oughen I

was born on 26 June 1884 at Perumbavoor , Vengola, to Abraham Kathanar of Chettakulathukara family. He was ordained as deacon by Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios and in 1908 at Jerusalem he was elevated as Ramban Oughan. He was consecrated as Metropolitan Oughan Mar Timotheos on 15 May 1927 at Jerusalem. He was appointed as the fourth Metropolitan of Kandanad. He has left his imprint in several offices that he held during his life. He was principal of the Orthodox Theological Seminary, and the Metropolitan of Kandanad and Thumpamon dioseses.

On 17 May 1962, when the Malankara Association met at Niranam, he was chosen as the sucessor to the Malankara Metropolitan and Catholicos. It was on 22 May 1964 at M.D. Seminary, Kottayam that he was installed formally as the fourth Catholicos. As he was very old, he relinquished his position as Malankara Metropolitan to his successor on 24 September 1975.

Having achieved expectional scholarship in Malayalam and Syriac languages, he translated into Malayalam the 'Pemkisa Namaskaram' 'Prumiyonukal', ' Valiya Nombilae Namaskaram', 'Pattamkoda Shushrusha Kramangal' and 'Pallikoodasha Kramangal'. He also composed the 'Hood- omakal' for 'Holy Synods' and the 'State after death'. He passed away on 8 December 1975 at Develokam Aramana and was laid to rest near the Aramana Chapel.

His Annverary: 8 December.

His Holiness Baselios Oughen I

1781-1855

"IV Catholicose and Malankara Metropolitan"



The fifth Catholicos of Malankara Metropolitan His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews I was born on 27 March 1907 as the youngest son of Vattakunnel Kurien Kathanar and Olesha Pulickaparampil Mariamma in Kottayam. He took his B.A, B.D. degrees. Even as a layman he had achieved the unique distinction studies and also in the Canonical Laws; he was selected as a member of the Managing committee in 1944. He received on 18 August 1945 at the Old Seminary the "Musmrono" and on 19 August at mar ELia Chapel he became a full deacon; on 27 October 1946 he was ordained as priest by His Holess Baselios Geevarghese II Catholicos of the East. Later, on 21 September 1951, he was elevated to the rank of Ramban by His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II consecrated him as Episcopa under the name Mahews Mar Athanasios. He was further elevated to the office of Metropolitan on 12 July 1959. In 1960, he became Head of outside Kerala Diocese of the Malankara church. He was unanimously elected as the Supreme Head of the church and successor to His Holiness the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan by the Malankara Association, which met on 31 December 1970 at M.D.Seminary, Kottayam. On 24 September 1975, he became Malankara Metropolitan. On 27 October 1975, at the Old Seminary, he was installed Catholicos as His Holiness Baselius Marthoma Mathews I. He executed many administrative innovations and helped to strengthen the sovereignty of the Malankara Orthodox church and its right to have its own sovereign Head. He was able to project the name and fame of the church at the international level. On 27 April 1991, due to failing health he relinquished his office. On 8 November 1996 he passed away, and was laid to rest in Develokam Aramana. Anniversary: 8 November.



His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews I
1781-1855
"V Catholicose and Malankara Metropolitan"

Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan
1829-1884

Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan was born in 1829 to Konatt Mathan and Palapallil Valiyaveetil Kunjalachar of Pampakuda. In 1875 he was ordained as Ramban by His Holiness Patriarch Peter III. On 3 December 1876, at North Paravur Church he was given the title "Konatt Geevarghese Mar Julius" and was appointed Metropolitan of Thumpamon diocese. Due to health problems, he was not able to conduct diocesan administration for long. He was very interested in learning and teaching Syriac and also in enriching the Syrian Literature and printing Syriac books. In 1879 a printing press for the syriac language was started in Pampakuda. After his demise on 12 March 1884, he was laid to rest in Pampakuda. Valiayapalli. Anniversary: March 22.

Mikhael Mar Dionysius Metropolitan:
1880-1956



Mikhael Mar Dionysius Metropolitan was one of the fearless Metropolitans who lead the Malankara church through a time of great crisis. He was born in 1880 (Edavam 15), as the son of Alummoottil John Upadeshi of Kayankulam. Mikhael was summoned by Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius, the Malankara Metropolitan, who had arrived at the Kadisha church at Kayankulam and was ordained a deacon on Christmas day at the age of 18. Mikhail accompanied Mar Dionysius to Kottayam where he continued his education at M.D. Seminary and Old Seminary. He was ordained "shamshono" by Parumala Mar Gregorius and on Chingam 15, 1910 was ordained priest by Vattasseril Mar Dionysius. Fr. Mikhael served as member on the Kayamkulam town improvement committee and later in the Sree Moolam Praja Sabha. When schism rent apart the Malankara Syrian Church, Mikhail Kasheesho stood steadfast in his loyalty to the Patriarchate of Antioch. In September 1927, Mikhail Kasheesho was ordained Metropolitan Mar Dionysius by Patriarch Elias III. Mar Dionysius led a very

simple life, giving away much of his possessions to the poor and needy. He was the founder of the Malankara Sunday School Association. Until his death on January 18, 1956, Mar Dionysius was considered a pillar of strength for the church. His mortal remains are interred at Panampady church. Anniversary: January 18.

Alvarez Mar Julius Metropolitan:
1887-1913



Alvarez Mar Julius Metropolitan Fr. Alvarez was the Catholic priest who in 1887 left Goa and Ceylon and joined the Malankara Syrian church. Parumala Mar Gregorios Metropolitan ordained him as Ramban. On 29 July 1889 at the Old Seminary Kottayam, he was elevated as Metropolitan Alvarez Mar Julius. This staunch freedom fighter of Goa and watch guard of the Church held on Zealously to the True Faith. He had to suffer a lot of persecution at the hands of the Portuguese for having accepted the Orthodox faith. On his passing away 23 September 1913 he was interred in Goa. His relics were on 5 October 1979 shifted to St. Mary's church, Panjim. Anniversary: 23 September.

Yuyakim Mar Ivanios Metropolitan
1858-1925



Yuyakim Mar Ivanios Metropolitan was born in 1858 in the 'Karottuveetil house' Kandanad. He learned Syriac, canons and beliefs of the church under the disciplined training of Konatt Julius Thirumeni. He received his deaconship and priesthood from His Grace Mar Julius. He stayed for long periods in the Old Seminary and in the Parumala Seminary. At Jerusalem, he was ordained as Ramban by His Holiness Patriarch Abdulla. When Patriarch Abdulla came to Malankara and demanded temporal authority, he joined hands with Vattaseril Mar Dionysius and stiffly resisted the move of the Patriarch. On 9 February 1913 at the Old Syrian church, Chengannur he was elevated as Metropolitan Yuyakim Mar Ivanios. He took up the administrative responsibilities of the Thumpamon and Kandanad dioceses. He left for his heavenly abode on 6 June 1925. He was laid to rest in Parumala to the West of where Parumala Mar Gregorios was interred. Anniversary: 6 June.

**Puthencavu Geevarghese Mar Philexinos
Metropolitan**

1897-1951



Puthencavu Geevarghese Mar Philexinos

Metropolitan was born on 10 June 1897 as the third son of Thomas Kathanar of Puthencavu Kizhekethalackal family. He took his M.A and B.D. degree and he received his deaconship and priesthood from Vattaserril Geevarghese Mar Dionysios Metropolitan. He was made Ramban on 6 November 1929. On 3 November 1930 at Parumala church, he was consecrated as Geevarghese Mar Philexinos Metropolitan of Thumpamon diocese. He toiled for the overall growth of Thumpamon diocese and also for the prosperity of the Catholicate. He founded several schools. On 17 April 1951 he passed interred in St. Mary's Church, Puthencavu. Anniversary : 17 April.

Paulose Mar Sevarios Metropolitan

1910-1962



Paulose Mar Sevarios Metropolitan was born on 6 November 1910 as the son of Kunjityappan and Elijiya of Muliyrirkal family of the Cherai Valiyapalli diocese. He received the deaconship in 1926, the priesthood in 1930 and on 19 August 1934 was made of Ramban by Metropolitan Paulose Mar Athanasios at Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva. In 1939, he founded the Sion Ashram in Koratty. On 4 August 1946, His Holiness Patriarch Aphrem consecrated him as Metropolitan Paulose Mar Sevarios and put him in charge of Kochi diocese.

He passed away on 17 March 1962 at Arthatt and was laid to rest in St. Mary's Puthenpalli, Arthatt.

Kuriakose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan As the sixth son of pezhemattom Chackochen and Illayachi of Pampady, he was born on 5 April 1885. He learned the Scriptures and Syriac under the disciplined tutorship of Vattaserril Geevarghese Malpan in Old Seminary, Kottayam . He received his deaconship on 5 February 1899, his priesthood on 28 July 1906 and the next day made Ramban by Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios. On 16 February 1929, he was consecrated the Metropolitan of Kottayam diocese with the title 'Kuriakose Mar Gregorios'. As Metropolitan of Kottayam diocese, he held its administrative responsibilities for thirty five years. It was in Pampady Dayara, that he breathed his last on 5th April 1965. His mortal remains were interred in the Dayara Church at Pampady.

Thirumeni's pocket watch also stopped exactly at 02:35

Kuriakose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan
1885-1965



hrs at the time of his last breath and the same is still displayed at "Pothenpuram Dayara" of Pampady, Kottayam Dist along with the other belongings of Thirumeni. Although Thirumeni is still not declared as a Saint formally by the church, as experienced by many of us, he is a Saint in the true sense. There is testimony and as experienced by many, all the faithful's calls/prayers are answered by Thirumeni promptly, the same way he was taking care of the needy (irrespective caste, creed, religion etc) during his life time.

Thirumeni's Perunnal is celebrated regularly in a simple but appropriate way in our churches in Dubai and Abu Dhabi also. Pampady Thirumeni's biography written by Prof. K.M Kuriakose and Published by Indiana Publications should be read by all, especially our children. It will really be a devine experience. Anniversary: 5th April, Perunnal of H.H Kuriakose Mar Gregoriose (Popularly known as Pampady Thirumeni).

Alexios Mar Thevodhosios Metropolitan
1888-1965

Alexios Mar Thevodhosios Metropolitan On August 28, 1888 was born Mar Theodosios, known as M.M.Alexander alias Chandy, in the traditionally priestly family of Mattackal at Niranam to parents Mathai and Kunjadamma. He had his school education at Mar Gregorios Memorial High School, Thiruvalla and Mar Dionysius High School, Kottayam and College education (1912-15) in the C.M.S College Kottayam. At the age of 19 in 1907, Alexander was called to the Ministry of God and received ordination as Deacon. Dn.Alexander, following college education, joined Barisol Divinity College in East Bengal 1915 and later in 1918 Serampore for Theological studies. He received his deaconship from Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysios. In that year, Dn. Alexander was ordained a priest by Yuyakim Mar Ivanios at Parumala Seminary and called as Fr.Alexios. While at Serampore, Fr.Alexios had come in contact with Fr. PT.Geevarghese Panicker (Later Mar Ivanios) Both together established a unique monastery at Mundamala in Perinad near Ranni in 1918 at the 100 Acre land donated by E.J. John. This institution was named as Bethany. After Fr. Geevarghese Panickar joined Catholicism, Fr.Alexios alone worked with vigor and gave a new life to Bethany. Today Bethany has a complex of institutions of monastery, convent, schools and hospital.

Meanwhile Fr.Alexios was elected as Metropolitan candidate by Malankara Association and was consecrated Metropolitan Alexios Mar Thevodhosios on April 7, 1938 by Catholicos Basalios Mar Geevarghese II at Karmel

Dayara, Mulanthuruthy. Diocese of Quilon and the Outside Kerala were assigned to the Metropolitan's charge. In 1957 Mar Alexios formed the Indian Orthodox Mission at Madras.

Mar Theodosios also had taken keen interest in representing the Malankara Church in International Inter-Church forums and projecting its image to western Churches. Till 1953 he was a member of Central Committee of WCC

He left for his heavenly abode on 6 August 1965. His mortal remains are interred in Bethany Ashram Perunad.

Anniversary: 6th August.

Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan
1889-1966



Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan was born to Thomas and Sosamma of Paiyanadath Vayaliparampil family in Nedumbaserry, Angamaly on 17 July 1889. He took his B.A degree from U.C. College, Aluva. He received his priesthood from Paulose Mar Athanasios. On August 1946 at the Patriarch Church in Homes, His Holiness Patriarch Apherem I ordained him as Metropolitan with the title 'Geevarghese Mar Gregorios'.

He became the Metropolitan of the Angamaly Diocese on 27 January 1953. His demise was on 6 November 1966. He was laid to rest in Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva. Anniversary: 6 November.

Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolian
1886-1968



Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolian: It was on 20 June 1886 that he was born to Cherian Puravathen and Kunjumariamamma of Mookencheril family in Thripunithra. He took his B.A; L.T and B.Ed degrees .He was ordained as priest on 4 May 1926 by Yuyakim Mar Ivanios. In 1943 His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II ordained him as Ramban. On 15 May 1953, he was consecrated as Metropolitan Pathrose Mar Osthathios. He became the head of the Malabar Diocese. On 14 September 1924 he founded the "Sleebadasa Samooham" and gave leadership to missionary activities. He left for his eternal abode on 2 February 1968 and was laid to rest in Carmel Dayara. Anniversary: 2 February.

Thoma Mar Dionysios Metropolitan
1910-1962



Thoma Mar Dionysios Metropolitan was born into the family of Kallumpurath in Mavelikara on 8 June 1887 as the son of Mathew and Aleyamma. In 1937 he pursued higher studies in Theology at Oxford University. He received his deaconship from His Holiness Geevarghese II in 1934 and this was followed by his elevation as Ramban in 1937. On 6 May 1940 he was consecrated as Metropolitan Thoma Mar Dionysios. In 1944 he was made Metropolitan of Niranam diocese. He was a scholar and powerful orator. He founded the monastic order in Pathanapuram and Thumpamon and also many other institutions. He passed away on 3 December 1972 and was laid to rest in Mount Tabor Dayara in Pathanapuram. Anniversary: 3rd December.

Yuhanon Mar Athanasios Episcopa
1889-1980



Yuhanon Mar Athanasios Episcopa: was born on 21 March 1928 to Vadakkal Varkey and Annamma of Chakkalaparambil family in Kottayam. He went for higher studies in Theology at Merphildil in England. On 14 June 1956 he was ordained as priest by Mathews Mar Athanasios. On 15 May 1978 Baselios Mar Thoma I Mathews Catholicos of the East consecrated him as Yuhanon Mar Athanasios at Pazhanji Church. He became the auxiliary Metropolitan of Kottayam diocese. He passed away on 2 October 1980. As he was a member of the Bethany Ashram in Perunad, Ranni, he was laid to rest at Perunad. Anniversary: 2 October

Mathews Mar Ivanios Metropolitan
1889-1880



Mathews Mar Ivanios Metropolitan: It was on 19th Jan 1889 that he was born to Mathew and Achamma of Vilya Parett family in Puthupally. He specialized in Theology at the Old Seminary as well as at Bishop's College, Calcutta. He was ordained as a priest on 7th June 1920, by Vattasseril Mar Dionysius at Parumala Seminary. He served as vicar for thirty three years in Valiya Palli, Puthupally. On 11 May 1953 at the Old Seminary, His Holiness Geevarghese II ordained him as Ramban. On 15 May 1953 at Elia Chapel, Kottayam he was consecrated as a Metropolitan with the title 'Mathews Mar Ivanios'. From 1965 onwards he was the head of the Kottayam diocese. He left

for his eternal abode 31 August 1980 and was laid to rest in Pampady Dayara. Anniversay: 31 August.

Yakoob Mar Polycarpos Metropolitan:
1921-1986



Yakoob Mar Polycarpos Metropolitan On 19 February 1921 was born this man of God to Chacko Mathew and Annamma of Mazhuvancheril family in Ayyampalli. He took his B.A degree from U.C College, Aluva and his B. T from Training College, Trivandrum. He received his deaconship and later on 3 July 1948 his priesthood from His Holiness Geevarghese II. On 15 May 1978 at Pazhanji Church H.H Baselios Marthoma Mathews I consecrated him as Metropolitan Yakoob Mar Polycarpos. He was made Metropolitan of Kochi diocese. He passed away on 26 December 1986 and was laid to rest in Sion Seminary Chapel, Koratty. Anniversary: 26 December.

Yuhanon Mar Sevarios Metropolitan
1920-1990



Yuhanon Mar Sevarios Metropolitan As the youngest son of Narimattathil Varghese Avira and Mariamma of Thrikothamangalam, Puthupally, he was born on 14 January 1920. He received his deaconship on 7 April 1943 at the Aramana Chapel, Muvattupuzha and on 7 July at Kurinji Church his priesthood from Ougen Mar Timotheos Metropolitan. On 26 February 1966 he was made Ramban by His Holiness Oughen Catholicose Bava. The same year on 24 August at Kolencherry he was consecrated as Yuhanon Mar Sevarios Metropolitan and from 1 October 1966 he took charge of Kochi diocese. Mar Sevarios, who acquired deep scholarship in the Syriac language translated into Malayalam the Lenten prayers, the Canonical prayers of the priests, the 3- day lent prayers, and also many 'Yama' prayers and 'Rehasya' Prayers. He left for his heavenly abode on 16 May 1990 and was laid to rest in Sion Seminary, Koratty. Anniversary: 16 May. ("Yama"= fixed interval as stipulated by the Church. "Rehasya prayer"= private prayer made without the Knowledge of others.)

Daniel Mar Philexionos Metropolitan
1910-1990



Daniel Mar Philexionos Metropolitan was born as the second son of P.E. Easow Kathanar of Vaduthala family in Omalloor on 10 May 1910. He took his B.A, Bed degrees. At the age of twelve he received his 'Korooyo' title from Vattasseril Geevarghese Mar Dionysius and on 11 December 1938 he got his deaconship from His Holiness Geevarghese II Catholica Bava. He was ordained as a priest on 9 June 1944. He resided in Basil Aramana in 1937 as the Secretary to "Puthencavu Kochu Thirumeni". In 1951 he was selected for higher ecclesiastical position. On 21 September 1951 His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II Catholicos of the East made him Ramban. On 15 May 1953 at Mar Elia cathedral, Kottayam, he was consecrated as Metropolitan Daniel Mar Philexinos. Thereafter he became head of the Thumpamon diocese. He protected the faith of the Church and promoted the theological pursuits. He formed spiritual organizations, and developed his diocese ensuring its spiritual growth. He was the Secretary of the Holy Episcopal Synod. He passed away on 13 December 1990 and his mortal remains were interred in Basil Aramana, Pathanamtaitta. Anniversary: 13 December

Joseph Mar Pachomiose Metropolitan
1926-1991



Joseph Mar Pachomiose Metropolitan was born on 19 June 1926 at Mulakulam to poovathinkal Varkey and Annamma. He took his B.A. from St. Albert's College, Eranakulam and his M.A in History and politics from Maharajah's College, Ernakulam. He pursued his higher studies in Theology at Cardiff St. Michel's College, England. He received his deaconship on the April 1945 and his priesthood on 22 June 1952. On 15 February 1975 at Puthencavu Church he was ordained as Ramban by Daniel Mar Philexinos. On 16 February 1975, at Niranam he was consecrated as Metropolitan Joseph Mar Pachomiose. From 19 July he was the diocesan head of Kandanad. He was the Secretary the Holy Episcopal Synod. He worked very hard to uphold the glory of the Malankara Church in the northern regions. He passed away on 19 August 1991 and his mortal remains were interred in Carmel Kunnupalli in Mulakulam. Anniversary: 19 August

Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan
1922-1996

Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan was born on 9 August 1922 to T.V.Pylee and Eley Pylee of Thadikal family in Thripunithra. He took his B.A degree from Indiana and his M.A. degree in Divinity from Princeton, Oklahoma, Universities. From Yale University he took his S.T.M. degree. He has done research studies in Oxford and in Germany at the Gregory of Nyssa Institute. He took his doctorate from Serampore. He received his priesthood on 2 November 1962 from His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II Catholicos of the East. On 16 February 1975 at Niranam, His Holiness Baselios Oughen Catholicos of the East consecrated him as Metropolitan Paulose Mar Gregorios. He served as the Principal of Orthodox Theological seminary, the head of the Delhi Diocese. For a time he was president of W.C.C. He won international fame as a foremost intellectual personality. He made his mark at different levels- as a thinker, scholar, theologian, visionary, orator, writer and journalist. He won several international awards including the Soviet Land Award, which he won in 1988. He passed away on 24 November 1996 at Delhi. He was laid to rest on the northern side of the Old Seminary Chapel.

Anniversary: 24 November.

Works of Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan✝

Zechariah Mar Dionysius Metropolitan
1924-1997



Zechariah Mar Dionysius Metropolitan To Chandapilla and Elizabeth of Mulamootil family in Kundara was born this man of God on 6th August 1924. He took his B.A. from National College, Thiruchirapalli and his Bed from Meston College, Madras. He became a member of Tabor Dayara in Pathanapuram in the year 1940. He studied for his priesthood under the disciplined tutorship of Thoma Mar Dionysius. He received his deaconship in 1945 and his priesthood in 1951. In 1971 he was elevated as Ramban. On 15 May 1978, at Pazhanji His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews I Catholicos of the East consecrated him as Metropolitan Zechariahs Mar Dionysius. He was the head of the Madras diocese from I January 1979. For fifty-seven years, he was a member of Mount Tabor Ashram in Pathanapuram. He passed away on 7 July 1997 in Madras and was laid to rest in Pathanapuram Dayara. Anniversary: 7 July.

Dr. Philipose Mar Theophilos Metropolitan
1911-1997



Dr. Philipose Mar Theophilos Metropolitan As the sixth son of Korah and Mariamma of Kallupurackal, Puthenangady, Kottayam he was born into this world on 9 May 1911. He took his B.A degree from Maharajah's College. He studied in St. Augustine's Canterbury, England, Cardiff, Chicago University and Asian University and took his M.A, T.H.M, D.D degrees and his doctorate degree in divinity from Harward University in Chicago. He received in 1929 from Vattasseril mar Dionysius the title of 'Korooyo' and in 1944 from Pampady Mar Gregorios Metropolitan his full deaconship and from is Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II Catholicos of the East his priesthood. He served as the Vicar of cheriya Palli in Kottayam for twelve years. On 26 February 1965 he became Ramban. On 24 August 1966, at Kolencherry His Holiness Baselios Oughen Catholicose consecrated him as Metropolitan and from 25 January he was head of the Angamaly diocese. From 1 February 1979 he took additional charge of Bombay diocese. He served as the Principal of Seminary for priests and as the President of Student Movement; He became member of the Central Committee of the W.C.C. He tirelessly put in the efforts for the progress of the Angamaly and Bombay dioceses. He passed away on 28 September 1997 and was laid to rest in Thrikunnath Seminary, Aluva. Anniversary: 28 September

Geevarghese Mar Dioscorus Metropolian: was born on 12 October 1926 as the youngest son of Kunjupappi and Achamma of Thevarvelil family in Kozh- encherry. After completing Intermediate at Madurai American College in 1948, he joined Madras Christian College. He got graduated from there in 1950 and further took his Master Degree in Sociology from Bombay School of Economics. He was serving as the Secretary of the Co- operative Bank in Kozhenchery. While undergoing Officers Training Course in Reserve Bank of India he had the divine call to join the Ministry of God. He resigned from Reserve Bank and joined Orthodox Theological Seminary at Kottayam for studies in Divinity.

He was ordained as a deacon in April 1963, and as priest in 1964 by His Holiness Geevarghese Catholicose II. In 1966, he went for higher studies in Theology at Jerusalem. In 1970 he founded the Holy

Geevarghese Mar Dioscorus
Metropolitan

1926-1999



Trinity Ashram in Ranni and opted to reside there. In 1973 he became the diocesan Secretary of Thumpamon . On 16 may 197 7 the Malankara Association that met at Mavelikara elected him for the Episcopal order. He was consecrated as Episcopa Geevarghese Mar Theoscorus by His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma mathews I, Catholicos of the East on 15 may 1978 at Pazhani Church. He became the first Episcopa of the newly formed Dioces of Thiruvananthapuram on 1 January 1979. On 28 February 1981 he was consecrated as a Metroploitan in the old Seminary Chapel. Ranny Holy Trinity Ashram, Ulloor Orthodox Church Centre, Edamulaikal V.M.D. M Centre, Sreekariyam Handicapped Children's welfare Centre, Thiruvananthapuram Holy Trinity School and Convent are all the fruits of his endeavours. He passed away on 23 July 1999 and was laid to rest in Holy Trinity Ashram, Ranny. Anniversary: 23 July.

Konattu Korah Mathen Cor-Episcopa: , a great Syriac Scholar of the 20th centaury, was one of the most famous disciples of Parumala Thirumeni. His earlier education was with his father himself. After that Konattu Korah Mathen continued the studies under Parumala Kochu Thirumeni. Proper guidance of Thirumeni, made him a great scholar of Syriac & theology . It was this Konattu Malpan, who translated and published the famous Prayer Book now used by Malankara Suriyani Churches, which is popularly known as 'Pampakuda Namaskaram' published in 1912. Besides this, he had translated & published a newer version of the entire New Testament and also many other Church Books.



Joseph Mar Pachomiose Metropolitan

1926-1991

Parumala Thirumeni being so confident of Konattu Malpan's ability & truthfulness, recommended him to the position of Priest Trustee of the Malankara Suriyani Church. Consequently he was elected as one of the three trustees of the Church in 1901. For 8 years he continued as Priest trustee together with Pulikottil Mor Divanyosious V, the then Metropolitan Trustee. When Wattesseril Thirumeni assumed the office of Metropolitan Trustee in 1909, he again continued with him as co-trustee. About a year later, due to some internal disputes, he together with the lay trustee opposed the Metropolitan Trustee. By 1911, the Internal Schism that followed, split the Church into two factions. Konatt Malpan and the lay trustee stood with their supreme spiritual head, the Patriarch of Antioch. Konatt Malpan

continued to be the Priest Trustee of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Church till his death in 1928.

Mar Gregorios Metropolitan: At the turn of the 20th century, there lived a Holy man on a haunted island, called Parumala, on the banks of Rivers Pampa and Achencovil in Kerala, India. He was the prophet of his time, who set moral tone for his people. Powerful like Prophet Elijah and glittering like John the Baptist, he remains the beacon and a great Saint of the Malankara Orthodox Church. It was on June 15, 1848 that Kochu Iypera (Geevarghese) was born in the priestly family of "Pallithatta Thanagattu" of Chathuruthy, Mulanthuruthy, Kerala. His parents were Kochu Mathai and Mariam, who had three sons and two daughters. After the birth of fifth child Iypera, his mother Mariam died. He was baptised as Geevarghese at his home Parish, MarThoman Church Mulunthuruthy. The disciplined life of Mar Gregorios enriched by prayer & fasting helped him to commune with God from his childhood days. He had a thorough knowledge in Theology and Syriac, which he developed through his teachers, Pallithatta Rev. Fr. Gheevarghese Malpan (his uncle), Konat Malpan & the Patriarchal delegate Yuyakkim Mar Koorilose. His Grace was a man of prayer and made it clear to the world that Prayer and devotion is mightier than any worldly possession. Parumala Thirumeni's short life was remarkable in many respects. After the early days of education in Syriac and theology, Kochu Iypera was ordained as deacon on September 14, 1859, by palakunnathu Mathews Mar Athanasios Metropolitan. He was only ten years old at that time.

One day Malpan became seriously ill with smallpox. Deacon Geevarghese was the only one who stayed and took care of him, while all others were sent home. On the eighth day Malpan died and Deacon became ill. During this time he had a vision of St. Mary in his dream, descending to console him, and exhorting him to dedicate the rest of his life to the Lord. He pledged "He would". This was a heavenly vision that enables him to become a humble servant of God. Very soon the deacon recovered. Deacon

Geevarghese continued his theological training under Konat Malpan at pampakuda. Some times later, he joined Yoyakim Mar Ivanios, the Metropolitan of Syria who was sojourning in Malankara, as private secretary as well as learning Syric from him.

Thirumeni was blessed with the order of 'Korooyo' at the tender age of ten by Palakunnath Mor Athnasiaus at the Karingachira St. George church. At the age of 18, he was elevated as 'Shamshono' and In 1865 Mar Ivanios ordained the deacon as 'Kassisso' and 'Corepiscopa' by Yuyakkim Mor Koorilose. Later he stayed at the Vettikkal Dayra and led a strict monastic life. In 1872 he was ordained as Ramban Geevarghese (Monk-Priest) by Pulikottil Mar Dionysius.

Fr. Geevarghese ministered in Mulanthuruthy church for a time residing at Vettical Dayara. It was here that the future Metropolitan trained his body and mind by ascetic virtues in gaining communion with God. Today it serves as head quarters of Kandanad diocese.

Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysios Metropolitan had established the frame of a future Seminary at Parumala in the south. Mar Dionysios soon put Fr. Geevarghese in charge of training deacons in theology and Syric. Mar Dionysios raised him to the order of monks (Ramban) in 1872.

When Patriarch Ignatius Mar Peter III visited Malankara in 1875, Ramban Geevarghese served as his secretary and interpreter, and traveled with him through out Kerala. Impressed by the simplicity, sincerity, commitment, and spirituality of Geevarghese Ramban. The Patriarch of Antioch consecrated four (4) Metropolitans at St. Thomas North Paravur church, Kerala in December 10, 1876. The youngest among them was Geevarghese Ramban and who was named Mar Gregorios.

Because of his age everybody called him "Kochu Thirumeni" (Youngest Bishop). Mar Gregorios was appointed as the bishop of Niranam diocese, Kerala. He started a monastery at Parumala, Kerala.

Mar Gregorios was a man of God, who lived not according to the way of the flesh but according to the law of God. He led a virtuous and austere life, like a monk, living on frugal diet enriched by prayer and fasting.

At Parumala Seminary he led a austere life. He woke up at 4 am in the morning and prayed till 5am. He

taught deacons till 7am followed by prayer and his light breakfast. From 9am till 11am he taught deacons again. From 11am to noon he took care of administrative matters and again went to prayer at noon and then to lunch. He rested till 1:30pm and taught till 4pm with a brief prayer in between. From 4pm to 5:30pm he was busy with his administrative duties. After evening prayers and supper he taught Bible to the deacons. After the complaining, at 9pm he would let the deacons go to bed, but he would still be praying until midnight. On Wednesdays and Fridays and lenten days, he would fast till evening. Besides, he observed his own special fasts. People came from far and near to seek his blessings and paternal advises.

In his own words *"Prayer brings truth, religious faith, honesty and respect among the people."* In his life time, Mar Gregorios was known for strict observance of ascetic rigorous in the footsteps of St. Antony and had gained divine powers.

Mar Gregorios had a wider acceptance among all the sections of the Syrian Church. In the earlier part of his life, Mar Gregorios spent most of his time in North Kerala. But after becoming a Metropolitan for Niranam diocese, his activities continued in the south. Until then, marriages between people staying North and South of Kerala, were not common. On the insistence of Mor Gregorios, who had a wider acceptance among the entire Syrian Christian community of Malankara, many marriages took place among these people and this resulted in having a closer cultural contact.

With the initiative of Parumala Kochu Thirumeni and Joseph Mar Dionysius, the then Malankara Metropolitan, many educational institutions were started by the Malankara

Four years, the Metropolitan served the diocese and was a strong defence against the reform movement. St. Gregorios became sick when he returned from Veeyapuram Church after blessing a marriage. Even from the beginning of his illness he knew that he was in his last days. The news of illness spread all over Malankara. Although he grew weaker day by day, his face shone brighter and brighter. It was on November 2, 1902, midnight he was ready to meet his heavenly father. He left his earthly abode and flew to his heavenly eternity. In 1947, The Holy Episcopal synod canonized and proclaimed Mar



Joseph Mar Pachomiose
Metropolitan
1926-1991

Gregorios as a Saint of the Orthodox Church. The Saint's tomb at Parumala today is a pilgrimage center. There are hundreds of instances that proved his Saintliness. Countless people receive favours and blessings through his intercession.

The growing flow of pilgrims to his tomb, several years after his demise, tells a story of a man of faith, prayer, healing, and great intercession.

What are some of the qualities that made ParumalaThirumeni an exemplary bishop and a spiritual leader.

1. **Call of God.** From his childhood he was aware of his call to serve the Lord and the Church. He surrendered his life completely to God and allowed the Holy Spirit to dwell in him and to control and guide his life.

2. **Dependence on God.** He depended upon God for his physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs. He was not concerned about what would happen to him in the future. He believed that God would provide for him. How many of us worry about what will happen in the future?

3. **Communion with God.** He was a prayer "warrior". His disciplined prayer life helped him to commune with God and receive guidance from Him. Before making any major decision, he used to spend time in fasting and prayer. Many of us recite our canonical prayers, but we don't know how to commune with God.

4. **Life-long Student.** Geevarghese Malpan and Konattu Malpan had great influence upon Deacon Geevarghese. Under the guidance of Konattu Malpan, he studied Syriac, the Holy Scriptures, theology, worship, and canon law. He also made very good use of Malpan Achen's library. He continued his studies during the rest of his life.

5. **Dedicated and Devoted Teacher.** His rigorous religious training at Pampakuda with Konattu Malpan Achen helped him to become a dedicated and devoted teacher. He provided religious and spiritual training for all the deacons who lived with him at Parumala Seminary. He influenced all of them by his life and example. Many of his students became spiritual leaders in Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church. How many of us have any influence on the lives of our students?

6. **Serving Others.** He always remembered what Jesus said, "If you want to be great in the

Kingdom of God, be a servant." He served God's people without expecting anything in return. Since he had experienced the unconditional love of God, he shared that love with others. He reached out and touched the lives of many that were in need.

7. **Trusting in God.** Since he trusted in God to provide for his needs, he never worried about "tomorrow." Whatever he had, belonged to God, and he believed they were God's gifts. Whatever he received from the people belonged to the Church. How many of our leaders really trust in God? Don't we try to keep everything in our names?

8. **Healing the Sick.** During his ministry as a priest and bishop, people used to ask him to pray for them. They especially asked him to pray for the sick and lay his hands on them for healing. Many miraculous healings took place during his lifetime. The healing ministry of Parumala Thirumeni is still continuing. How many of us have time to pray for others?

9. **Friend of the Poor.** He was a friend of the poor, downtrodden, and untouchables. He encouraged the establishment of schools and the spread of the Gospel to the neighboring states and to low caste people who lived among the Syrian Christians.

10. **Defender of the Faith.** As a priest and a metropolitan, he defended the Orthodox faith and taught the believers through letters, articles, and sermons. Even though he was the Metropolitan of Niranam Diocese, his ministry extended all over Malankara.

11. **Glorified God in Sickness.** Even in his sickness and suffering, he glorified God and thanked Him for His grace. With Paul he was able to say, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." He did not consider death "as an enemy" but "as a friend." How many of us are afraid of death?