



THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE EPHREMITES



BULLETIN OF THE EPARCHY OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI - PUNE

VOL. VI NO. VII NOV 2020



SEASON OF ANNUNCIATION

Feast of Commemoration
of Bishop Paulose Mar Philexinos (Nov 3)



EPARCHY OF ST. EPHREM KHADKI-PUNE
EXPRESSES HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE



His Grace Most. Rev.
Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan

The Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

THE EPHREMITÉ

Bulletin of the Diocese of St Ephrem, Khadki - Pune



VOL VI | NO. 7 | November 2020

Diocese of St. Ephrem
51 Bhau Patil Road
Bopodi - 411 020
Pune, Maharashtra

THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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VOL VI | NO. 7 | November 2020

PATRON

H.E. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC
Eparchial Bishop

EDITOR

Fr. Melwin Mathew OIC
The Chancellor

CIRCULATION

Local Parish Priests

DESIGN LAYOUT

Anita Printers

PROOF

Mrs Julie Phillip, Borivili &
Ms Bincy Daniel, Vikhroli &
Mr Binu Daniel, Vikhroli

DISTRIBUTION

Shibin Mathew,
Bishop's House Office

CORRESPONDENTS

Tom, Angel, Sojjisha, Binu, Sijo, Cibi, Jinu,
Nithin, Aksha Rajan, Jerome, Jerin James,
Lijo, Libin, Bincy, Shibu, Beena, Jacob, C E
Joy, Anish, John, Jeffi, Abraham, Preethy,
Teeja, Joicy, Thomas, Shiju Thomas, Benson
& Sabu

PRINTING

Anita Printers, Wadgaonsheri, Pune

PUBLISHED BY

The Chancellor
Diocese of St. Ephrem,
51 Bhau Patil Road, Bopodi, Pune
Maharashtra, India

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VOICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Greetings, love and blessings to one and all! Hope you are all fine. My prayers accompany you. I know that I am strengthened by your prayers. We are united in the Lord! We are united in our prayer to the Lord, that he heal the world of the Corona virus.



The month of October was a blessing to us. We celebrated the Mission Sunday in our homes and that was in itself the providence of God wherein he taught us that our homes and families- the domestic Church- should be the real agents of mission. In our homes we prayed for the missions and also renewed our commitment to mission of the church as families.

Despite the Covid pandemic, trusting in the Lord, I am also in our missions to take the feel of the ground situation and devise further means and mechanisms to strengthen our mission. It is a visit long overdue. I cannot postpone it any further! Please do continue to pray for me and our missions. The poor and the needy in the peripheries need our support.

Fratelli Tutti

The Encyclical '*Fratelli Tutti*' of Pope Francis that came out last month as the second social encyclical of Pope Francis after '*Laudato Si*' is on 'fraternity and social friendship.' It reminds us of a fraternal openness that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives. (FT 1) Pope Francis exhorts us of understanding everyone as our brothers and sisters and embrace them. I urge everyone to read the encyclical and get informed by it. The same shall be a material for our study, reflection, meditation and prayer leading us to activities to achieve 'fraternity and social friendship' in a global world as Jesus intends. Let this Papal encyclical further enhance our commitment to mission and society at large.

Let us enter a new Liturgical Year!

As usual, we are entering a new Liturgical Year, on Sunday, November 1, with the *Kudosh Itho* Sunday, the Sunday of sanctification of the Church. With this we enter the first Liturgical Season of *Suboro* or the Season of the Annunciation, the annunciation of the unfolding mystery and history of salvation, beginning with the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist, the precursor of the Lord, leading to the annunciation of the incarnation of the Word of God Jesus Christ from the Blessed Virgin Mary. We then prepare for Christmas, the birth of the Saviour, Jesus. I wish you a good beginning and a fruitful new Liturgical Year! The month of November is a time of remote preparation for Christmas as we begin the season of Suboro.

Social Communication Media Day

On 15 November the Church celebrates Social Communication Media Day. In the Covid era the use of social media communication has increased rapidly. In our Eparchy the Communication Media Department is doing a marvelous job in live streaming Holy Qurbano and other devotional events and programmes. I appreciate Fr Gevarghese Panicker OIC and all the members of the Eparchial commission for Media and Communication. I exhort everyone to use social media prudently and in a manner that promotes Christian values. Let us use media and not become addicts to it!

Priest Retreat

Myself and the priests and of our Eparchy will be doing their annual retreat from November 16 to 20, 2020. As we face the pandemic, the retreat is held through the digital platform. Please do pray for me and all our priests. It is an occasion of spiritual renewal for us. I request all our beloved Faithful whom we serve to be united with us in prayer.

Suvisheshasangham

I am happy to note that the activities of the Suvisheshasangham is going on with great enthusiasm through the digital platforms. I appreciate all the SS members especially those in the leadership. I thank Rev Fr Antony Kakkanatu, the Sabha level Director of SS, for taking the lead in the same in collaboration with the Eparchial team led by Fr Stephen. I am happy to inform you that Rev Fr Varghese Valikkodath has been appointed as the new Eparchial director of SS replacing Fr Stephen Chembakathoppe. I thank Fr Stephen and wish Fr Varghese all success.

Blessings!

We are ever grateful to the Lord for his providence. In our Eparchy, we are thankful to the Lord for the spiritual growth with which he blesses us always. On 23 November we complete one year as an Eparchy. Let us thank the Lord for his providence and blessings. Let us renew our commitment as an Eparchy. May God continue to bless our Eparchy!

Let us pray that God may heal the world of this pandemic. Relying on the Lord, I invoke on you and our homes, our priests, sisters, seminarians and the faithful, the love of God the Father, the grace of the only begotten son and the abiding love and communion of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever! I entrust myself to your prayers.

Yours lovingly in Christ

Your Aboon



✠ **Thomas Mar Antonios OIC**
Eparchial Bishop

DECREE

“An Eparchy is a portion of the People of God that is entrusted to a Bishop to shepherd, with the cooperation of the presbyters in such a way that, adhering to its pastor and gathered by him through the gospel and the Eucharist in the Holy Spirit, it constitutes a particular Church in which the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church of Christ truly exists and is operative” (CCEO c 177 §1). This canon indicates clearly that an Eparchy is shepherded by the Bishop in cooperation with the presbyters. To actualize this communion and participation in the pastoral activities of the Eparchy is envisaged the Presbyteral Council, “a body of priests representing the Presbyterate, and which in accord with the norm of law, assists the Eparchial Bishop by its advice in those things that regard the needs of pastoral activity and the good of the Eparchy” (CCEO c 264).

The Exarchate of St Ephrem being elevated to an Eparchy has to constitute the Presbyteral Council and the College of Eparchial Consultors whose members are chosen basically from the Presbyteral Council. The Presbyteral Council to function canonically should have its own Statutes. Hence, before constituting the Presbyteral Council, we drafted the Statutes, discussed it with the Eparchial Curia on 17 September 2020 and were sent to all Priests on the same day. On a Zoom platform on 26 September 2020 all the Priests of our Eparchy discussed the draft clause by clause. Thereafter the draft was resent by email on 27 September 2020 to all giving 7 days to confirm whether the proposed amendments were included.

If we go by CPC SMCC c 113, the number of priests elected to the PC will be only 4, that is, according to the ratio 1:10 of the number Priests in the Eparchy. It is a very small number and less than 5, the number of *ex-officio* members. In the context explained above, I requested Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, the Father and Head of our Church to grant an exemption from CPC SMCC c 113: 2^o - 3^o so that we would like to increase the number of

the elected members to be at least 7, that is, according to the ratio 1:5. His Beatitude granted the exemption by his letter Prot. No. SMCC/DKP 03/413/2020 dated 13 October 2020.

WHEREAS the byelaws of the Presbyteral Council of the Eparchy of St Ephrem Khadki (Pune) has been formulated,

AND WHEREAS, it is canonically and pastorally necessary to constitute the Presbyteral Council of the Eparchy and later constitute the College of Eparchial Consultors at the earliest,

I, hereby promulgate the “**Statutes of the Presbyteral Council of the Eparchy of St Ephrem**” and the “**Statutes of the College of Eparchial Consultors of the Eparchy of St Ephrem.**” These Statutes come into force on the first day of November in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty, the feast of the *Qudos Ítho*, the First Sunday of the Liturgical Year. May this be for the greater glory of God and good of the People of God of the Eparchy of St Ephrem!

Given from the Eparchial Curia of St Ephrem in Khadki-Pune on the 15th day of October in the year 2020.



✠ **Thomas Mar Antonios OIC**
Eparchial Bishop





Fr. Melwin Mathew Anthalil OIC
Chancellor

**STATUTES
OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL
OF THE EPARCHY OF ST EPHREM**

(CCEO cc 264-270; CPCSMCC cc 112-113)

1. The Presbyteral Council is a canonical body of Priests representing the Presbyterate, and which in accord with the norm of law, assists the Eparchial Bishop by its advice in those matters that regard the needs of the pastoral activity and the good of the Eparchy (CCEO c 264).
2. The name of this Council is: The Presbyteral Council of the Eparchy of St Ephrem.

The Purpose of the Presbyteral Council

3. The Presbyteral Council represents the Presbyterate of the Eparchy
4. The Presbyteral Council is constituted to assist the Eparchial Bishop and to give him advice with regard to the pastoral activity and good of the Eparchy. It functions in subjection to and cooperation with the Eparchial Bishop.
5. In our Eparchy the Presbyteral Council assists the Eparchial Bishop in a special way in the work of evangelisation.
6. The Presbyteral Council evaluates the apostolic activities of the Eparchy led by the Eparchial Commissions; it studies the practical suggestions made by them and expresses its opinion; it chalks out follow-up plans for executing the consensus emerging from such evaluations and planning, with the consent of the Eparchial Bishop.

The President of the Presbyteral Council

7. The President of the Eparchial Presbyteral Council is the Eparchial Bishop. He convokes the Council and presides over the Council.
8. The topics to be part of the agenda are fixed by the President.

The topics suggested by the members can also be accepted by the President.

9. The Presbyteral Council can never act without the Eparchial Bishop, who alone has the responsibility to make public those things that have been done in the Council (CCEO 269 §3)

Membership

10. The following are the *ex-officio* members of the Presbyteral Council
 - a. Protosyncellus
 - b. Syncelli
 - c. Chancellor
 - d. Eparchial Finance Officer
 - e. Rector of the Minor Seminary
 - f. Mission Coordinator
11. The membership of the *ex-officio* members expires when they no longer hold the office.
12. The other members of the Presbyteral Council are:
 - a. The Representatives elected from among the priests of the Eparchy
 - b. The Representatives elected from among the Religious Priests serving in the Pastoral Ministry of the Eparchy
 - c. Three Priests nominated by the Eparchial Bishop

Loss of Membership

13. A member of the Presbyteral Council loses his membership if he
 - a. is relieved from the active ministry of this Eparchy.
 - b. does not attend continuously three meetings of the Council without legitimate reasons; in consultation with the same Council, the President can initiate disciplinary action against the member.
 - c. is subject to serious canonical punishment.
 - d. resigns from the membership of the Council and the same is

accepted by the President.

- 14.** A substitute for the member who lost the membership is to be elected from the same segment of the presbyterate which lost the representation. The term of such members is the remainder of the term of the existing Presbyteral Council.

Election

- 15.** The following are the norms for election to the Presbyteral Council
- a. The Representatives of the Priests ascribed in the Eparchy according to the ratio 1:5 considering the year of their ordination.
 - b. The Representatives of the Priests from other Eparchies who serve in the Eparchy according to the ratio 1:5 considering the year of their ordination.
 - c. The Representatives of the Religious Priests who serve in the pastoral ministry of the Eparchy according to the ratio 1:5 considering the year of their ordination.
 - d. Electors shall see that the different age groups among the priests get representation in the Council (CPCSMCC c 113).
 - e. The majority of the members of the Presbyteral Council shall be elected members.
 - f. The duration of membership in the Presbyteral Council expires when the duration of the Council expires.
 - g. The Priests elected to the Presbyteral Council should be outstanding in solid faith, good morals, piety, zeal for souls and prudence; he shall not be under canonical sanctions.
 - h. The Priests of the Eparchy who are living or serving outside the Eparchy or those who will be hindered from attending regularly the meetings of the Presbyteral Council shall not be elected.
- 16.** For an election to be valid, the electors should be informed of it in advance. One to be declared elected, he should get the highest number of votes in the group. If two persons get equal

votes, the one senior by Sacred Ordination will be declared elected (CCEO c 956 §1)

17. The electors shall see that different Ecclesiastical Districts and Apostolic Activities are represented in the Presbyteral Council.
18. Those elected are informed officially of their election through a letter of the Eparchial Bishop. Taking an oath the elected becomes a member of the Presbyteral Council. Those who do not take the oath cannot function as the members of the Council.

The Secretary of the Presbyteral Council

19. The Secretary of the Presbyteral Council is elected from among the members of the Council.
20. It is the duty of the Secretary to inform the members of the meeting of the Presbyteral Council according to the direction of the Eparchial Bishop; to conduct the correspondence concerning the Council; to write and keep the report of the meetings; to preserve the pertinent documents.
21. The Secretary informs in writing at least two weeks in advance, the date, venue and the agenda of the meeting.
22. The Secretary of the Presbyteral Council shall send to the members of the Council all circulars and decrees issued from time to time by the Eparchial Bishop

Procedural Norms

23. The Presbyteral Council is to have its own statutes, drafted according to the norms of the CCEO and CPCSMCC and approved by the Eparchial Bishop (CCEO c 265)
24. Eparchial Bishop is to consult the Presbyteral Council those matters prescribed in the CCEO and CPCSMCC; however, he needs its consent only in case expressly determined by the CCEO and CPCSMCC (CCEO c 269 §2).

- 25.** The members of the Presbyteral Council are to be designated for a term of five years (CCEO c 270 §1). Upon the expiration of their term, they continue in the exercise of their functions until a new Presbyteral Council is constituted.
- 26.** When the Eparchial See is vacant, the Presbyteral Council ceases to exist and its functions fulfilled by the College of Eparchial Consultors; within a year from taking canonical possession of the Eparchy, the Eparchial Bishop must establish a new Presbyteral Council (CCEO c 270 §2)
- 27.** If the Presbyteral Council is no longer fulfilling the functions committed for the good of the Eparchy or is gravely abusing it, the Eparchial Bishop can dissolve it after consulting the Major Archbishop-Catholicos; but he must establish a new Presbyteral Council within a year (CCEO c 270 §3).
- 28.** The Presbyteral Council is to be convened at least twice in a year. In case of urgency, the President has the right to convene the Council.
- 29.** The President can invite, in case of necessity, experts from outside to participate in the Presbyteral Council. He/she leaves the Presbyteral Council after the presentation of the matter which the person was invited to discuss.
- 30.** In order to coordinate the various activities of the various zones of the Eparchy, Committees can be formed from among the members of the Presbyteral Council.
- 31.** When the term of the members of the Presbyteral Council expires, the President can appoint a Committee to monitor the election of the new members. This Committee in consultation with the President facilitates the election process.
- 32.** The members of the College of Eparchial Consultors are freely appointed by the Eparchial Bishop from those who, at the time of their appointment, are members of the Presbyteral Council (CCEO c 271 §4). In case a member loses membership in the Presbyteral Council, he will lose his

membership in the College of Eparchial Consultants as well.

- 33.** The Eparchial Bishop is to consult the Presbyteral Council in the following matters:
- a. To convene the Eparchial Assembly (CCEO c 236)
 - b. To establish, change and suppress Ecclesiastical Districts (CCEO c 276 §2)
 - c. To establish Personal Parishes (CCEO c 280 §1)
 - d. To erect, modify and suppress Parishes (CCEO c 280 §2)
 - e. To erect a Parish in the church of a Religious Congregation or Order (CCEO c 282 §1)
 - f. To utilise the Parish offerings and to provide for the remuneration of the Parish Priest and other Parish Clerics in accord with CCEO c 390 (CCEO c 291)
- 34.** The members of the Presbyteral Council are to fulfil meaningfully the responsibilities entrusted to them. They shall keep up the secrecy of the topics, in accordance with the nature of the topic discussed in the meetings. The President has the right to take canonical action on those who violate this.
- 35.** The members of the Presbyteral Council shall be vigilant to reject conscientiously all trends that go against ecclesial, faith and family life. They shall be ever faithful and vigilant to uphold the values the Church fosters.
- 36.** It is vested in the Eparchial Bishop the right to renew, change, add or delete any article in this Statute.

STATUTES
OF THE COLLEGE OF EPARCHIAL CONSULTORS
OF THE EPARCHY OF ST EPHREM

(CCEO c 271)

1. The College of Eparchial Consultors is established as a canonical body of Priests representing the Presbyterate, and which in accord with the norm of law, assists the Eparchial Bishop or the Eparchial Administrator in the exercise of his Power of Governance by its advice or consent in those matters stipulated by law (CCEO c 271 §1). When the Eparchial See is vacant, it participates in the governance of the Eparchy according to the norm of law.
2. The name of this College is: The College of Eparchial Consultors of the Eparchy of St Ephrem.
3. The College is constituted for a period of five years, but upon the expiration of the term, they continue in the exercise of their functions until a new College is constituted (CCEO c 271 §2)
4. The members of the College of Eparchial Consultors must be not less than six nor more than twelve in number; if, for any reason whatever, within the determined five-year period there are fewer than the minimum number of members of the College, the Eparchial Bishop is to restore the College by appointment of new members, otherwise the college cannot act validly (CCEO c 271 §3). Considering the number of Priests of the Eparchy, the minimum number is fixed to be six till the Eparchial Bishop deems it good to fix an increased number.
5. The members of the College of Eparchial Consultors are freely appointed by the Eparchial Bishop from among those who, at the time of appointment, are members of the Presbyteral Council (CCEO c 271 §4).

6. The Eparchial Bishop presides over the College of Eparchial Consultors.
7. When the Eparchial See is vacant, the Major Archbishop-Catholicos appoints an Administrator according to the norm of CCEO c 220. 3°. After taking canonical possession of the Office of the Administrator according to the norm of CCEO c 220.4°, the Administrator presides over the College of Eparchial Consultors (CCEO c 271 §5). In the interim, it is presided over by the Priest of the same College who is senior by sacred ordination (CCEO c 271 §5).

**The Rights and obligations of the College
of Eparchial Consultors**

8. The Eparchial Consultors are the members of the Eparchial Assembly (CCEO c 238 §1.3°).
9. In order to take canonical possession of office, the Coadjutor Bishop and the Auxiliary Bishop must show the letter of Canonical Provision to the Eparchial Bishop as well as to the College of Eparchial Consultors (CCEO c 214 §§2-3).
10. The Administrator of the Eparchy named by the Major Archbishop-Catholicos, after making the profession of faith in the presence of the Major Archbishop-Catholicos, to exercise his office, takes canonical possession of the office by presenting his letter of appointment to the College of Eparchial Consultors (CCEO c 220 .4°).
11. When the Eparchial See is vacant, until the appointment of an Administrator, the governance of the Eparchy transfers to the Eparchial Consultors according to the norms of CCEO cc 221 .2° and 222. Then its President must inform the Major Archbishop-Catholicos of the vacancy of the See (CCEO cc 221 .1° and 271 §5).
12. When the Eparchial See is vacant, the College of Eparchial Consultors may provide for the administration of certain

- ecclesiastical goods according to the norm of CCEO c 232 §1.
- 13.** When the Eparchial See is vacant, the Presbyteral Council ceases to exist; then the College of Eparchial Consultors fulfils the function of a Presbyteral Council (CCEO c 270 §2).
 - 14.** The Eparchial Bishop or the Administrator of the Eparchy needs the consent of the College of Eparchial Consultors,
 1. For the appointment of a Pastor for a determined period of time in a special case (CCEO c 284 §3 .3°)
 2. For the removal of the Chancellor or other Notaries by the Eparchial Administrator (CCEO c 255)
 3. For ascription of a Cleric to the Eparchy, for the dismissal of a Cleric from the Eparchy or transfer to another Eparchy, on the part of the Eparchial Administrator after the Eparchial See has been vacant for one year (CCEO c 363. 2°)
 4. For the Eparchial Administrator to grant dimissorial letters (CCEO c 750 §1 .2°)
 5. To accomplish certain alienations (CCEO c 1036 §1.1°-2°).
 - 15.** The Eparchial Bishop or the Administrator of the Eparchy is required to consult the College of Eparchial Consultors on the following matters
 1. For the appointment or removal of the Eparchial Finance Officer (CCEO c 262 §§1-2)
 2. To name persons to the Finance Council (CCEO c 263 §1)
 3. To suppress a Juridic Person erected by the Eparchial Bishop (CCEO c 928. 2°).
 - 16.** When the Eparchial See is impeded according to the norm of CCEO c 233 §1, it is for the College of Eparchial Consultors to elect a Priest to govern the Eparchy (CCEO c 233 §2).
 - 17.** Whenever the law establishes that the Eparchial Bishop or the Eparchial Administrator needs the consent or counsel of the College of Eparchial Consultors, he has to convene them according to the norm of CCEO c 934

Notifications from the Chancellery

Appointments

Rev Fr Varghese Vallikodath has been appointed as the Secretary of the Eparchial Commissions for Bible Apostolate and Evangelization. He shall be the Eparchial Director of *Suvisheshasangham*.

Relieving

Rev. Fr Stephen Chempakathoppe has been relieved from the offices of the Secretary of the Eparchial Commissions for Bible Apostolate and Evangelization. He is also relieved from the office of the Eparchial Director of *Suvisheshasangham*.

Annual Clergy Retreat

The Annual Clergy Retreat of the Eparchy of St Ephrem shall be held from 16 to 20 November through Zoom digital platform.

Family Apostolate

- **The Online Marriage Preparation Course Schedule is as follows:**

November 2020	27-29
January 2021	29-31
March 2021	19-21



- **Adult Catechism for Partners:** It is 14 days online course for people joining our Church from Non-Catholic Churches or other religions in view of marriage. It includes basic catechism as well as familiarization of the Prayers and sacraments of our Church with special emphasis on Confession and Holy Qurbano.
- **CONTACT-**
 - ✓ WATSAPP- +91 8928964910
 - ✓ CALL- +91 7719890013, +91 7767808685
 - ✓ EMAIL- registrations@familyapostolatepune.com
 - ✓ WEBSITE- familyapostolateesepune.org

Institutional News

MGC, Chennai

1. VIRTUAL PRAYER MEET

Students' Virtual Prayer Meet started with 186 participants including students and staffs through Zoom platform on 19.09.2020 at 9.30am. The theme of the prayer meet was “Light in the Darkness”. The Guests were from “Youth United for Christ” team.

The Prayer Meet began with an opening prayer by Prof. S. Ann Hepzibah Niraja, Vice Principal, Shift I, followed by Welcome Address. Later Bro. Eric Norohna and Bro. Peter Acharaya (Youth United for Christ) began the session with an action song and gradually took the participants to an hour of worship. After worship, Fr. Ritche Vincent shared the gospel with the students with a motivational homily. Prayer Meet came to an end at 11 am with an “Altar call”, followed by vote of thanks. At the end of the session feedback link along with a space for prayer points has been provided to the students.

2. WEBINAR ON OPEN SOURCE TOOLS FOR LEARNING ELECTRONICS

A webinar on Open source tools for learning Electronics was organised for the students of Electronics and Communication Science on 19th September 2020 at 9.00am. The programme started with a prayer by the vice-principal of shift-1, Mrs Ann Hepzibah Niraja. The resource person for the webinar was Dr.N.Subhashini, Associate Professor, School of Electronics Engineering (SENSE) Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai Campus. Some demonstrations on how to use open source tools like LTSpice, Logisimetc for understanding electronic circuits were presented.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHER...

1. Rev. Fr. Varghese Mattamana (Nov 20)

HAPPY FEAST DEAR FATHERS

1. Rev. Fr Samuel Thekkekavinal (Nov 10)
2. Rev. Fr. Philip Pulipra (Nov 14)
3. Rev. Fr. Philip Kaleeckal (Nov 14)
4. Rev. Fr. Mathew Pallikunnel (Nov 16)
5. Rev. Fr. Melwin Mathew Anthalil OIC (Nov 16)



Important Dates to Note

- 01: Qudos Eetho Sunday
Beginning of the Liturgical Year
Commemoration of All Saints
- 03: Comm. of Bishop Paulose Mar Philexinos
- 08: Hudos Eetho Sunday
- 13: Feast of Bishop Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom
- 15: Message to Zachariah, Social Communication Day
- 16: St. Mathew, the Apostle
- 21: Entrance of Mary Mother of God, into the Temple
- 22: Annunciation to Mary, Mother of God
- 23: Erection of the Eparchy of St. Ephrem, Khadki
- 30: St. Andrew, the Apostle

Bishop's Diary November 2020

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---|-----------|
| 01 - 04 | Sat - Wed | : | Chennai |
| 05 - 06 | Thu - Fri | : | Hyderabad |
| 06 - 30 | | : | Pune |

**Festal Greetings & Prayers to Bishop
Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom (Nov 13)**



Congratulations Dear Fathers



Rev. Fr. Varghese Valikkodath
(Director of Evangelization and Bible Apostolate)

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Printed and Published by

The Chancellor, Eparchy of St. Ephrem

51 Bhau Patil Road, Bopodi, Pune - 411020 Tel: +91- 8086898897 Email: ephremite100@gmail.com