

MELBOURNE MAR THOMA CHURCH

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

God's love is made complete in us

IN THIS ISSUE

- Vicar's message
- Lectionary
- July Church Services & Events
- Prayer Meetings
- Sunday School
- Youth
- YFF
- Sevika Sangham
- Senior Citizens Fellowship
- STEFM Annual Day
- Words of Wisdom
- Birthdays and Wedding Anniversary

Vicar's Message

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

1 John 4:16

Greetings to you all in the name of our lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

Just When It's Coldest, Love Shines.

As winter wraps Melbourne in its chilly embrace, our city's streets may seem quieter, but the spirit of community and compassion remains strong. Amidst the cold and darkness, we find opportunities to shine brighter, to serve others with kindness, and to reflect on the things that truly matter. In this issue, we will explore ways to follow Jesus' example of love and service, even in the midst of winter's challenges.

Jesus' Gift of Peace

In John 14:27, Jesus says, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' As we navigate life's challenges and uncertainties, Jesus offers us a peace that transcends worldly understanding. This peace is not dependent on external circumstances, but rather on the presence of God within us. May we hold onto this promise, allowing Jesus' peace to calm our troubled hearts and guide us through life's ups and downs.

Joining in Prayer & Love

As our house visiting continues, this is a wonderful opportunity to build connections, share experiences, and pray for one another. Through these visits, we can come to know each other better, understand each other's struggles and joys, and bear each other's burdens. May these visits be a source of encouragement and blessing to all involved, as we seek to live out our faith in practical ways and demonstrate God's love to our community.

Joyous Junior Sunday School Camp.

We announce that our Sunday School Junior Camp is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for July 12th, as we embark on a fun-filled adventure of learning, games, and friendship.

This camp is a fantastic opportunity for our children to deepen their understanding of God's love and values, and to experience the joy of community with their peers. Through engaging activities, interactive lessons, and meaningful discussions, our children will have the chance to grow in their faith and develop a stronger connection with God. We kindly request that parents send their children to this camp.

Through Sunday School, our children can experience God and kingdom values in their lives, shaping them into compassionate, confident, and faith-filled individuals.

Join Our Satellite Services.

As many people are migrating to Melbourne, we want to welcome and support those who are building a new life here. Our satellite services are a great way to connect with others and find a sense of community.

Join us for our satellite services, which take place throughout the month. These services provide an opportunity to worship, build relationships, and grow in faith together. Let's come together to support one another and share God's love in our city.

Journeying into a New Chapter

As the financial year comes to a close in June, our parish is preparing for a new chapter. We are grateful for the dedication and hard work of our current officials and committee members. As we transition to a new committee, we wish the incoming officials and committee members all the very best as they take on their new roles. We are excited to see the fresh perspectives and ideas they will bring to our community. We are pleased to announce that our parish organization's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to take place in August. This is a significant event where we will review the past year's progress, discuss important matters, and elect new leaders. We kindly invite and encourage all members to participate in the AGM.

May God's love and peace guide us all in the coming months. Let's journey together in faith, hope, and love, shining brightly in our community.

Philipachen.

With Love and Prayers,

Vica

Melbourne Mar Thoma Church

vicarmmtc@gmail.com | vicar@melbournemarthomachurch.org.au | 1 0401311688

Lectionary

Our church lectionary guides us through meaningful themes this June.

Through these meditations, may we deepen our faith and live as a model community, proclaiming God's love and grace.

06 Jul	ദശാംശ സമർപ്പണ ഞായർ – ജീവിതം ജീവന്റെ ഉടയവന് പ്രെന്തെക്കൊസ്തിനു ശേഷം 4-ാം ഞായർ); Tithe Offering Sunday – Life for the Creator (Fourth Sunday after Pentecost)	Lessons Epistle Gospel Evening Readings	Mal 3:5-12 Phil 4:10-20 2Cor 8:1-15 Mark 12:41-44 1Chr 29:10-18 1Tim 6:17-22
13 Jul	ദൈവിക ഞായർ ക്രിസ്തു ശെലി – പട്ടത്വ ശു - ശൂഷയുടെ മാത്യക പ്രേണ്തക്കൊസ്തിനു ശേഷം 5-ാം ഞായർ); Clergy Sunday – Jesus Christ: Icon of Ordained ministry (Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)	Lessons Epistle Gospel Evening Readings	Ezek 33:1-9 1Pet 5:1-11 Eph 4:7-16 Matt 9:35-38 Deut 5:20-33 1Tim 6:11-16
20	മാമോദീസാ: കർത്താവിനോടും സഭയോടും ചേരുക (പെന്തെക്കാസ്തിനു	Lessons Epistle	Josh 3 Acts 18:1-11 Rom 5:20-6:8
Jul	ശേഷം 6-ാം ഞായർ); Holy Baptism: Uniting with Christ (Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)	Gospel Evening Readings	John 3:1-8 Titus 3:3-8 Acts 8:9-24

July Services and Events

* Changes to the services and events schedule will be intimated closer to the date of each service/ event.

Please contact the Assistant Secretary if you wish to bring Altar Flowers

SERVICES & EVENTS IN JULY 2025					
6-Jul-25	Sunday	Mal Holy Communion Service @8:30 am Led by Sevika Sanghom Senior Citizens Fellowship AGM & Election of office bearers for 2025-2026 @10:30 am Eastern Satellite Service Blackburn Sunday School @ 2:00 pm Eng Holy Communion Service @ 3:00pm			
7-Jul-25	Monday	Tasmanian Congregation, Hobart - Mal Holy Communion Service @4:00 pm			
13-Jul-25	Sunday	Eng Holy Qurbana @8.30 am Led by Youth Youth AGM & Election of office bearers for 2025-2026 @10:30 am Northern Satellite Service @Bundoora Mal Holy Communion Service @3:00 pm			
19-Jul-25	Saturday	Ballarat- Bendigo Congregation, Newstead - Mal Holy Communion Service @9:30 am Karunya Edavaka Mission Prayer & English Holy Communion Service @ 4:30 pm YFF Meeting @ 6:00 pm			
20-Jul-25	Sunday	Eng Holy Communion Service @7:30 am Sunday School AGM & Election of office bearers for 2025-2026 @9:30 am Mal Holy Communion Service @10:45 am Led by Senior Citizens			
27-Jul-25	Sunday	Mal Holy Communion Service @7:30 am Sunday School Mid Year Examinations @9:30 am Sevika Sanghom AGM and Election of office bearers for 2025-2026 in the Hall @ 9:30 am Eng Holy Communion Service @11:00 am Led by Sunday school			

Satellite Services

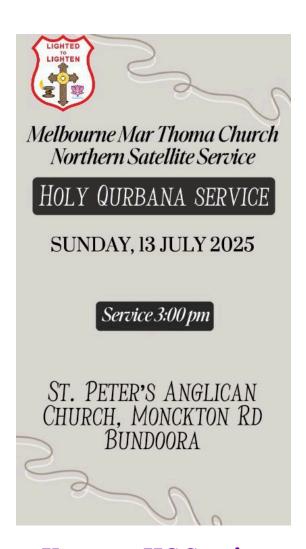


6 JULY 25 THE AVENUE UNITING CHURCH CNR THE AVENUE & BLACKBURN ROAD, BLACKBURN

Sunday School at 2:00 pm



English Holy Qurbana 3:00pm



Karunya HC Service



Prayer Meetings

PRAYER ZONE	DATE	VENUE
South	5th July, Saturday 11:00am	8 CurtinStreet, Bentleigh Hosted By: David & Anju
North A	11th July, Friday 7:30pm	38 Bellini Dr, Greenvale Hosted by: Prinu & Ruby
North West	12th July, Saturday 4:00pm	Laverton Community Hub Hosted By: Alex & Anju, Roji & Sii, Jerin & Gethi
North B	12th July, Saturday 7:00pm	39 Faculty Avenue, Donnybrook Hosted by: Abilash & Savitha
Central A	26th July, Saturday 4:30pm	16 Ballamore Crescent, Doncaster Hosted by: Sunny & Nancy
Central B	26th July, Saturday 7:00pm	2 Brennan Dr, Wantrina South Hosted by: Sen & Shobhana

Sunday School

Sunday School 2025 Registration Form



Melbourne Mar Thoma Sunday School News

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" - Matthew 19:14

06 July: Term 2 Holidays13 July: Term 2 Holidays20 July: Term 2 Holidays

27 July: Start of Term 3 (Mid-year Exams)

SPECIAL OFFERTORY WEEK

Thanks to all who contributed generously to this year's special offertory week. Proceeds to be donated to an Australian Charity ('Hope in a suitcase') and a Mar Thoma mission field in India.

SAVE THE DATE - JUNIOR STUDENTS RETREAT

Junior Retreat 2025 - Registration Link

Youth



Youth Night

Date and Time: 10 July, 7:00pm **Venue:** 28 Morotai Avenue, Ashburton

Youth Annual General Body Meeting

Date and Time: 13 July 2025 after Holy communion

Venue: 149 Royal Parade, Parkville

Agenda: Presentation of Annual Report, Annual Accounts, Elections for 2025-26





Sevika Sangham

SANGHAM EVENTS DETAILS

Online intercessory prayer

Every Thursday @ 8pm



Sevika Sangham Annual General Body Meeting

Date and Time: 27 July 2025 after First Service

Venue: 149 Royal Parade, Parkville

Agenda: Presentation of Annual Report, Annual Accounts, Elections for 2025-26



SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

Body meeting on Sunday, the 06 July 2025, in the Church premises soon after the Malayalam Holy Communion Service at 8:30 am, followed by an election to choose new office bearers of the Senior Citizens' Fellowship for the year 2025-2026.

A Christian fellowship for seniors should be characterized by warmth, respect, and a focus on spiritual growth and mutual support. Seniors' Fellowship attributes include hospitality, gentle encouragement, personalized spiritual care, wisdom, and a focus on enduring faith, love, and patience. It's a place where all seniors can find encouragement, share experiences, and deepen their relationship with God and each other.

It is requested that all Senior citizens of MMTC be present at the meeting and elect representatives to create a vibrant, all-inclusive fellowship on Sunday, 06 July 2025. All younger seniors above 60 years of age are encouraged to attend and take on positions of responsibility at the AGM.



STEFM ANNUAL DAY

MESSAGE FROM STEFM

Just a quick note to let you know that the St. Thomas Annual Day Celebration is happening on 2nd August 2025 (Saturday) at Phoenix Park Community Center, Malvern East from 3 PM to 8 PM.

We are inviting each parish to present a short item (song, dance, skit, etc.) - max 5-7 mins - and also encouraging those interested in compering to submit their interest by emailing stefm.melbourne@gmail.com or contacting STEFM Coordinator Steeve Mathew on mobile no. 0466 125448

Looking forward to all your enthusiastic participation and quick responses 🙏







Words of Wisdom

History of the Mar Thoma Church

The history of the Mar Thoma Church is divided into three main eras:

- 1. Pre-Reformation
- 2. Reformation
- 3. Post Reformation

1. Pre-Reformation Era

St. Thomas, the Apostle of Jesus Christ is believed to have landed in AD 52 in Cranganore near Cochin. F.E. Keay in his book, A History of the Syrian Church in India, has established, from the mention in the book of Kings, of the articles brought to the court of King Solomon from India, that even before the time of Christ, there was trade between the Malabar Coast and Palestine in spices and luxury articles like ivory.

In the true Apostolic tradition, he preached first to the Jewish settlers in and around Cochin and then worked among the Hindus. Through the ministry of the Word and the many miracles which tradition attributes to him, he brought many high caste Hindus to the Christian faith. It is believed that he organized 7 Christian communities for the use of these Christians, and ordained presbyters from four leading families.

The seven churches were:

- Cranganore (Malankara)
- Chavakad (Palur)
- · Parur near Alwaye
- Gokamangalam
- Niranam
- · Nilakkal (Chayal)
- Quilon (Kalyan)

All these places except Nilakkal are near the seacoast. Nilakkal is in the ghat region near Sabarimala, the Hindu place of pilgrimage. Recently a new Church has been built under the joint auspices of all the Christian denominations of Kerala at the site agreed upon by all concerned. This Church has historical significance as the first Church built and dedicated by all the denominations together as a symbol of the heritage from St. Thomas. It is believed that St. Thomas proceeded to the East coast of India and died a martyr's death at a place called St. Thomas Mount and was buried at Mylapore in Madras.

2. Reformation Movement

Palakkunnathu Abraham Malpan from Maramon and Kaithayil Geevarghese Malpan from Kottayam who spearheaded this movement, never wanted to start a separate Church. They wanted the reformation, staying within the Church. This group gradually became vocal and approached Col. Fraser, the British Resident, with a memorandum in 1836. But since nothing came of it, Abraham Malpan decided to take action in his own parish of Maramon which was sympathetic towards his ideas of reform. He translated the liturgy of the Holy Qurbana into local language Malayalam from Syriac and also eliminated from it the prayers for the dead and invocation of saints etc. He celebrated Holy Qurbana in his church using the revised St. James liturgy on a Sunday in 1836. He later on removed from the church the wooden image of a saint reputed to have miraculous powers, and in whose honour an annual festival was held that brought in huge income to the Parish. Both at Maramon and at the Syrian Seminary at Kottayam, and in the neighbouring Parishes of Pallom and Kollad, Abraham Malpan popularized Bible teaching and preaching. Abraham Malpan and Geevarghese Malpan had to give up their service in the Seminary, in 1840. Since then, Abraham Malpan concentrated his attention on the work of reform, holding Bible classes and prayer meetings and instructing the deacons who were loyal to him.

Most prominent elements in the Reformation were:

- · Return to the gospel message of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ;
- Cleansing of wrong ways of life;
- Taking up responsibility to be witnesses of Jesus Christ to others; and
- All importance be given to the primacy of the Word of God.

The reformation movement was a return to the purity of life and practice of the early Church. The emphasis on preaching the word of God led to revival meetings, which were led both by the clergy and laymen. The domination of the clergy as custodians of grace became a thing of the past. Emphasis was given to the sole mediation of Christ, importance of laity and priesthood of all believers. More and more groups were formed for Bible study; and conventions for preaching and hearing the Word of God became common.

3. Post Reformation

Though the reformists succeeded in introducing the revised order of worship and successfully discontinued many practices, they had to pay a heavy price for achieving the desired result and had to face serious mental and financial strains arising out of the prolonged legal battles. In pursuance of the judgment handed out by the Royal Court of Appeal, Bishops consecrated by the reformists group lost control of the Malankara Church and had to vacate the Syrian Seminary at Kottayam, considered as the headquarters of the Malankara Church.

Our forefathers, however, did not lose heart. On the contrary, the material loss and humiliation suffered by them infused renewed vigour and hope in their minds and gave them the confidence to start rebuilding the Church from scratch, laying their trust in God almighty. There has been a phenomenal expansion of the Church during the last six decades, widening its frontiers to various countries of West Asia, Africa, North America and Western Europe.

The Ecumenical Nature:

The Church actively participates in the programmes of the World Council of Churches, the Christian Conference of Asia, the National Council of Churches and the Kerala Christian Council. It is in full communion with the Anglican Church, The Church of South India, The Church of North India and has cordial relations with the various denominations of the Christian Church.

While the history of the Church especially during the last century shows progress and growth in various directions, it must be admitted that there is little room for complacency. In the life of the individual as well as the community, we lag far behind the standard set by our Lord. The Church is in need of renewal in Spirit in order to become more effective and useful instrument in His hands for the extension of His Kingdom. As members of the Church let us surrender ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt us and use us for His glory in the years to come.

Birthdays

					and the second second
Mrs.Sheryl Susan Mathew	Jobby & Sheryl	Dr.V K Varughese	Sunny & Nancy	Mr.Melvin Kuruvilla Alex	Melvin Kuruvilla Alex
Mrs.Leena Mariam Mathews	Vinoo & Leena	Master.Christen Benny Binsu	Binsu & Anpu	Mr.Dan Alexander	Jacob & Anina
Mr.Ron George Roy	Roy &Susan	Mr.Siju Varghese Palakara	Siju & Rita	Mrs. Deepa Thomas Kunnutharayil	Karol & Deepa
Mrs.Manju Abraham	Ajan & Manju	Master.Ivin Pulikkottil Saiju	Saiju & Divya	Miss.Liz Leya Ninu	Liz Leya Ninu
Mr.John Kirubhakaran	John & Newthi	Miss.Ruth Alice Renjan	Renjan & Harsha	Miss. Anuja Aleyamma Mathew	Anuja
Miss.Annika Mary Varughese	Vineeth & Manjari	Miss.Izel Marie Thomas	Anith & Maria	Master.Nelvin Jubert Justin	Justin & Jincy
Mrs.Neeta Ann Mathew	Manoj & Neeta	Mrs.Reena Simon	Saji &Reena	Mrs.Priana Joseph Panackal	Philip & Shobha
Mr.Bino Thomas	Bino & Jain	Mr.Christopher Paulose	Christopher & Jisha	Mr.Binsu George Thomas	Binsu & Joemol
Mr.Rohit Mathew Roy	Roy & Reena	Mrs.Ansu Annie George	Jubin & Ansu	Master.Liam Thomas Mathew	Ashish & Merril
Mr.Hanoch Zen Thomas	Asha Jacob	Mrs.Chinnu Elizabeth Varghese	Jackson & Chinnu	Mr.Blessy Samuel Thomas	Blessy & Reni
Mr.Jophy P Varghese	Jophy &Reni	Master.Samuel Zak Saju	Saju & Roshan	Mrs.Sharon Mary George	Steven & Sharon
Miss.Evelyn Sara Johnson	Johnson & Marien	Mrs.Susan Thomas	Johny & Susan	Mr.lype Joseph	Joe & Seena
Miss.Sarah E Philip	Jose & Sumum	Mrs.Sneha Susan Varghese	Steve & Sneha	Mrs.Annie George	Moncy & Annie
Miss.Jeffy Susan Biju	Biju-Biji	Miss.Neha Sarah David	David & Anju	Mrs.Julie Rajesh John	Rajesh & Julie
Mr.Thomas K Verghese	Reni & Shirley	Mrs.Anju Selex	Selex & Anju	Miss.Rhea Mary Thomas	Roshi & Anupama
Mrs.Manju Ann Pramode	Pramode & Manju	Mrs.Manjari Kuppayil Saji	Vineeth & Manjari	Mrs.Shimi Annies Thomas	Bobin & Shimi
Mr.Jayden John Joji	Joji & Rekha	Master.Alexander Ivan Nevin	Nevin &Shema	Master.James Ranjith	Ranjith & Sneha
Miss.Adele Ann Varughese	Roshan & Seena	Miss.Isabelle Ann Mathew	Manu & Cynthia	Master.Albin S Shaiju	Shaiju& Shinju
Mrs.Rina Raju	Anit Rina	Miss.Faythe Lucia Alvin	Alvin &Menila	Mr.Abraham Cherian	Samu & Omana
Mrs.Betsy Philip	James & Betsy	Dr.Leena Cherian	Cherry&Leena	Mrs.Lisa Biju	Biju & Lisa
Mr.Tony Koshy	Tony & Maneesha	Mr. Nathan Abraham Mathew	Rojo & Shirley	Mrs.Sharon Elizabeth Mathew	Manoj & Sharon
Master.Nigel Thomas Anu	Anu & Bindu	Miss.Elise Maria John	Aji & Linda	Master.Vinay Parappat	Navin & Seena
Mr.Michael Mammen	Michael &Suzanne	Mrs.Rini Simon	Christard & Rini	Mr.Verghese George	Sunny & Daisy
Master.Airen Abraham	Anup & Deepa	Mr.Jacob Alex	Tony & Anushya	Mr.Renin Thomas	Renin & Mareena
Mrs.Vinita John	John & Vinita	Miss.Ivana Philip	Jinu & Hridya	Mr.George Alex	Alex & Nisha
Master.Jovan Thekkattil Cijo	Cijo & Sini	Miss.Mia Ann Thomas	Aravind & Christine	Mr.Mabin Thomas George	Mabin & Reeja
Mrs.Kathreena Roy	Roy & Reena	Miss. Neha Annie Mathew	Shaji & Beena	Mrs.Chinnu Rani Mathew	Jeevan &Chinnu
Mr.Jeffin George	Jeffin & Grace	Miss. Neeshu Sarah Mathew	Shaji & Beena	Mr.Richin Mathew	Richin & Annie
Master.Jeremy Sajan Samuel	Sajan & Lini	Master. Darren Jino Cherian	Jino & Preethi	Mr.Sangeeth Tom Varghese	Sangeeth & Nisha
Master.Marcus Rony	Rony & Reenu	Mrs.Jemi Moni	Jerrin & Jemi	Mr.Shijo Thomas	Shijo & Sindhu
				Mr.Alex Sen Varghese	Sen & Reena

Wedding Anniversary

Mr. Alexander George, Mrs. Sheela George

Mr. Jithin Koshy Sajeev, Mrs. Sithara Wijewardena

Mr. Verghese George Mathew, Mrs. Serene George

Mr. Johnson K Varughese, Mrs. Jisha David

Mr. Sunil John Mathew , Mrs. Marlyn Mathew

Mr. Anith George Thomas, Mrs. Maria Cherian

- Mr. Anup Jacob Abraham, Mrs. Deepa Abraham
- Mr. Mahesh V Mathews, Mrs. Akku Mariam John
- Mr. Johny Kunnumpurathu Varkey, Mrs. Pameela Ittyerah Varkey
- Mr. Jabin Jacob Kurien, Mrs. Cherish Marisa Philip
- Mr. Bobby Cheryian, Mrs. Annie Bobby
- Mr. Subash Mathews Thomas, Mrs. Soby Oommen
- Mr. Praveen George Thampi, Mrs. Lincy Elizabeth Zachariah
- Mr. Anoop Charamparampil Cherian, Mrs. Irin Miriam John
- Mr. Roshan Sam Thomas, Mrs. Anpu Anna George
- Mr. Sony Philip, Mrs. Jackmil P J
- Mr. Sunil George, Mrs. Riya Sunil
- Mr. Prinu John Philip, Mrs. Ruby George
- Mr. JOHNY VALIYAVEETTIL THOMAS, Mrs. Shiga Chakkiath
- Mr. Prinson Jacob, Mrs. Sinju Mariam Thomas
- Mr. Ashok V S, Mrs. Jolly Achankunju
- Mr. Roshan Abraham Varghese, Mrs. Seena Ann Samuel
- Mr. Jino Cherian, Mrs. Preethi Mathew
- Mr. Mathew John, Mrs. Mary Kutty John
- Mr. Aby Thomas Mathew, Mrs. Shiny Aby Mathew

Yours in Christ.



Roy Jacob

Secretary

Melbourne Mar Thoma Church

Phone: 0408844183

Email: secretarymarthomachurch@gmail.com

Melbourne Mar Thoma Church © 2025: 149 Royal Parade Parkville VIC 3052

Parsonage Address: 10 Layton Place Mill Park VIC 3082

Vicar: Rev. Philip Mathew | Mobile: 0401311688

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe from this list</u>