

EPHREM NEWS

St. Ephrems Theological College, Satna

Patron
Joseph Ottapurackal

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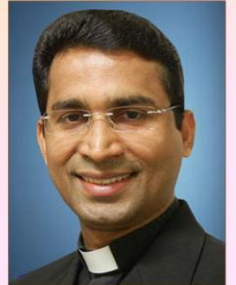
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Message

St. Ephrem's Theological College stands content with proud as it enters into the Silver Jubilee Year. It was elevated as the Synodal Mission Seminary of the Syro Malabar Church on 29th March 2014 by Major Archbishop Cardinal George Alencherry. It remembers the founding bishops, especially Mar Abraham D. Mattam, and then Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakkal, Rectors, professors and well wishers with a great heart of appreciation and gratitude; moreover, it is grateful to 279 Ephremites who spread the fragrance of the gospel in various parts of the world. Through Ephrem News, we wish to reach ETC tidings to all our well-wishers. Wishing you God's blessings...



Fr. Joseph Ottapurackal
Rector

INAUGURATION OF SILVER JUBILEE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016 - 2017

July 03

DUKHRANA OF MAR THOMA SLIHA

The inauguration ceremony of the Silver Jubilee Academic year was conducted in the ETC auditorium on 3rd July 2016. Mar Joseph Kodakallil, the chairman of the Synodal Commission for St. Ephrem's Theological College inaugurated the function. V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Ottapurackal, the Rector welcomed the guests and presented the prospects of Jubilee year. Commemorating the very beginning of the seminary, Fr. Philip Chakkumoottil, the dean of studies, exposed the demands of the academic year 2016-2017. Shri. Ramesh Singh, the SDM of Satna and Dr. Satyendra Sharma, the Principal of Satna degree college inspired the congregation to start a new academic year with vigour and enthusiasm.



Celebrations of Dukhrana of Mar Thoma Sliha were begun with most solemn Raza celebrated by Rev. Fr. Alex Pandarakappil, the Vice Rector. The occasion was blessed with the presence of Rev. Fathers from Vincentian and Claretian Congregations. Sisters and members of Ephrem Parivar participated in the celebrations.

Fr. Anish CMF and Dns. Velliyamkandathil, Cherupurackal, Vanchickal, Bros. Alapattukottayil, Karikuzhy, Kochodackal, Panthalanickal, Kanjiraparambil, Thuruthumalil, Velloor puthenpurayil who bear the name of St. Thomas were greeted by V. Rev. Fr. Rector and community during the festal breakfast.

INITIATION PROGRAMME FOR FIRST YEARS

July
12

Initiation programme for 18 students of the first year theology batch was held on 12th July 2016. The programme lasted for two hours with self introduction, sharing and games. Rev. Fr. James Kalayamkandam and Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kallath who joined in the ETC staff were also given welcome during the programme. Rev. Fr. Rector and the other members of ETC attended the programme.



INAUGURATION OF THE VILLAGE APOSTOLATE

The Village apostolate for the academic year 2016-2017 was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Antony Maruthumoottil, the director of the Social service department of the eparchy of Satna on 9th July 2016. Bro. Tony Kumbidiyammackal, the brother incharge of Village Apostolate welcomed the participants, and the conclusion of the programme was intimated by Bro. Benson Puthenpurayil with vote of thanks. V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Ottapurackal, the Rector and Fr. Joseph Pulickeel shared their mission experiences.



CHOIR SELECTION

Selection to the ETC choir was conducted in ETC auditorium on 15th July 2016. Eight students got selected in vocal and two each for instruments.



PROJECT GREEN 2016

Imbibing the spirit of global thrust for ecological concerns and the recent encyclical *Laudato Si*, ETC committed to the cause of social forestry this year. On 17th July, a special initiative commenced by the third year theology students under the leadership of V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Ottapurackal and Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kallath. Gradually other batches too involve in this venture. The project envisions to greenish the campus by planting trees.



ADIEU to REV. FR. MATHEW UTHIRAKULAM

Rev. Fr. Mathew Uthirakulam, who was in the ETC residential staff for last five years was given a memorable send off as he is transferred to Dewra mission station. Programme was organized in the ETC Refectory on 19th July 2016. Rev. Fathers and Sisters from different congregations of Ephrem Parivar were enjoyed the farewell programme



HEARTY WELCOME



Rev. Fr. George Kudilil, belonging to Arch Eparchy of Tellicherry joins in the staff in the beginning of August 2016 as a professor of Sacred Scripture. Hearty welcome and prayerful wishes.

Rev. Fr. James Kalayamkandam took the charge of spiritual director of ETC. He belongs to the Arch Eparchy of Changanassery. Hearty welcome and prayerful wishes.



July
28



ETC celebrated the feast of St. Alphonsa, the first woman saint from India in a solemn way. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kallath VC offered the high sung Holy Qurbana and later there was the blessing of St. Alphonsa Quarters.

St. Ephrem's through the ages....

1992-'93

The erection of the Syro-Malabar Mission in North India brought with heavy responsibilities on those who were directly involved in the works of evangelization and called for arduous steps to meet the challenges. Adequate formation of the priests who were to devote themselves to the missionary apostolate in these areas was a special urgency. Oriental Liturgy and oriental Canon Law had not received due attention in some of the North Indian major seminaries. There was no Theologate in North India for the Syro-Malabar Church. A new Theological Seminary situated in the North Indian milieu was found necessary in these circumstances. Thus it was an urgent necessity to start a mission theological seminary to impart theological formation in the light of oriental perspective.



In 1989 and in 1990 Bishop A.D. Mattam brought the urgency of the situation before Card. Simon Lourdasamy, the then Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, who showed keen interest in the plan.

To start an inter-diocesan seminary, some **Mar Abraham D. Mattam**

formalities were to be completed and those were time consuming. If the seminary is to be opened without much delay, it would be started as a diocesan institution. Thus Bp. A.D. Mattam took up this himalayan task with the approval of the new prefect Achille Cardinal Silvestrini of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. Accordingly the Seminary, St. Ephrem Theological College, was inaugurated in Satna, in called *Edessa* on 3rd July 1992 and V. Rev. Fr. Antony Plackal VC was appointed the Rector. There were 19 students in the 1st batch from four eparchies and three religious congregations. But V. Rev. Fr. Antony Plackal VC was elected as the Superior General of the Vincention Congregation the seminary as the on 20th December of the same year. Thus Rev. Fr. Jacob Vadakkal served the seminary as the acting Rector for almost six months. Thereafter, V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Mundakthil was appointed as the new Rector on 16th July 1993.



Rev. Fr. Antony Plackal
First Rector

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First Batch

The laying of the foundation stone of the new seminary building took place on 30th April 1993 at Chaura Khurd, 14 kilometers away from Satna town. Chaura Khurd is a village, a proper place for mission oriented formation. The construction of the building steadily progressed. It took almost a year to complete a section of the building. Meanwhile, the theology formation in *Edessa* continued and the brothers had been eagerly waiting to move to the new seminary.

(Continued...)

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