



Pope Francis' Papal Blessing to Every Family Member...

... May-June 21

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Highlights!

Initiatives thru ideation process among MGAs:

Covid Pandemic Prayers

Pope Francis launched monthlong Rosary Marathon to end Covid pandemic- from Rome and 30 Shrines of Our Lady from different countries

Golden Jubilee Congratulations to our Patron Fr Joseph Kan-nathukuzhy(Kalliyel) on his Golden Jubilee 5 Jan

Anniversary 151 Anniversary of Fr Bernadette CMI on 1 April and 100 Anniversary of Fr Mathai Matheckal Kottoor 2 June

Holy Rosary Marathon For Ending Covid

Pope Francis led the faithful in the recitation of the Holy Rosary on Saturday, 1 May 2021 to inaugurate a monthlong "Holy Rosary Marathon" for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the weekly General Audience on 26, May 2021, Pope Francis "There is a radical objection to prayer, which derives from an observation that we all make: *we pray, we ask, and yet sometimes our prayers seem to go unheard: what we have asked for - for ourselves or for others - is not fulfilled*, Pope Francis told the faithful at the Wednesday General Audience which was streamed live from the Vatican's Courtyard of St. Damasus.



Pope Francis on Praying...

Speaking on the occasion, the Pope said: *Your prayers are being heard, do not give up.*

Global Economic Outlook

Global economic growth slowed during the second half of 2018. For 2019, growth was expected to be down by three basis points, from 3.6 percent in 2018 to 3.3 percent in 2019. ... Despite the pandemic's toll, as of March 31, 2021, the WEO predicts that the global economy will grow at a rate of 6.6 percent in 2021 and moderating to 4.4 percent in 2022.

The harsh reality however is the furious unleashing of the new mutants and variants of Covid 19 across the globe including India where the situation looks grim and gloomy.

Uncertainty of vaccine availability poses new challenges to the already burdened Hospitals and medical staff.

Events That Matter

Salient Highlights- We are celebrating the Jubilees/Anniversaries of three of our priests. Golden Jubilee of a priestly ordination and 100th Anniversary of our ancestor and last year we had the 150th Anniversary of our first priest.

Golden Jubilee of Patron - Fr Joseph Kannathukuzy Kalliyel celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his Sacredotal Ordination in 2021.

On January 5, 1972 – Ordination of Two Priests takes place in St Marys Forane Church for the first Time – Ordination of Fr Joseph Kannathukuzh Kalliyel (Patron Matheckal Kudumbam) and Fr Jose Kottoor.

100th Anniversay of Mathai Achan Matheckal Kottoor- “ One of the Ezhu Vyakulungal” of Syro Malabar Church.

Often referred to as one of the Seven Dolores of Syro Malabar Church, Fr. Mathai is the only son to his parents and lived from 1847 till June 2, 1921. Like his elder cousin, Mathai

gave up all comforts of life to join the Carmelite Monastic Order. He is the first among the Matheckens to take up a common cause in pastoral ministry - a struggle which Blessed Kuriakose Chavara took up in 1861.

151 Anniversary of Fr Bernadette CMI -Fr. Bernardette CMI Matheckel Kannathukuzhy -The First Ascetic, Orator And Retreat Preacher Fr. Bernard born on Feb 14, 1845 had a short span of life. He died on April 1, 1870.

Covid 19- Covid 19 affected all our families, children. Most affected were our participation in liturgy and the sacraments, schooling of our children. Most of our employed children were forced to return home from various towns and cities and work from home.

Covid 19 also took away many of our elders during the past one year. Overall 2020 and 2021 is a repeat of the 1920s when Cholera and other epidemic savaged Arakuzha and neighbouring places and took away many lives.

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Golden Jubilee And Anniversaries



We are Celebrating the 151st Anniversary of Fr Bernadette CMI - April 1 2021 We are Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Fr Mathai Mathackal Kottoor 2 June 2021 We are Celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Sacerdotal Ordination of our Patron Fr. Joseph Kannathukuzhy (Kalliyel) 5 January 2021. This is the Year long Golden Jubilee Celebration for our Patron with prayers of Thanksgiving and Gratitude by all our families.

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Idea.. Action

Say Yes to Action:

1. Telling Experiential Stories of families to share, care and nurture.
2. Inspiring brothers, sisters and children to bring out their talents for greater use.
3. Continuing to remain connected digitally through regular Communication network and social media
4. Reaching out to all members scattered in different places *Each One Bring One* for the Next Kudumbayogam Meetings. *Share Joys and Sorrows* Birthdays, Anniversaries etc to greet and be greeted.
5. Pope lists datewise *Daily Prayer Intentions*
6. International Day of Events helps to know what is happening in the world
7. Experience poem of soul-stirring impact by Alumni Shaji K N on St Joseph on May Day : The Carpenters Gift
8. The Matheckal Family At A Glance helps to know that each one of us have a strong deep-rooted support and strength of character and values.
9. Relish past events and Celebrations

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Contact Information:
Patron Kudumbayogam

Quotes Inspire

Recite your Rosary with faith, with humility, with confidence, and with perseverance. - St. Louis De Montfort

About Our Jubilarians...

0.1 Golden Jubilee of Ordination

(1972-2022 :: Deeds Speak Louder Than Words)



Narration from the Family Journal ...

Congratulations to our Dearest Fr Joseph Kanathukuzhy Achan who is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of His Sacerdotal ordination in 2021.

Born in 1945, Fr. Joseph the eldest son of Mathai Varkey and Thressia, served in Vazhathoppu, Muthalakodam, Churuli, Cheruthoni, Kurithode in the Highranges.

He built church in Churuli. Fr. Joseph served in Ujjain Mission after becoming a member of St. Thomas Missionary society.

Our Patron Achan is credited to have set up convent and English medium school in Byavara in Madhya Pradesh.

He took up doctorate in Missionology in Germany and served in Parish of Regensburg while helping the Ujjain Mission in various ways.

Achan is known to be a person of deeds having helped and contributed to various social causes and for the needs of the poor and marginalised people in the society.

Fr. Joseph has come back to India and helped the Kalyan Diocese in Sangli and continuing to render relevant ministry appropriate to the time and the place. Fr. Joseph is the modern face of spirituality and torchbearer of the legacy of our ancestors. He is an example for all aspiring religious and lay priests in religious vocation. His deeds are louder than words.

0.2 Centenary Anniversary 2 June 2021 - 100 Years of Ezhu Vyakulungal

(Fr. Mathai CMI (1847-1921) Matheckel Kottur - Who showed what it means to be a Priest.)

We are celebrating the Centenary Anniversary of Fr. Varkey Mathai CMI Matheckal Kottoor - often referred to as one of the Seven Dolores of Syro Malabar Church. Fr. Mathai is the only son to his parents and lived from 1847 till June 2, 1921.

Like his elder cousin, Mathai gave up all comforts of life to join the Carmelite Monastic Order.

He is the first among the Matheckens to take up a common cause in pastoral ministry - a struggle which Blessed Kuriakose Chavara took up in 1861.

Blessed Fr. Kuriakose Chavara took up the cause to fight the Rocco's schism. A group of nine young Carmelites including Fr. Mathai Matheckal CMI under the initiative of Fr. Louis Pazhayaparambil mobilized mass awareness to ensure unity among Christians and to ensure that this unity happens they began a mass communication process of representation highlighting the causes that come in the way of unity and conflict resolution measures for the consideration of the Holy See and bishops in parts of India. One of the remedial measures suggested by the young Carmelites was the suggestion to install a bishop from among the Syrian Christians.



Fr Mathai Matheckal Kottoor ...

Seven priests were dismissed from the CMI Order including Fr. Louis Pazhayaparambil and Fr. Mathai Matheckal. When he received the order of dismissal, Fr. Mathai Matheckal sought the rationale and validity of the dismissal order.

Fr. Mathai responded firmly, *I am going back to my Parish and shall continue to strive till the last drop of my blood for the success of the cause to which I have pledged.* Later on all seven were reinstated. Fr. Mathai Matheckal spent his life for this cause and rightly and truly called one the Seven Dolores (Ezhu Vyakulungal) of the Church in Kerala.

He was a close advisor to Bishop Louis Pazhayaparambil and served in many parishes - Muttuchira, Bharranganam, Ramapuram, Arakuzha, Kothamangalam, Perigahza, Marika etc. He drew the Road Map for the Spiritual Journey of the Matheckans.

0.3 Sesquicentennial Anniversary - 151th Anniversary The Mendicant Preacher

(Fr. Bernardette CMI Matheckel Kannathukuzhy -The First Ascetic, Orator And Retreat Preacher

Mathai, who later became Fr. Bernard, is the second son of Mathunni Mathai 1 , patriarch of Kannathukuzhy branch, the second son of Mathunni Karanavar and Anna from Thadathil family in Arakuzha.

Fr. Bernard born on Feb 14, 1845 had a short span of life. He died on April 1, 1870. He is the first priest from the Matheckal family and from the Kannathukuzhy branch. He joined the Carmelite order and known to be an excellent orator and retreat preacher. He died while preaching during a retreat at Vadakara. Mathai, who later became Fr. Bernard, is the second and youngest son of Mathunni Mathai 1 , patriarch of Kannathukuzhy branch.



Fr Bernadette CMI . . .

He renounced a life of comfort, followed the footsteps of St. Francis Assisi by embracing poverty happily. It is told that Fr. Bernard CMI practiced poverty literally - in body and spirit. To have taken up such ascetic life calls for deep spiritual values and the credit must surely go to his parents specially his mother from Anikuzhy family, Arakuzha.

The story of Fr. Bernard CMI shows the importance that the first Kannathukuzhy family gave to spiritual riches over material affluence. No wonder all latter priests of Matheckal Kannathukuzhy branch carried on this trait of Fr. Bernaditte in their priestly ministry.

We are celebrating the 151st Anniversary of Fr Bernadette CMI on April 1, 2021.

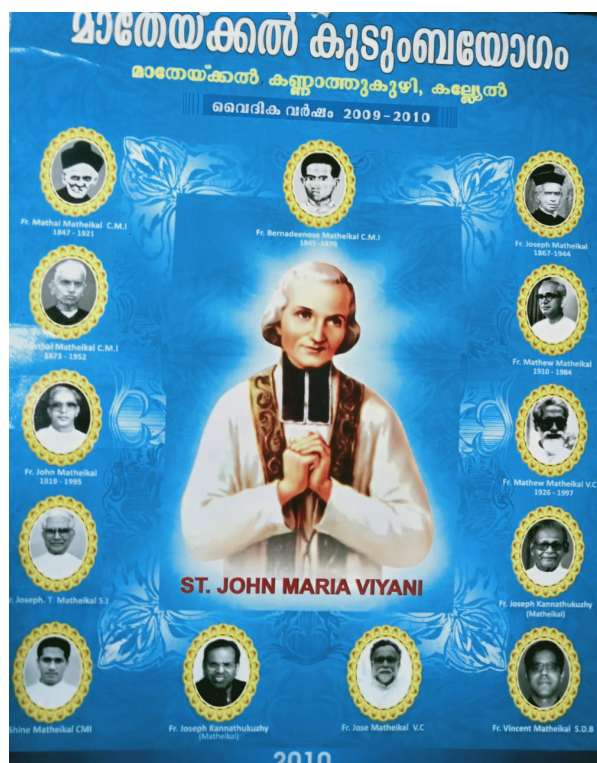
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Luminaries Who Served . . .

Continuing his catechesis on Christian prayer during the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis explains the importance of meditation, highlighting that it is a means of prayer that helps us encounter Jesus and find ourselves.

Pope Francis said at the General Audience, "to 'meditate' is to seek meaning: it implies placing oneself before the great page of Revelation in order to try to make it our own, taking it in completely."

Therefore, having welcomed the Word of God, a Christian does not keep it closed up inside, because that Word must meet with "another book," which the Catechism calls "the book of life." This, the Pope affirmed, "is what we attempt to do every time we meditate on the Word." The Holy Father dedicated his catechesis on Wednesday to meditation as a form of prayer. This is exactly our ancestors carried out. Read their stoies.



Our Ancestor Architects . . .

From the Family Journal....

Fr Yakob Onatt- The first Saintly Grand Son of Matheckal Kudumbam

Fr. Yakob Onattu (1868-1949) -First Gift of a Matheckan Daughter - The Priest Who walked the Rosary

One of Mathunni's daughters was married to Onattu family and referred to as Mrs. Anna Varkey Onattu in Nadukara which is situated between Arakuzha and Vazhakulam and had a son who became a priest.



Fr Yakkob Onatt-first Grandson . . .

The name of this first daughter has been traced from the history of Fr. Yakob Onatt. Born on May 18, 1868, he was called Rev. Fr. Onattu Yakob Achan. Ordained on March 31, 1895, Fr. Yakob Onatt was revered as a saint while he was alive and after his death on Jan 20, 1949. People visit his tomb to light candles, pray and seek his intercession even today.

Fr. Joseph (1867-1944) -Matheckel Koniyeckallungal- Who sowed the seed of Knowledge among Matheckans

Fr. Joseph Matheckal lived from Feb 2, 1867 to May 26, 1944. He is the first lay priest in the Matheckal family. Realizing the value of education, he strove and set up an English Medium School in Muvattupuzha. Fr. Joseph was actively engaged in social development and various activities of public concern.

Fr. Joseph took up the responsibility to complete the village road from Arakuzha to Muvattupuzha. While there were moves by vested interests for the demolition of the 1000 year old Arakuzha St. Mary's Forane Church, it was Fr. Joseph Matheckal who stood like a rock of Gibraltar for the parishioners and helped to preserve Church building and its cultural heritage and prevent its demolition. The story of Fr. Joseph Matheckal is a lesson for those who wish to serve in public life.

Sr. Brigit (1874-1955) -Matheckel Koniyeckallungal- The First Religious - She Never Looked Back

Sr. Brigit Mathecken CMI lived from Sep 9, 1874 to Apr 6, 1955. She is the first religious nun in the Matheckal family and trend setter among Matheckal daughters in pursuing a religious vocation. She is the youngest daughter of Mathunni Mathai 2, patriarch of Koniyeckallungal branch and Eley. Eley is from Nambiaparampil family which is known to have contributed several priests, religious and nuns.

Ouseph Mathai (1925) -Matheckel Kalliyel Mullepad- Who Gave Roots to Grow And Wings to Fly.

Ouseph Mathai, known as Kunjappu, is the only son of Mathai Ouseph (1886-1979) and Eley. Ouseph Mathai was born handicapped - lame by birth. Nobody expected him to walk in life. Ouseph Mathai, however, defied all odds, walked with difficulty as he grew. Ouseph Mathai conducted all household chores systematically and took up the responsibility of his house after the demise of his father.

A person of golden heart, Ouseph Mathai is considered a model patriarch. He allowed his children to move beyond Arakuzha and two of them settled in Coorg. He gave them roots to grow and wings to soar in life.

Varkey Ouseph (1865-1920) -Matheckel Kanathukuzhy - Who lived the Bible-Who tended the sick and buried the dead

Since December 2019, the whole world is in the grip of the Covid 19 pandemic. One century ago too we had faced severe pandemic and we are proud to record one of our ancestors braved this pandemic and gave up his life while trying to save the sick and bury the dead.

It is recorded in Matheckal Kudumbam (1992), that *Varkey Ouseph was on his way back home after making arrangements for his son Mathai's (1902) wedding, when he saw a few Hindu women lying on the way - some dead while others had fainted. They were the victims of cholera. He buried those succumbed to cholera in his own compound, nursed and attended to those who were afflicted. Varkey Ouseph himself succumbed to cholera a few hours later. With no help around from any one, his children carried his body to the church graveyard and buried him without any rituals or rites. His children converted the barren Peringallungal land into a goldmine of agriculture through sheer hard work. Varkey Ouseph relived the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) at the cost of his life. He was not frightened by the prospects of contracting the epidemic cholera while attending to those afflicted and burying them when they died. He did not run away either when faced with such a situation by putting aside his personal priorities.*

In this manner, thanks to the Holy Spirit, we too are present at the river Jordan when Jesus is baptized, we are diners at the wedding feast of Cana when Jesus gives the best wine for the happiness of the couple, we too witness in amazement the thousands of healings performed by

Our Lord. At the same time, "we are the cleansed leper, the blind Bartimaeus who regains his sight and Lazarus who comes out of the tomb."

For us Christians, the Pope concluded, “meditating is a way of encountering Jesus. And in this way, only in this way, can we find ourselves.”

Fr. Mathew Vadakkal Vadakara-One of the Pioneers Who showed Education Matters”

Fr.Mathew Vadakkal is the son of Elishua of Matheckal Koniye kallungal and Varkey Vadakkal from Vadakara. He was a well-known and learned scholar in Syriac language (called Surriyani in Malayalam) and served as a teacher - professor in the seminary in Mangalore. Fr.Mathew Vadakkal lost the vision of both eyes while spending his last years with his brother Abraham Vadakkal. Abraham Vadakkal was a well-known advocate. The Vadakkal brothers inspired their maternal cousins and nephews to take to education and priestly ministry.

Mathai/Martha Mathai Matheckel Koniye kallungal - Sacrifice Unlimited Unconditional

Mathunni 2 Mathai is the eldest son of Mathai Mathunni 2 . He married Martha of Muttathu family from Bethsleham,Vazhakulam.The home of Mathai and Martha is known to be filled with an atmosphere of peace,tranquility and endearment.Both Mathai and Martha literally transformed their home on the model of the Holy Family. They have two children - son Mathai (Kochumathi) and daughter Elikutty and presented both of them in the service of the Church. Kochumathai became Fr.Mathai Matheckal CMI and Eleykutty joined the Carmel Order embraced the name Sr.Agnes Matheckal.

Mathu Kuriakose (1913) - Matheckel Erthadathil - Visionary and Catalyst

Mathu Kuriakose recognized the value of learning and ensured that all his children got good education with sound moral values. He facilitated his children to excel in different fields like law, engineering, science, moral theology and religious studies.

The lives of Mathu Kuriakose and Rosa Kuriakose is a searchlight for all young families to discover the art of bringing up children. In hindsight, it can be said that Mathu Kuriakose is the first among the Matheckans to have a vision for his family and provided the support to his children to grow in various fields.

Kuriakose Mathew(Mathachan)- Matheckel Erthadathil-ocial Activist Integrator and Son of Arakuzha

Erthadathil Mathachan is one of the first among Matheckans to take up public service and politics as his field of activity .

He confined his operations to Arakuzha and its development. His contributions are immense towards the development of road, establishment of the Village Office, Homeo Hospital, Krishi Bhavan, Panchayath Office,Lower Primary School in Arakuzha. All these came into existence due to the untiring and persistent efforts of Mathachan.

Mathachan was born in 1938 and died in November 2003.

His children did him proud by following his footsteps in their own style and sphere. Mathachan is an example of selflessness in public life. He led a life without a title or

position. He made Arakuzha a better place to live with his life.

Thomas Matheckal(1900-1970) Matheckel -The First High Court Judge from Arakuzha

A devout catholic, Thomas never missed his daily encounter with the the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist till his death. Known to be of impeccable character and truly just and fair, the fifth child and eldest son of Mathai Pathrose and Mariam.

Pathrose Thomas is the first catholic graduate from Muvatupuzha, Arakuzha and eastern part of Ernakulam district.

Thomas excelled in studies and sports from a very young age. He is the first migrant among matheckans to take to a career in Law and an urban living. That three of the eight children of Pathrose Thomas and Mariakutty embraced religious and priestly vocation gives an indication of the high spiritual quotient which exists in the family.

Fr. Mathew (Kunju Mathai 1910- 1984) Matheckel Thekkummalayil-The Pristine Pastoral Spiritual Diamond

Described by Bishop George Punnekkatil as a ”Model Priest of high spiritual cadre”, Fr. Mathew Matheckal also known as Kunjumathai, served in several parishes; he contributed to the construction of Nirmala college and fund mobilisation for the construction. Fr. Mathai constructed chapel in Anikkad, Vazhakulam.

It was Fr. Mathai who contributed input material and documents for writing the Matheckal Kudumbam history. He is known to have strived for the establishment of Kothamangalam diocese.

Simple, obedient,unassubring, pious and loyal, Fr. Mathew Matheckal is an embodiment of true priesthood- if only other priests emulate him, so said the then Kothamangalam Bishop Dr. George Punnackapadavil during the funeral homily of Fr. Mathew Matheckal who passed away on August 25,1984.

His life was of low profile without any pomp and show-silent, quietly efficient, systematic, focused to the task and in touch with reality.

He is known to have simple habits. His life was a living message of simple and humble living. Endeared by one and all - be it colleagues, parishers, neighbours, Fr.Mathew Matheckal lived for others and for God’s glory and remains in their heart forever.

The life of Fr. Mathew is an example of high quality with purpose; his example is valid for all times to come and can be emulated in any field.

Sr.Lucy CMC (1910-1940) - Matheckel Koniye kallungal-Wrote and Sang Divine Praises:First Matheckal Poetess

The first recorded literary person among the Matheckal daughters is Sr. Lucy Matheckal CMC who was a poetess.She wrote a compilation titled *Gunikaloozhiiyil Needuvazha* which epitomizes her religious life and spirit.

Sr. Lucy Matheckal is the one of the first among Matheckans to take fascination for literature and use literature as her medium of spiritual ministry. Mariam (1910), is the

second among the three daughters of Mathai Paulose and Rosa of Kurupumadam and the sixth among the seven children of this family. Mariam chose to be a religious, took the name of Sr. Lucy, Born on February 2, 1910, Sr. Lucy had a very short life- she was called to her eternal abode on August 2 1940.

Fr Joe Matheckal SJ- Pioneered Social Ministry through Law and Homeopathy

Fr. Joe Matheckal SJ (Thomas Joseph), the eldest son of Pathrose Thomas and Mariakutty, joined the Jesuit order after completing his graduation in Science (unlike most others who go join studies after joining the order).



Fr Joe Matheikal SJ . . .

He is the first among Matheckens to have gone abroad for higher studies and engaged in academic career in Trivandrum and Delhi. He took a degree in Law in later life (1983) to provide legal services to the poor. He practiced Homeopathy in Almorah district in UP/Uttaranchal.

A shining example of using education, knowledge like Law, Medicine for social cause and pastoral ministry, Fr. Joe showed that age is no barrier to learn, serve and be active.

According to George Thomas the youngest brother *Born on 2nd August 1931, Fr Jo joined Society of Jesus in 1950, priest in 1963 he took a post graduation in Chemistry from Patna University, went for theological studies in West Baden College, USA and returned to India in 1964. Well known as a great chemistry teacher and much adored by students, he was Vice Principal at various schools of St Xaviers, also AICUF Chaplain and the coordinator for National Open School. He engaged himself in the promotion of non-formal education, Basic Christian Communities and Parish Youth Programmes. He also edited the Indian*

Currents Weekly and Media House Publications in Delhi. At the age of 52, he became an Advocate for giving legal aid to the poor and practiced homeopathy in the village of Almora in Uttarakhand. A simple but serious and passionate person in whatever he chose to do, his life in the service of the Lord in this world came to the end on 08.10.2015.

Fr. Mathew VC(1926-1997) - Matheckal Vilayanickal- Who showed Living Simple Silent Yet Enriching

Fr. Mathew Matheckal joined the Vincentian Order. Known to be extremely intelligent and discerning, Fr. Mathew's life is a silent song of praise worship and mentoring. He is one among the five pioneer members of the Vincentian Order and served in several parishes, in the diocese of Kothamangalam and Ernakulam and Wyanad. He excelled in different areas of his work.

A person of high literary taste and vocal music, Fr. Mathew excelled in both but never traded them for commercial gains. An active member of church and religious choir, Fr. Jose used both talents as part of his religious ministry.

Fr. Marcel Pulparambil CMI – Pulparambil- Multilingualist, Literary Giant, Powerhouse of Spirituality

Fr. Marcel Pulparambil CMI belongs to the Matheckal branch of Matheckal Kudumbam and identified as the 4th generation male descendant. Fr. Marcel is traced to the 3rd generation Mathecken daughter Thressia Chacko Mathunni and son of Varghese Pulparambil. Fr. Marcel is the first among the family to become a Sanskrit Pandit. He authored several books in Sanskrit and Malayalam. He served as Principal SH Thevara and as seminary rector in Iraq. Fr. Marcel deployed his literary proficiency to spread knowledge and good living.

Fr. George Pulparambil SJ- Pulparambil- Versatility and Multi-Tasking Demonstrated

Fr. George Pulparambil could think, speak and write in many languages-English, Malayalam, Tamil, Latin and Sanskrit with flair.

He wrote the content of the Citation in Latin for the Beatification of Blessed Chavara Kuriakose and St Alphonsa .

Fr. George Pulparambil SJ is the eldest son of Kuriakose Pulparampil and Mariam (1910) who is the daughter of Chacko Varkey of Matheckal family.

He is a doctrate in Liturgy, Tamil, English Literature and authored several books in Tamil. Known to be a staunch defender of Catholic Church and highly orthodox in matters of faith. He, being a scholar in Tamil, Fr. George was able to point out theological flaws, inadequacy and ambiguity in the Tamil translations of the Holy Mass.

He celebrated his 50 th year of priestly ordination in 2012. Fr. George is an expert in Sanskrit sloka recital, authored, wrote short couplets of good habits in Malayalam. He celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination by holding sanskrit sloka katchery and debate.

Above all, Fr. George is a model religious and an example of a good Apologetic of the Catholic faith for all

times to come. Fr George Pulparambil passed away on 22 May,2020.

Fr.John Mathecken(9-9-1919 to 31-5-1995) Math-eckel-"He Lived For Others - Born to Care and Share All He Had for the cause of education of children"

Fr.John Matheckan, the only son of late Varkey Ulahannan and Mariam was clever, handsome and multi-talented. Young John decided to be a priest.

Following his ordination as a priest on 19th March, 1947,Fr. John Matheckal served in many parishes as parish priest and procurator - Karukutty, Edakunnu, Ernakulam Cathedral Njarakkal, Chunangumvely, Chowara.

Fr.John also served in Kothamangalam, Kalloorkad, Vadavathur Seminary. He was the bursar of Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha. Fr. John is credited till date as the architect in constructing a chapel in the name of Late Pope PiusX and Kurissupally in Chunangumvey (1953), the new church in Kallorkad (1968) and chapel and auditorium in Vadavathoor Seminary.

During his long tenure, Fr. John Matheckal went to Rome in 1956, joined the Oriental Institute in Gregorian University, Rome and obtained a degree in Oriental Liturgy and Canon Law in 1960.

On the occasion of the 25 th death anniversary of his mother, Fr. John Matheikal and his uncle Varkey Kuriakose sold part of the Matheckal Mepukkat property, bought 30 acres of land in Thrikkariyur Aiyroorpadam about 6 kms from Kothamanagalam to set up various institutions under the name Pius Gardens.



Fr John Matheiken ...

Some of these Pius Garden institutions are branches of Nazareth congregation, an orphanage home for the abandoned children and destitute, a hospital and rehabilitation center for the mentally challenged, vocational training centre for poor girls, convent, nursery school and vocational training centre in Devikulam.

He, like other luminaries of the Matheckal family, gave up all the luxuries of a comfortable living took to ministering the orphaned, destitute and mentally challenged persons. He cemented the spiritual foundation for a vast number of children during his life time. Fr.John is a model priest with dignity, values and virtues.

Fr. John was particular that children should be clean, dressed well, ate nourishing food and insisted that parents discipline their children with proper values and encourage their talents to enable them live life with quality and dignity.

Both events of the Centenary Birth Celebration of Fr John Matheikal from 9 September 2019 to 8 Sept 2020 and his 25th Death Anniversary on 31 May 2020 were affected by Covid 19 spread.

Fr.Joseph Kannathukuzhy Sr (1928-17.07.2017)-"The Francis Assisi of Matheikal Kudumbam"

Fr Joseph Kannathukuzh was born to Ouseph and Anna in 1928 and their only son was destined to priesthood ministry. Fr Joseph was the face of priesthood and the Church in the Highranges.

He was an epitome of humility, simplicity and a son of the soil.

He served in several parishes and constructed Churches in the Highranges- churches in the regions of Erattayar, Koompanpara, Rajakad and Vellathooval, Keerithode, Churuly, Maniyaramkudy, Thankamany, Vazhathope etc..According to Roy Joseph Kavalakkattu, Fr Joseph was the second Vicar at Vellayamkudy Church,

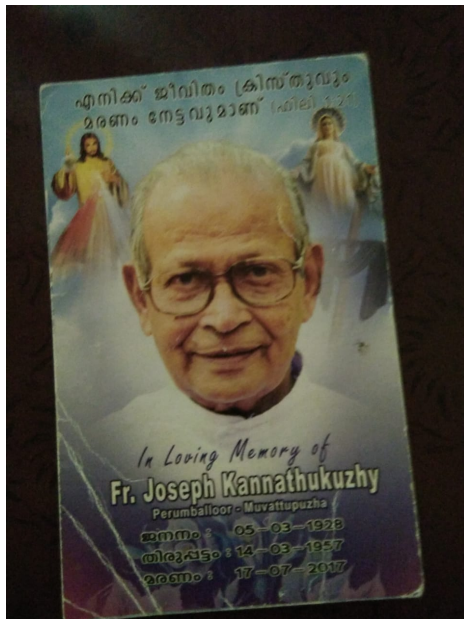


Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy Sr(1928-2017) ...

Like other priests from the Matheckal families, Fr Joseph too renounced the luxury of riches and chose to lead a simple life - travelling in bus like any ordinary person, choosing to walk with ordinary sandals and slippers.

The picture of a smiling Fr Joseph alighting from a bus or entering a church or engaging in a simple loving conver-

sation with anyone who comes across his is still etched in the memory of people who came in contact with him. One can describe Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy Sr as the Francis Assissi of Matheckal Kudumbam.



Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy Sr) ...

Fr. Joseph Kannathukuzhy who passed away on Tuesday at 1730 hrs IST on 17 July, 2017 was the Senior Patron of Matheckal Kudumbayogam.

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Daily Prayer Intentions ...

Why do we pray for various intentions?

Prayer changes everything. Prayer, at its heart, is an act of faith, asking God to step in and believing that He is both willing and able to listen to us.

There is no prayer intention too large or too small — you can ask for God's help with every need.

Jesus said to bring our every need before God, and He assured us that “whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.” (John 16:23)

Whatever your needs may be, prayer provides strong relief to a variety of situations you may face.

Some people find that prayers help them in everyday life or with difficulties placed before them. Please share your prayer intentions.

Whether they're for you or someone you know, we can all join in prayers for various Prayer Intentions.

Holy Father Pope Francis has listed a date wise list of intentions to pray for during this month; this datewise list may find a place in our daily family prayers every month as well:

- 1 For the entire world wounded by the pandemic
- 2 For all those who have not been able to say goodbye to

their deceased loved ones

3 For all those infected with the coronavirus and all the sick and For all the deceased

4 For all expectant women and their unborn children

5 For all children and adolescents

6 For all young people

7 For all families

8 For all communication workers

9 For all seniors

10 For all people with disabilities

11 For all the poor, the homeless, and the economically distressed

12 For all people who live alone and those who have lost hope

13 For all prisoners

14 For all scientists and medical research institutions

15 For all migrants

16 For all victims of violence and human trafficking

17 For all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations

18 For all doctors and nurses

19 For all people at war and for world peace

20 For all pharmacists and health care personnel

21 For all social workers

22 For all volunteers

23 For all law enforcement and military personnel and for all firefighters

24 For all those who provide essential services

25 For all teachers, students and educators

26 For all workers and entrepreneurs

27 For all the unemployed

28 For the Holy Father, bishops, presbyters, and deacons

29 For all consecrated men and women

30 For the Church

31 For the end of the pandemic and the resumption of our social and economic life

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International Days Of Events ...

Why do we mark International Days?

International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. We also mark other UN observances.

Several events are celebrated around the world.

These are listed to invite the interest of the readers and stimulate their interests for further study and meaningful action.

2 May World Tuna Day (A/RES/71/124)

3 May World Press Freedom Day (UNESCO 26 C/Resolution 4.3)

8 May (second Saturday of May) World Migratory Bird Day [UNEP]

8-9 May Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War (A/RES/59/26)

15 May International Day of Families (A/RES/47/237)

16 May International Day of Living Together in Peace (A/RES/72/130)

16 May International Day of Light [UNESCO] (UNESCO 39 C/Resolution 16)

17 May World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (A/RES/60/252; ITU Resolution 68/2006)

20 May World Bee Day (A/RES/72/211)

21 May International Tea Day (A/RES/74/241)

21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (A/RES/57/249)

22 May International Day for Biological Diversity (A/RES/55/201)

23 May International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (A/RES/67/147)

26 May "Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon (A/RES/54/115)

29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers (A/RES/57/129)

31 May World No-Tobacco Day [WHO] (WHA Resolution 42.19)

1 June Global Day of Parents (A/RES/66/292)

3 June World Bicycle Day (A/RES/72/272)

4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression (A/RES/ES-7/8)

5 June World Environment Day (A/RES/2994 (XXVII))

5 June International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (A/RES/72/72)

6 June Russian Language Day (Russian)

7 June World Food Safety Day (A/RES/73/250)

8 June World Oceans Day (A/RES/63/111)

12 June World Day Against Child Labour

13 June International Albinism Awareness Day (A/RES/69/170)

14 June World Blood Donor Day [WHO] (WHA Resolution 58.13)

15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (A/RES/66/127)

16 June International Day of Family Remittances (A/RES/72/281; GC 38/Resolution 189)

17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (A/RES/49/115)

18 June Sustainable Gastronomy Day (A/RES/71/246)

19 June International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (A/RES/69/293)

20 June World Refugee Day (A/RES/55/76)

21 June International Day of Yoga (A/RES/69/131)

21 June International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice (A/RES/73/300)

23 June United Nations Public Service Day (A/RES/57/277)

23 June International Widows' Day (A/RES/65/189)

25 June Day of the Seafarer [IMO] (STCW/CONF.2/DC.4)

26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (A/RES/42/112)

26 June United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (A/RES/52/149)

27 June Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (A/RES/71/279)

29 June International Day of the Tropics (A/RES/70/267)

30 June International Asteroid Day (A/RES/71/90)

30 June International Day of Parliamentarism (A/RES/72/278)

Members may like to write on any of the above to demonstrate how these events have benefited human kind. Such writings would inspire others to nurture the humanity around us to demonstrate the Divinity that drives us on.

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Matheckal Family At A Glance ...

Matheckal Family At a Glance

Total Members 1027

Sons 294

Daughters 285

Wives 222

Extended Family 226

Nephews thru daughters 101

Nieces thru daughters 125

Male Descendents 395

Female Descendents(incl.wives) 632

Priests 45

Priests among the Four Branches 12

Laity 884

Nuns 95

Nuns among the Four Branches 31

Under Graduate 353

Graduate 478
 Post Graduate 131
 Doctorate 16
 Student 111
 Among men engaged in agriculture, trading 176
 Entrepreneurs 18
 Among women engaged as home makers 357
 Professionals 152
 Government – Defense sectors–Air Force, Army, Navy 23
 Social, Community Service 70
 Pastoral Service 45
 Politics, Public Service 6
 Teaching 127
 Healthcare, Hospitality 48
 Medicine 35
 Education 127
 Engineering, Technologies and IT 56
 Arts, Design, Mass-Com 6
 Linguistics 12
 Professional Management 14
 Miscellaneous Missionary Activities 117
 Finance and Law 37
 Theology, Philosophy 42
 General 632
 Details to be updated est 150
 List to be updated est 200
 List of those who passed away from 1992
 List of those who are born from 1992
 List of those who got married from 1992

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2020-21 The Year of St. Joseph . . .

The Carpenter's Gift

St. Joseph - We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. Later at some point he accepted Mary and Jesus. We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him.

Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

This poem is an ode to an ordinary man - Joseph rising up to be a saint on this May Day.

The Vatican announced that this year (December 8, 2020

- December 8, 2021) would be a year dedicated to St. Joseph, husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ. The announcement coincides with the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX with the document *Quemadmodum Deus* on December 8, 1870.

As an extra special blessing to accompany this celebration, the Church offers a plenary indulgence to all the Catholic faithful, under the usual conditions (Confession, Communion, and praying for the pope's intentions), if they participate in the Year of St. Joseph.

Participation in the Year of St. Joseph includes

Meditation on the Our Father for at least 30 minutes, or participation in a spiritual retreat of at least one day which includes a meditation on St. Joseph,

Performing a corporal or spiritual work of mercy,

Recitation of the Holy Rosary as a family or engaged couple,

Entrusting your activities every day to the protection of St. Joseph, or invoking his intercession so that those seeking employment may find work and that all may have dignified work

Recitation of the Litany of St. Joseph (for those belonging to the Latin tradition), or

the Akathistos of St. Joseph - in whole or in part (for those belonging to the Byzantine tradition), or

some other prayer to St. Joseph (for those belonging to other liturgical traditions) for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution, and

Recitation of any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honour of St. Joseph, especially on these particular days: March 19, May 1, the feast of the Holy Family (December 27, this year), St. Joseph's Sunday (Byzantine tradition), the 19th day of each month, and every Wednesday.

The Carpenter's Gift

The world seemed to stop

For a moment in life,

As he drew near for a kiss

He felt her with fright start

Life as he knew it

Had come to an end.

As the tears ran down

And his bride, his hand held,

I carry a life and a gift from God

Tell me what to do she begged

And I swear your command

Will come to pass.



The Poet Shaji K N . . .

His rage so fierce
 Seemed to burn the night
 And the killing rage
 He fought with all his might,
 He ran as far as his body could
 And then fell crying
 As his body shook.
 A despair so dark
 That day thought it was night
 Nature had not seen
 And the moon in fear
 Behind her sister the
 Dark cloud ,hid from sight.
 In the morn a calmness did engulf,
 He walked back , this ordinary man
 As his bride still in tears stood.
 He said I will raise him
 This gift from God.
 Ordinary mortals raised
 The Mother and Child
 In minds , to the Gods held high
 But if you listen to nature
 In the dark without a soul in sight
 She will whisper
 How a carpenter to the world
 Gifted A God that night .



St Joseph - The Carpenter . . .

(A Poem by Shaji K N - Alumni from Trivandrum a Post Graduate in Management, Entrepreneur in Gold and Diamonds in Nagarcoil and a poet by passion and interest on varied topics of spirituality and human emotions and better living)

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Celebrations and Events

Those Who Left Us During last One year

From March 2019 the entire world is in the grip of the Covid 19 pandemic. During last one year, the following members of left for their heavenly abode. *Our prayers for and condolences to the bereaved families of:-*

Late Mariakutty Thomas Matheckal Vilayanickal

Late Sr Ranitta Matheckal Kurinjikaanam

Late Rosamma Mathew Kannathukuzhy Cherai

Late Ulahannan Mathai Kannathukuzhy Kothamangalam

Late Johnny MP Matheckal Thazhatheveetil

Jose T Matheckal Appointed as Chief Technical Advisor (GloBallast) and Head, ITCP Implementation and Major Projects in 2020.



Jose T Matheikal - CTO IMO AND Head . . .

Jose T Matheikal is the son of MC Thomas and has two sisters Jessy and Jolly. He is the first non-European to occupy this prestigious chair and the youngest one too.



Jose T Matheikal: The Pride of Arakkuzha . . .

Sr Mary Jude CJ -Education Coordinator,Counsellor, Writer Painter Sculptor

Born on 22.12.1935, Mary Joined the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) in 1956 after graduation. Took MA in Literature from Women's College, Patna. She began teaching in their Allahabad school and thereafter became Principal at Patna school in 1980.



Sr Mary Jude CJ. . .

Sr Mary Jude was Superior at Bangalore and Mumbai. Later as Education Co-ordinator for 15 years, she was key figure in devising the education policy of the congregation schools (for India and Nepal). She was Vocation Promoter continuously for 8 years visiting Kerala every year. She held key positions at Navajyoti Niketan, the pastoral center at Patna for two years during which time she also studied several courses.

Now happily retired counseling and taking care of weaker students. A person with great imagination and brimming with ideas, she is a very good administrator and teacher, loved by both students and teachers alike.

Being of artistic bend of mind and attitude, Sr Mary Jude used to paint and sculpt. She wrote two books on their foundress Mary Ward which became tremendous hit in the congregation - 'Education through the eyes of Mary Ward' and 'Life of Mary Ward' (in comic format) for children to understand and appreciate.

Sr Joan Matheikal MMS - Ministry Thru Hospital Administration and Sustainable Agriculture

Born on 10/5/1937, Rosely joined Medical Mission Sisters in 1956 she did BSc nursing in PGI, Chandigarh followed by a Masters in Hospital Administration from George Washington University, USA, did her Residency in Mercy Medical Center, Chicago before joining Holy Family Hospital (HFH), Mandar as Administrator. She served at HFH Delhi and Kurji for nearly two decades. She was District Co-ordinator (Provincial) of North District - India, Pune for 6 years and again re-assigned a second term as administrator at HFH Kurji for 5 years.



Sr Joan Matheikal MMS. . .

After retirement in 2004, Sr Joan came back to Mandar and is engaged in managing the activities of their farm, which she loves to do. They have an array of agricultural/horticultural activities along with a variety of animals and birds, all living harmoniously in the farm. The emphasis is on sustainable organic farming preserving the

ecology and balance in the environment. According to her youngest brother George Thomas, Sr Joan thoroughly enjoys and is energised being in Nature and working with the people of the area making concerted efforts to do organic farming and water management systems.

Sr Susan Matheikal FMM Felicitated- International Business Council in 2017 felicitates our Sr Susan Matheikal with "Star of Asia" award for her outstanding achievements in her field of activities



IBC Felicitates Sr Susan Mathikal FMM in 2017

...

Sr Susan excelled in the fields of teaching, administration, Education, Entrepreneurship, Empowerment of Girls etc. Sr Susan is celebrating her 80th Birthday this year



Star of Asia Award Certificate 2017 ...

Kudumbayogam Silver Jubill Celebrations 2017



Silver Jubilee of Matheckal Kudumbayogam in 2017 inaugurated ...



Silver Jubilee of Matheckal Kudumbayogam in 2017 with Patron ...



Kudumbayogam 2017 in progress ...



Kudumbayogam 2017 in progress ...



Kudumbayogam 2017 in progress ...



Kudumbayogam 2017 in progress ...



Kudumbayogam 2017 in progress ...



Kudumbayogam 2017 in progress ...

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Celebration of Thanksgiving in Our Arch Episcopal Pilgrim Church Arakuzha for our Jubilarians - the Golden Jubilee of Ordination of Our Patron Fr Joseph Matheikal Kannathukuzhy Kalliyel, 100th Anniversary of Fr Mathai Matheckal One of the Seven Dolors of Syro Malabar Church and 151st Anniversary of Fr Bernadette CMI ...

(Photos and Compilation-kind courtesy Babu Peter KV John Santhosh Sunny George T Matheikal Baby Matheckal)