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*Silver Jubilee
of Episcopal Ordination*

MAR THOMAS ELAVANAL

BISHOP, EPARCHY OF KALYAN



25

*Silver Jubilee
of Episcopal Ordination*

MAR THOMAS ELAVANAL
BISHOP, EPARCHY OF KALYAN

മാർ തോമസ് ഇലവനാൽ
ഇടയശേഷൻ
കല്യാൺ രൂപത മക്കളുടെ

ചെന്തോടിക്കേക രജത ജൂബിലി
ശ്രീശംസകൾ

അനുഗ്രഹത്തിന്റെ 25 വർഷങ്ങൾ



“നിങ്ങളെയും അജഗണം മുഴുവനെയും പറ്റി നിങ്ങൾ ജാഗരൂകരായിരിക്കുവിൻ. കർത്താവ് സ്വന്തം രക്തത്താൽ നേടിയെടുത്ത ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സഭയെ പരിപാലിക്കാൻ പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവ് നിയോഗിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന അജപാലകരാണ് നിങ്ങൾ”.
(അപ്പ. 20:28)

ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ പര്യായമായ അഭിവന്ദ്യ മാർ തോമസ് ഇലവനാൽ പിതാവ് മെത്രാഭിഷേക രജതജൂബിയുടെ നിറവിൽ...

1997 ഫെബ്രുവരി 8ന് സീറോമലബാർ മേജർ ആർക്കിഎപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ അപ്പസ്തോലിക് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്ററായ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ് മാർ വർക്കിവിതയത്തിൽ പിതാവിൽ നിന്നും കൈയെപ്പ് ശുശ്രൂഷ വഴി മെത്രാൻപട്ടം സ്വീകരിച്ച് കല്യാൺ രൂപതയുടെ ദിതീയ മെത്രാനായി അഭിഷിക്തനായി. കഴിഞ്ഞ 25 വർഷങ്ങളായി സ്നേഹ സമ്പന്നനായ ദൈവം അഭിവന്ദ്യ പിതാവിനെ കരം പിടിച്ചു നടത്തിയതിനേയോർത്ത് നമുക്ക് നന്ദി പറയാം. പിതാവിന്റെ നേതൃത്വപാടവും, കരുതലും, സ്നേഹവും, വാത്സല്യവും നാമോരോരുത്തരും അനുഭവിച്ചറിഞ്ഞവരാണ്.

വി. കുർബ്ബാനയോടുള്ള ആഭിമുഖ്യവും, പ്രാർത്ഥനയെ അനുഭവമാക്കാനുള്ള പരിശ്രമവും, ആത്മീയ ഒരുകത്തോടെ കുദാശകളെ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളണമെന്ന ആഹ്വാനവും, എല്ലാ കാര്യങ്ങളിലുമുള്ള കൃത്യനിഷ്ഠയും, ഉപരി ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിൽ അധിഷ്ഠിതമായ ജീവിതവും പിതാവിന്റെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ അലിഞ്ഞു ചേർന്നിട്ടുള്ള സുകൃതങ്ങളാണ്. ആരാധനാക്രമങ്ങൾ ഏകീകൃതമാക്കാൻ നടത്തിയ പിതാവിന്റെ അശ്രാന്തപരിശ്രമത്തിന്റെ ഫലമാണ്

പുതിയക്രമത്തിലുള്ള കുർബ്ബാനതക്സ.

കല്യാൺ രൂപതയുടെ പ്രഥമമെത്രാനായിരുന്ന ദിവംഗതനായ മാർ പോൾ ചിറ്റിലപ്പിള്ളി പിതാവ് തുടങ്ങിവച്ച എല്ലാ സംരംഭങ്ങളും അതിന്റെ പൂർണ്ണതയിലെത്തിക്കാനും, ആ സ്വപ്നങ്ങളെ സാക്ഷാത്കരിക്കാനും, കല്യാൺ രൂപതദൈവജനത്തെ ഇടയാർമ്മത്തോടെ നയിക്കാനും അഭിവന്ദ്യപിതാവിന് സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നതിൽ നമുക്കഭിമാനിക്കാം.

പിതാവിന്റെ മിഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളോടുള്ള ആഭിമുഖ്യവും ജനക്ഷേമതത്പരതയും എടുത്തു പറയേണ്ടതാണ്. അതിനുള്ള ഉത്തമോദാഹരണങ്ങളാണ് കാലവർഷകെടുതിയിൽപ്പെട്ട ഭവനരഹിതർക്കായി ഭവനങ്ങൾ പണിതുകൊടുക്കുകയും അതുപോലെ കൊറോണയെന്ന മഹാമാരി ആഞ്ഞടിച്ചപ്പോൾ ജാതിമതവിത്യാസം കൂടാതെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ കണ്ടറിഞ്ഞ് അവരെ സഹായിക്കാനും കാണിച്ച തീക്ഷ്ണത.

ഈ ലക്കത്തിൽ അഭിവന്ദ്യ മാർ തോമസ് ഇലവനാൽ ഇടയശ്രേഷ്ഠന്റെ രജതജൂബിലിയാഘോഷ നിറവിൽ കല്യാൺ രൂപതാ മക്കളും ഇടയനെ അടുത്തറിഞ്ഞവരും പങ്കുവയ്ക്കുന്ന അനുഭവങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

അതോടൊപ്പം ഇടയശ്രേഷ്ഠന്റെ മുന്നോട്ടുള്ള വഴിത്താരയിൽ തന്റെ ജനത്തെ നയിക്കാനുള്ള എല്ലാ ദൈവാനുഗ്രഹങ്ങളും പ്രാർത്ഥനകളും കൂപ്പുകരങ്ങളോടെ നേരുന്നൂ.



YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET & A LIGHT TO MY PATH

FEBRUARY 2022

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Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal

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Diocese of Kalyan, Plot No. B/38, P.B. No. 8434, IIT PO., Powai, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India 400076. Tel. (+91) (022) 2578 5515, 2578 2385 E-mail: kalyanlantern@gmail.com Website: www.kalyandiocese.com Matrimonial: www.godsownchoice.com



Venerabili Fratri

THOMAE ELAVANAL, M.C.B.S.

Episcopo Callianensi

argenteum episcopalis ordinationis iubilaeum feliciter recolenti, gratulamur toto corde laetum eventum atque pastorale ministerium pro lucro sodalium Congregationis suae deindeque gregis eparchiae Callianensis sibi commissi fideliter, prudenter ac missionali fervore expletum, dum, intercedente Immaculata Virgine Maria et sancto Apostolo Thoma, copiosa dona Spiritus Sancti ei exoptamus et Benedictionem Apostolicam, caelestis gratiae auspiciis, amanter elargimur, preces pro Nostro officio recte gerendo comiter poscentes.

Datum Romae, Laterani, die XXVIII mensis Ianuarii, anno MMXXII.

Franciscus



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
IN INDIA

New Delhi, 1st February 2021

N. 1543/22/IN

Your Lordship,

On behalf of the Apostolic Nuncio, currently on a pastoral visit outside of New Delhi, I am pleased to forward to you the enclosed letter, dated 28 January 2022, from His Holiness Pope Francis (*Enclosure*).

As Your Lordship will see, the Holy Father congratulates you on the occasion of the XXV Anniversary of your Episcopal Ordination.

Be assured of our sincere prayer for your episcopal ministry as well as for the faithful of your Diocese. May the Lord grant you abundant blessings!

With my most prayerful good wishes, I remain

Yours respectfully in Christ,

Mgr. Juan Pablo Cerrillos Hernandez
1st Secretary

Your Lordship
Rt. Rev. Thomas ELAVANAL, M.B.C.S.
Bishop of Kalyan
Plot N. B/38
I.I.T. P.O., Powai

MUMBAI – 400 076

(With Enclosure)



SILVER JUBILEE
OF EPISCOPAL
ORDINATION

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KALYAN LANTERN
February 2022
COVER STORY



CONGREGATIO
PRO ECCLESIIS ORIENTALIBUS

Prot. N. 284/96

His Excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal
Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination

The generous spirit of service to our Lord Jesus Christ through the Syro-Malabar Church, which distinguishes Mar Thomas Elavanal, is something that His Excellency undoubtedly imbibed from his family in his early years, along with his siblings, three others of whom also embraced religious life. For 25 years, he has been a zealous and devoted shepherd to the Eparchy of Kalyan.

The same spirit and zeal has also marked his life in the religious family of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, for which he was recently appointed Pontifical Delegate. From the early years of his priestly ministry, Bishop Elavanal was entrusted with the formation of younger members in the common life, which makes him especially suited to accompany the spiritual renewal of his Institute.

His higher studies to Rome prepared him well for his role as Chairman of Syro-Malabar Synodal Commission for Liturgy. The publication of the new Taksa and the implementation of the uniform mode of celebrating the Holy Qurbana are indeed noteworthy achievements of the liturgical reform desired by the Second Vatican Council for the Eastern Catholic Churches.

The Congregation therefore gratefully extends since congratulations and prayerful best wishes for many more fruitful and happy years!

With prayerful best wishes in Christ, I remain

Sincerely,

✠ Leonardo Card. Sandri
Prefect

✠ Giorgio Demetrio Gallaro
Secretary



George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop
Syro-Malabar Church



MESSAGE

Prot. No. 0109/2022

29 January 2022

Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS has come to the Silver Jubilee Year of his Episcopal ordination. This is an occasion for the Eparchy of Kalyan to celebrate it meaningfully and receive God's blessings for the people of God in the Eparchy.

Bishop Thomas is the second Bishop of Kalyan. Bishop Paul Chittilapilly of revered memory had established a strong foundation for this first eparchy of the Syro-Malabar Church meant primarily for the migrant Syro-Malabar faithful. Bishop Thomas Elavanal built upon it a strong ecclesial edifice and this local Church is giving a very powerful Christian witness by way of preaching the Word of God, administering the sacraments and the formation in faith of ecclesial community. The social and charitable activities of the eparchy are a model for other new eparchies in the Church.

Like Bishop Paul Chittilapilly, Bishop Thomas Elavanal keeps up good relationship with the Archdiocese of Mumbai and other eparchies in the Western Region. For ecumenical and inter religious relationships also, Kalyan has created a good network of continued collaboration and cooperation in the social field.

Bishop Thomas Elavanal has rendered unique service to the Syro-Malabar Church as the Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy. It is very active under his leadership. It is by his strenuous efforts that the revised Taksa of the Holy Qurbana in Malayalam was implemented in November 2021. As the Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy he took the initiative in publishing many liturgical books like the Lectionary, Syriac Qurbana Taksa, Qudasha of Mar Theodore, Qudasha of Mar Nestorius and the Mystagogical Catechesis of the Syro-Malabar Church. The works of the Liturgy of Hours and the Ordo Celebrationis of the Sacraments are in the final stage of preparation for publication. Being a liturgist- bishop, he is always vigilant to preserve the proper liturgical traditions of the Church.

Above all, the witness of prayer and spiritual life in the personal life of Bishop Elavanal is a great inspiration for the priests, the religious and the faithful of the Eparchy. God has blessed the Eparchy of Kalyan through the commendable service of Bishop Thomas Elavanal. May God grant him abundant blessings in his future apostolate in Kalyan, in the Syro-Malabar Church and in the Church in India as a whole!

Cardinal George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



The Syro - Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia

Mount St. Thomas, P.B.No. 3110, P.O. Kakkanad, Kochi - 682 030, Kerala, India

Tel: (0484) 2424780, 2424768, 2426235; Fax: (0484) 2422727. E-mail: majorarchbishop@gmail.com, Website:www.syromalabarchurch.in



Oswald Cardinal Gracias

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE

21, Nathalal Parekh Marg,

Mumbai - 400 001,

Tel : 2202 1093/1193/1293

Fax : 91-22-2285 3872

Email : diocesebombay@gmail.com

MESSAGE

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. (Psalm 69:30)

It gives me great joy to learn that Bishop Thomas Elavanal is celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal Ordination on February 8, 2022. On this special occasion the editorial team of Lantern, (Diocesan Magazine), has decided to bring out a special issue dedicated to Bishop Thomas.

I have been closely associated with Bishop Thomas over the past twenty five years. The warm relations that exist between the two sister Churches of the Archdiocese of Bombay and the Eparchy of Kalyan are largely due to his kind and understanding ways, his love for the Church, and dedication to his faithful. For me it has been a joy to collaborate with him. I can hardly recollect any moment of tension between the two Church during his tenure of office.

At the Western Region Bishops' Council too he has been a very active member, both as Chairman of the Health Commission and giving wise counsel on all issues we discussed. The Health Commission was very active during the pandemic, their dedicated volunteers brought much relief to those affected by the pandemic.

My Hearty congratulations to Bishop Thomas Elavanal and to the faithful of the Diocese of Kalyan! *Ad multos annos*, dear Bishop Thomas!

February 3, 2022

✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias

Archbishop of Bombay &

President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of India



Mar Thomas Elavanal:

A Malpan of Eucharistic spirituality

I am happy to write a few words of appreciation about Mar Thomas Elavanal, the Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy and Bishop of Kalayan on the occasion of the silver jubilee of his Episcopal Ordination. I know him personally since 1994 when he was my liturgy professor at St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Carmelgiri, Alwaye. It was with great joy that all of us his students welcomed the episcopal announcement in 1997 appointing him as the second bishop of Kalyan. It was because of his vast experience as a member of the Central Liturgical Committee, a member of the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy, that he was elected as the Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy in 2013.

I am lucky to work with him since 2015 onwards as the assistant secretary and now as the Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy. From my own experience I can surely say that he is very cordial, simple, humble and sincere in his dealings with others. Besides, he is really a malpan who lives what he teaches in the field of liturgy. It is because he has integrated the essence of Eucharistic spirituality that he lives with a face of Eucharistic joy. He is celebrating, proclaiming and living the paschal mysteries mainly through his Eucharistic centred life.

Mar Thomas Elavanal is known as a good liturgist because he has a very clear vision about the history and theology of the Syro-Malabar Liturgy. No one, whether priests or the laity, has the right to change or add to the text of the liturgical celebrations (SC 22,3). We are only the custodians of the liturgical and spiritual treasures of the Church.

Bishop Thomas is the paternal guide to all CLC members to clarify all the liturgical doubts. He is well appreciated for bringing consensus even at the time of heated discussions among the CLC members. He convenes all the Special Committee meetings of bishops to scrutinize the final shape of the liturgical texts before presenting it to the Synod.

Mar Thomas is rendering an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the liturgy of our Church. It is through his strenuous effort that the revised Taksa in

Fr. Francis Pittappillil

Secretary, Commission for Liturgy
Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanaad

Malayalam was brought into the light in 2021. He has dedicated much time and energy to elucidate and explore the beauty of the revised Taksa of the Syro-Malabar Church. He is the chief protagonist of the uniform mode of the celebration of the Holy Qurbana as prescribed by the Synod. Unity won't be possible without uniformity in the basic forms of the Liturgy. Mar Thomas argues that the unity in the Liturgy is the basis of ecclesiastical communion. He quotes the words of Pope Benedict XVI who says: "Without unity at the Altar, there will be no unity in the Church".

His time as the Chairman of the Liturgy Commission will be written in golden letters in the Church history since many liturgical books like Lectionary, Syriac Qurbana Taksa, Qudasha of Mar Theodore, Qudasha of Mar Nestorius, Mystagogical Catechesis of the Syro-Malabar Church, Second set of Liturgical readings etc. were published during this period. The works of the liturgy of Hours and the Ordo Celebrationis of the Sacraments are in the final stage. Being a liturgist bishop, he is always vigilant to preserve the liturgical traditions of the Church. Without forgetting the liturgical sources of our Church, he could bring an organic development in the celebration of the liturgy.

May Almighty God bless him to continue the good work he is rendering as the Chairman and inspire many more in the field of the liturgy! It is my prayer and wish that this 25th year of Episcopal Ordination may bring him great joy and peace in the fulfilment of his life, dedicated to God and the people of God. His selfless ministry, especially as the Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy is a great service to the Lord and the Church.



“BELOVED SON OF MCBS”: CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAR THOMAS ELAVANAL TO MCBS CONGREGATION

Fr. Jerry Vallomkunnel MCBS
Regional Superior, MCBS Maharashtra Region

A contemplation on the vocation, mission and life of Most. Rev. Thomas Elavanal MCBS unveils the fathomable mystery that surrounds him that he was called, readied, nurtured, and supported by God’s Grace and Mercy for a special mandate in the Church. From 10th June 1966 as an aspirant until 18th December 1996 as Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Kalyan, his days in the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (MCBS) has to be seen as the ‘chosen time’ in Divine plan that God prepared him to be an apostolic successor. This presumption is echoed in my conversations with his companions at Lisieux Minor Seminary at Athirampuzha, Novitiate at Kottayam, Philosophy and Theology studies at MCBS Study House, Aluva, and contemporaries in MCBS leadership.

Just as in the example of all those who were called for any Divine Mandate during formation days he was not a person of extraordinary adequacies, but was a pupil with good human formation who was always willing to improve himself, hardworking, maintaining significant relational qualities and took prayer life serious. He had his first religious profession on 17th May 1968 and final profession on 7th May 1973. He was ordained priest by Mar Sebastian Mankuzhikary on 22nd December 1975.

His first appointment as a priest was at the MCBS Minor Seminary, Kottayam as vocation promoter cum dean of studies of minor seminarians. Later he was sent to Rome for higher studies and accomplished a Licentiate in Liturgy from Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome and the Doctorate in Theology from Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Angelicum also in Rome. His doctoral dissertation entitled, ‘The Memorial Celebration: A study of the anaphora of the Apostles Mar Addai and Mari’ which contains the historical background and Christology present in the Anaphora is a valid liturgical treasure. He had his post-doctoral courses in the Catholic University of America, Washington.

In 1984 at his return after higher studies he was appointed rector of the MCBS Study House, Aluva. He extended his services as a visiting professor of liturgy at the Pontifical Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Aluva and Paurastya Vidyapitham, Kottayam. As a professor and mentor of seminarians he was successful in leading forth the powers that lie asleep within the candidates to priesthood by giving personal attention and thus he was very much loved by everyone.

He was elected Vicar General MCBS in 1989 with responsibility of the social Apostolate of the congregation. It was in his leadership and support and tireless commitment of Fr. George Kuttickal that MCBS ventured into the ministry of ‘Friends of Birds of the Air’ (FBA) ministry for the rehabilitation of

abandoned and destitute people for which the foundation stone was laid by St. Mother Theresa in 1994. Further, it was the General Administration team of MCBS with him as Vicar General took responsibility of the apostolates of pastoral care and evangelization of the civil districts of Satara and Solapur under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Eparchy of Kalyan in 1992. It was part of the Divine Project that later the same territory came under his eparchial administration. MCBS launched the Rajasthan Mission comprising Sirohi and Jalore districts of the Diocese of Ajmir in 1989 under administration of the same general administration team.

He was elected Superior General of MCBS in 1995. With nobility in character he was a servant-leader to his confreres with his peaceful, sober and smiling presence. Being a charismatic person who was docile to the gifts of wisdom and understanding he used to listen patiently to the concerns of confreres and no one would return desperate. Congregation gratefully remembers his contribution for the formulation of its ‘Rule of Life’ (Constitution) which was promulgated on 25th May 1989. MCBS Tamil Nadu Mission was inaugurated by him who was then Superior General on 21st August 1996. Jeevalaya Institute of Philosophy, the Philosophy seminary of MCBS was inaugurated on 3rd July 1996 during his tenure as Superior General. Further, he laid the foundation stone for Sanathana Vidhyapeedam, the Theologate of MCBS on 24th May 2001.

On 18th December 1996 his Excellency was nominated Bishop of Kalyan. It was the announcement of a Divine mandate to be full-filled through him. For MCBS congregation it was to respond to an annunciation to bequeath the service of one of its precious sons to the universal church. He was the first MCBS priest to be nominated bishop. The motto of his episcopacy “To live in Jesus and to lead to Jesus” is to be understood as an extension of the motto of MCBS Congregation “To be with Him to be Broken” (with the Eucharistic Lord). Just as St. Paul said: “But by the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Cor. 15:10), Bishop Thomas is always proud to assert: “I am what I am by the grace of God and my congregation”. Even as an apostolic successor he remained joyful in adding the affix “MCBS” with his name. He has always maintained his sense of being religious. On 21st December 2021 he was nominated Pontifical Delegate to MCBS congregation.

On the occasion of the silver Jubilee of his Episcopal ordination on 8th February 2022, MCBS Congregation joyfully joins the Diocese of Kalyan in thanking the Lord for the gift of his episcopacy. We also express our gratitude to the Eucharistic Lord for the blessings manifested through his services to the universal church in the Eparchy of Kalyan. ■



Priestly ordination by
Bp. Sebastian Mankuzhikary

Son from Elavanal Family

Fr. Zacharias Elavanal
and
Sr. Meena Elavanal

Mar Thomas Elavanal was born on 28th March 1950 in Mutholy, Palai to Mr. Zacharias and Mrs. Thresiamma as the fifth child out of the nine. In 1940, Elavanal family migrated to the north (Malabar) in search of uncultivated lands and bought a small village called Chathangottunada in Kuttiyadi in Calicut District. It is with the enduring journey of Mr. Zacharias against the odds of nature that this village has flourished as it is today.

Miles and Milestones

History was in the making. Zacharias believed that Catholics should live a life around the altar of the Lord. He dedicated his life for the welfare of his community and worked hard for it. He donated his most premium value lands (a site he had chosen to build his dream house) to the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament (MCBS) to build their Ashram and a Church. MSJ sisters from Kothamangalam were also chosen beneficiaries of his property. Surely, Zacharias did not know that in the future his two sons would become members of the same Congregation and that his daughter would join MSJ at the time of his sacrifice. He was a leader with a vision of his mission, an exemplary father, husband and a just man.



Bishop aged 5 years standing on the left of his grand father with other cousins



Bishop as 8 month old baby sitting on mother's lap and father standing behind



On the day of First Holy Qurbana giving communion to his Mother



As seminarians our Bishop and his brother Fr. Zacharias at the back row



As new priests with the Superior General



Elder Brother Pappachan & Family



Bishop's Parents



Younger brother Joseph and Family



Younger Sister Annamma and family



Younger sister Mariamma and Family



Younger sister Thresiamma and Family



Family photo taken about 35 years ago

Big Impact

Thomas was a peaceful, gentle and caring child. The older children including Zacharias (Thomas' elder brother), experienced the hardships of the family while settling down in Malabar. These two brothers played, prayed, studied and worked together even in their vocation to religious life. As children, they served as altar boys at the Ashram.



Bishop with his parents, brother (Fr Zacharias) and sisters (Sr Meena and Sr Leema)

The Calling

The spiritual foundation of his parents, relationship to the Church and a happy family life were surely moulding a future priest in Thomas. He was a brilliant student in school and a favourite to his teachers. Surely the life of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers had a strong influence on his vocation to the priesthood. Thomas and Zacharias joined MCBS seminary in Alwaye. Thomas was ordained by late Mar Mathew Mankuzhikary on 22nd December 1975. The eldest sister, Sr Leema, joined the Carmelites order and followed the path of teaching. The second elder sister, Sr

Meena, joined the MSJ sisters and practised medicine as a gynaecologist. The eldest brother, Pappachan, was an engineer who sadly died at the age of 57. The youngest of the brothers, Joseph, is a retired bank officer and the other three sisters are happily married.

Fr. Thomas, on 18th December 1996 was nominated as the Bishop of Syro-Malabar Church of Kalyan. Whilst our families felt the separation of our beloved brother, Diocese of Kalyan gained a charismatic and gracious Shepherd in Mar Thomas Elavanal.





CONTRIBUTION OF MAR THOMAS ELAVANAL TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE DIOCESE

Notes by

Fr. Emmanuel Kadankavil

Vicar, Mother of Victory Shrine, Tikujiniwadi

Success of any institution is intensely intertwined to the potentials of its personnel. Eparchy of Kalyan is blessed with well-equipped human resources thanks to the careful planning of our Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal. By his words and example, he inspired all its personnel especially the CLERGY, to a sense of humility, simplicity and responsibility. He enlightened the priests and people spiritually through his prayer life, example and guidance. Through several self-initiatives he encouraged, supported and promoted personal development of all the members.

As regard the PRIESTS and SEMINARIANS he made sure that they are trained sufficiently in their human, Intellectual, spiritual and social dimensions. He inspired the priests to grow to their full capacity. Adequate theological and liturgical formation was imparted to the priests too. He made sure that sufficient number of priests were specialized in various faculties of Church and religion. He sent the Seminarians to Seven different Seminaries to get them trained with a multifaceted ministry. Several priests were sent abroad and in India to be specialized in various subjects. He also was very much concerned about the health of priests and people and envisaged several schemes for their well-being.

He took keen interest in appointing qualified and committed ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL to the various posts in the diocese. He tapped well, the human resources of the diocese, affirming each one's personal charisms and abilities and channalized them well.

The personnel that the VARIOUS COUNCILS constituted by the bishop reflected their expertise and sense of responsibility. Each of the diocesan council was benched



by well-experienced personnel who would help him in making right decisions in planning the progress of the diocese. Considering the individual capacity of the diocesan personnel, he exercised the principle of Subsidiarity in carrying out tasks.

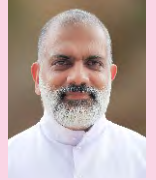
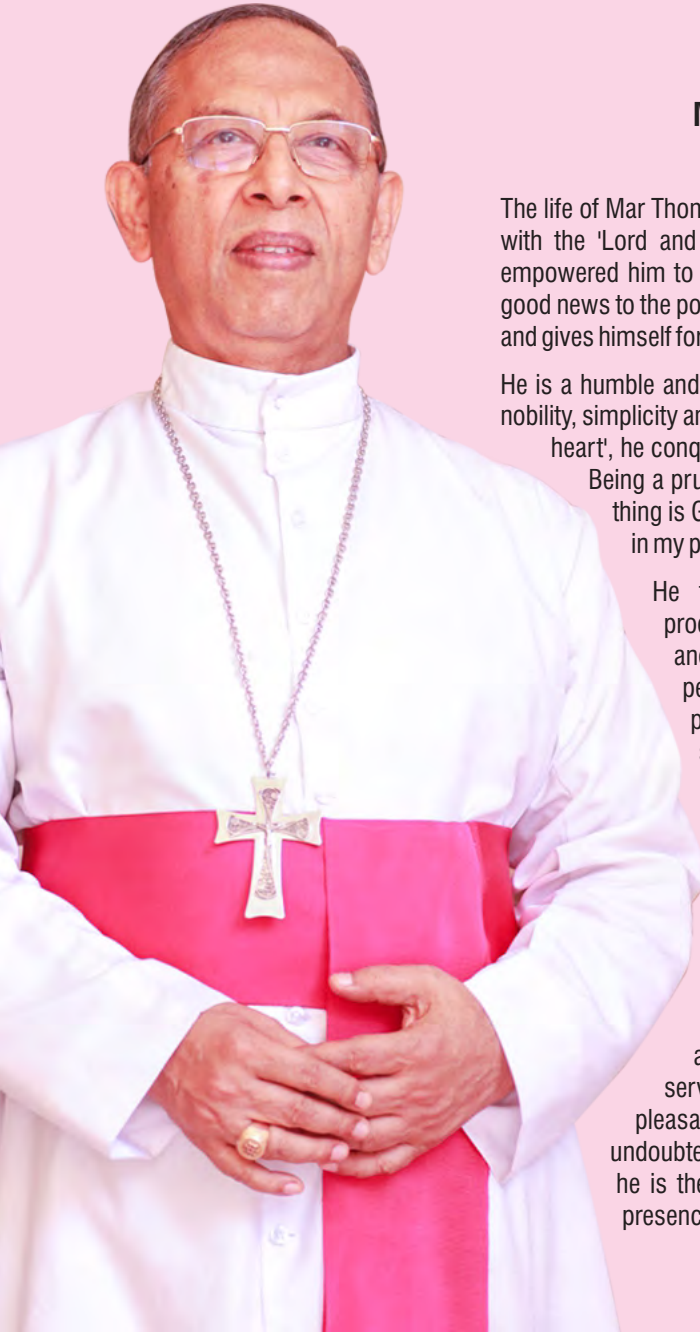
The FAITHFUL of the Eparchy of Kalyan constituted the real treasury of personnel who were instructed, trained and enlightened by the bishop by his frequent pastoral letters, visits and personal guidance. He took personal interest in charting out pastorally oriented appointments and distribution of ministers to parishes and associations.

**Congratulations and Gratitude to His Excellency
Mar Thomas Elavanal!**





Personal Qualities of Mar Thomas Elavanal



Msgr. (Dr.) Francis Eluvathingal

Protosyncellus, Diocese of Kalyan

The life of Mar Thomas Elavanal is well founded on his personal encounter with the 'Lord and God' in the Eucharistic Bread. His faith experience empowered him to get transplanted to this migrant land and to bring the good news to the poor and needy. Possessing the heart of Jesus, he breaks and gives himself for all as a good pastor.

He is a humble and meek servant, adorned with the qualities of holiness, nobility, simplicity and hospitality. With his exemplary life, smile and 'father's heart', he conquers everyone. He is the 'shadow of divine love' for us.

Being a prudent administrator and a great leader, for him 'the first thing is God and faith'. He lives as God asked of Abraham, 'walk in my presence and be irreprouchable'.

He faithfully exercises the threefold responsibility of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments and exercising the ministry of charity. His spirituality and personal prayer negotiates with God on behalf of his people. Being a visionary, he encourages everyone to be sacraments and witnesses of God's generous love. He is a man of communion and collegiality, giving hope to the world.

As sensible preacher, just man, faithful to the Word, lover of good, he cares for the faithful with tenderness and mercy. In imparting faith, healthy doctrines and customs, he is like St. Thomas. In watching over, caring and feeding the herd entrusted to him, he resembles St. Joseph. Like Aaron, he is anointed to anoint the flock and is passionate about serving them. As St. Paul views, his fatherliness spreads pleasant fragrance to all without limits. As Pope Francis thinks, undoubtedly, he is a 'shepherd with the odour of sheep'. Indeed, he is the icon of Godliness for us. We pray that his life and presence continues to impart divine grace to all of us!



MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DIOCESE

Our beloved bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal was ordained bishop and took charge as the second bishop of the Diocese of Kalyan on 8th February, 1997. He was very particular to continue the footprints and the developments of the infrastructure of our diocese in line with the initiatives of Mar Paul Chittilapilly, our first bishop. The vision and mission of the diocese visualized by the first bishop was continued and promoted with zeal and dedication by our current bishop.

The Karunya Trust was inaugurated on the very first day of the episcopal ordination of our bishop. It has become the umbrella of all the social and charitable activities for the upliftment of the downtrodden and the marginalized in the territory of our diocese, especially in the village areas.

The basic infrastructure of the diocese covered the following:-

1. a) Churches
b) Prayer Halls
c) Presbyteries
2. a) St. Thomas Minor Seminary
b) Cathedral
c) Pastoral Centre
d) Plot for the new Bishop's House
3. Educational Institutions
4. Social-Charitable Institutions
5. Missionary Context

Fr. Jacob Porathur

Vicar, Little Flower Forane Church, Nerul

The first and foremost priority was given to organize and build up the worshipping communities in our diocese. For this purpose, our bishop coordinated the purchase of plots and structures and motivated the people to construct churches, prayer halls, and presbyteries. Till this period, our bishop has succeeded in constructing and consecrating 98 churches, prayer halls and presbyteries across our diocese. To build up the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, he began various adoration centres in our diocese.

The second priority of our diocese was to have a minor seminary of our own. Till the year 2005, we were depending on other dioceses for the formation of our seminarians. So he took the initiative to purchase a proper and befitting plot (8 acres) of land in Panvel. We could complete the construction and start the seminary in the year 2006. The completion of the construction of the Minor Seminary in just one year shows his earnestness.

The diocese had no proper place for conducting retreats, meetings, seminars and classes. So he decided to





construct the diocesan pastoral centre in Panvel, which was inaugurated in 2012. The construction of the new Bishop's House in Dombivli is under progress.

The diocese lacked a cathedral. So he took the decision to begin its construction overcoming all the financial and legal obstacles. The construction of the Cathedral and Pilgrim Centre shows his confidence and courage. He personally managed to get the relic of St. Thomas, the Apostle of India, from Orthona in Italy and install it at the Cathedral.

The third priority was to have educational institutions. In his farsightedness, Mar Paul Chittilapilly had started 3 schools in Kalewadi, Kalyan East and Andheri West. Mar Thomas Elavanal, our present bishop, made these into a full-fledged functioning schools. Five more plots were purchased and assigned to construct educational institutions. He promoted and encouraged religious (men

& women) to begin religious houses and educational institutions with a view to strengthen the infrastructural developments of the diocese.

The next priority in his mind was to have Social-Charitable institutions for the diocese. To cater to the need, Ashraya Old Age Home and Anugraha Children's Home were constructed.

Missionary Context: 10 districts of Maharashtra were allotted to 4 different congregations for infrastructural developments and missionary activities. Our Bishop has wholeheartedly encouraged and promoted missionary activities and structural development of the four mission areas.

The infrastructural development of the whole diocese is the outcome of hard-work and relentless and untiring commitment and dedication of our bishop during his episcopate for the last 25 years.





An Embodiment of Charity

Fr. (Dr.) George Vattamattam

Finance officer, Diocese of Kalyan

It's said, 'Charity begins at home'. During my seminary formation days, in order to experience the life of slum dwellers in the heart of Mumbai city, we four seminarians chose to stay in a slum in Bhagat Singh Nagar, Goregaon (W) for a year. Joining in the common man's meal of Daal and rice, our beloved Pithavu sat on the floor and spent quality time with us in my Basthi, during one of his visits. That experience showed me how much he valued the poor. As years passed by, being appointed the Social Action Director, I could experience the magnanimity of his charity very closely. Age, religion or language was never a barrier for his charitable love. We all remember the catastrophic Mumbai floods in 2006. Seeing the devastation around, Pithavu immediately released an emergency fund to help the people. Later on with his support and guidance, many funding agencies joined hands in making the relief work a success. Since then, things started to gain momentum. Under the able leadership of our Bishop, Karunya trust together with other associations of the diocese, continued the good work through programmes like HIV/Aids Patient Support Programme, Women Empowerment programmes, village development projects, houses for the poor project, formal and informal education programmes for the children of rag pickers and slum dwellers and many more. A true embodiment of charity, isn't he? Charity brings blessings to people in a world full of uncertainties and chaos. As the world was going through the covid-19 pandemic, Bishop



ensured there was immediate relief sent out to the families facing difficulties. We all saw his viral pic in which he is seen filling the sanitizer liquid into the bottles which were then distributed freely to the people. These are the small acts that show his involvement in the problems of the common man. Even as he celebrates the silver jubilee of his Episcopal ordination, a big milestone in his life, he chose to cancel all the celebrations as the world still continues to come out of the pandemic. Conveying our heartfelt wishes, let us all pray that may God bless him with the grace as he continues to be a catalyst in the holistic development of the eparchy.



CONTRIBUTIONS OF BISHOP ELAVANAL TO THE MISSIONS

Fr. Joby Njalliyil

St Alphonsa Region, Regional Director,
Missionaries of St Thomas, Sangli

My very first meeting with Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal was in March 1999 when he came to Zarap mission station in the Sangli Mission to bless the newly constructed presbytery and convent. The blessing was scheduled on 19th March 1999. Bishop arrived on the eve and stayed with us in a rented house which had only one room. The only source of water for the house was an open well. For bath and other basic needs, we had to draw water from the well. I was surprised to see how understandingly our Bishop adjusted and adapted to the situation. The simplicity and gracefulness of Bishop Elavanal are so heart-touching.

In my 23 years of acquaintance and interactions with the Bishop, I have come to understand how genuine and gentle a missionary he is, always ready to live in any circumstances and ready to accept any challenges. Bishop Elavanal is a model and motivator to every missionary. Moreover, being a Bishop from a Missionary congregation he has an added appreciation and passion for the 'Missions' in the diocese. I see in our Bishop a zealous missionary who always cares about the needs of his people and is ready to do any kind of service to them. During his visit to the missions each time, our Bishop makes it a point

to visit the villages and the marginalized. When he sees his people in suffering, our Bishop's fatherly heart goes out to them. This humane quality of Bishop Elavanal is evident with the support extended by him to the people suffering due to the natural disasters of flood, drought as well as the still ongoing pandemic.

Another hallmark of our Bishop's missionary and pastoral zeal is his care and concern for the newly formed Christian communities in the missions. A true shepherd, Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal radiates the light and love of Christ to his newly formed communities through visitations, building churches, celebrating sacraments and conversing in their local language. By establishing parishes in the missions, our Bishop ensures to take care of the pastoral formation and the spiritual needs of the small Christian communities in the diocese.

On this auspicious occasion of the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of our Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal, we congratulate him with profound gratitude and appreciation. May the Lord and our Blessed Mother continue to bless and guide him for many more years to come.





Our Bishop and his contribution to Vocations in our Diocese

Fr. Joju Arackal
Chancellor, Diocese of Kalyan

When I think of our bishop and his contribution to vocations in our diocese, I would say he contributed more through his deeds than his words. I have not heard he is speaking very much about the vocation but his dealing with the altar boys, seminarians and priests and lay faithful speaks a lot.

I would like to begin my experience with him as a seminarian. When he came to Mumbai as our bishop, I was a seminarian and I found he is very much approachable person, he is very calm to listen hardly he gets angry. It was great surprise for me at that time. Even now he is the same keeping these qualities with him and a real father to seminarians.

As a bishop he is very calm and cool in dealing the altar boys. When the bishop come to the church it is the duty of altar boys to carry the mitre and the staff of bishop. Normally they come with a fear, but our Bishop make sure that they get a place to sit and make them comfortable. It really makes them happy and create a good impression about the bishop as well as priesthood. I have never seen

him getting angry to an altar boy even if they make some mistakes.

I was in Minor seminary for a few years, there I have noticed his dealing with the candidates coming for the vocation camp and planning to join the seminary. When they go to his room for interview, they are normally terrified but when they come back, we can see that they are cool and smiling. This shows how he is dealing with these boys to make them comfortable and encourage them in the vocation to priesthood.

His dealing with the seminarians is marvellous. He takes classes in the minor seminary, his commitment in taking the classes is really exemplary to all the other teachers. He knew them personally and guide them. Being a good teacher seminarians enjoy his classes and examinations.

In the beginning of our diocese, we don't have a minor seminary. It is our bishop's time we started a Minor seminary in Aloor, Irinjalakuda and constructed the present St. Thomas minor seminary in Panvel. And he continues his contribution to vocation.





Bishop's Contributions to CRI | Sr. Marykutty Michael

Ancelle Secular Institute, Ulhasnagar

As a member of the Ancillae Secular Institute, I sincerely acknowledge that I am fortunate to be part of Kalyan Diocese. All the members of ASI who served here have expressed the same sentiments. This is because we feel that we are wanted, we are cared for, our humble services are appreciated, encouraged, and fostered. The one who shows this much concern, encouragement, and love is none other than our beloved Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal, whom we all love to call 'PITHAVE'.

It is not only our experience. All the members of Kalyan CRI, both men and women working in the Diocese share the same feelings. Our Bishop is a man of deep faith and filled with a deep missionary spirit. He has genuine concern not only towards Christians but to all beyond cast

and creed. His concern towards the poor and marginalized is the expression of his faith which is to be copied in our lives. His great contribution towards the religious members is his sincere and genuine acceptance of the religious as his own co-missionaries. He knows what each Congregation is doing, what all services they are rendering for the people around.

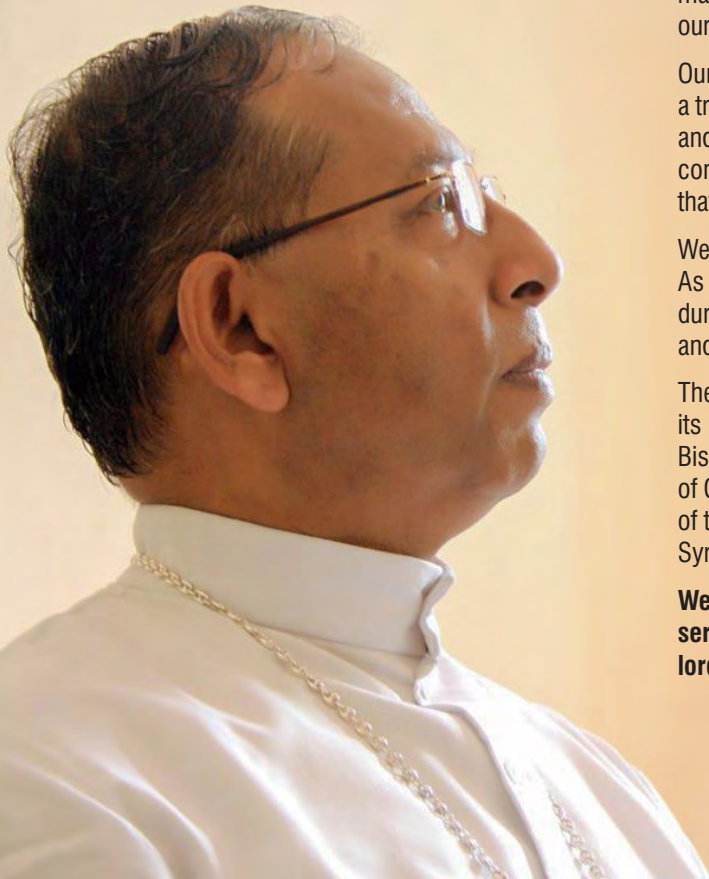
He is a man of availability. If we visit him he cordially welcomes us and listens to us patiently. If someone approaches him with any problem he or she will go back comforted, encouraged, and with deep convictions. His visits to religious communities are another expression of his Love and Concern for us. Whenever we Religious members (CRI) gather together, everybody will have something to share about his visits. On his visits, he makes genuine inquiries about all the members and how our mission and apostolate are carried out.

Our beloved Bishop is a spiritual person. There is not even a trace of artificiality in his dealings with us. His homilies and talks are coming out of his heart and with great conviction. There will always be some authentic points that will linger in the mind of the listeners.

We strongly believe that our Pithav has a motherly heart. As the head of the Diocese, he even thought about us during the Kovid-19 pandemic and provided groceries and other essentials to the smaller religious communities!

The ultimate expression of our Sacramental Faith reaches its culmination in the Eucharistic celebration. Our Bishop's Eucharistic celebration and sharing of the Word of God are unique experiences for all of us. We members of the CRI - Kalyan thank God for the Gift of Pithav to the Syro Malabar Church and in particular for our Diocese.

We congratulate you for your 25 years of faithful service as a wonderful and dedicated shepherd to the lord and the people of Kalyan.





A SHEPHERD WITH THE SCENT OF HIS SHEEP!

Our Diocese was still grappling with its teething troubles when its foster mother Mar Thomas Elavanal took charge in 1997. Ever since, he has been leading his flock to 'green pastures and still waters' in accordance with Psalm 23. We call him "Pithave" but he has always been a nurturing mother to this Diocese with undivided attention for its integral development. With his heart-touching pastoring style, he won the hearts of his sheep, and the bond grew stronger with the passing of each day and that motivated us to put in our best. Today our Diocese marks its presence in the Holy Catholic church for its swift and multidimensional growth.

Our Bishop reflects Christ the Good shepherd. Bishop knew and loved his flock, put in meticulous efforts for their spiritual welfare. Faith formation has always been the focal point of his pastoral care and the Diocese witnessed a meteoric rise in its spiritual growth. Today when vocations are on the decline in the modern world, all eighteen seminarians of our Minor seminary as well as quite a few who opted to be the Religious hail from the very soil of Kalyan Diocese!

Our shepherd is accessible, approachable, and available to his people. Among all Syro -Malabar bishops, he might be the one who has travelled exhaustively across one's eparchy often ignoring his own physical exhaustion. With his innate humility and simplicity, he becomes one amongst the crowd wherever he goes and closely interacts with them . His messages are sanctifying and powerful; never heard even one careless word proceeding from his mouth.

He will put in the best of efforts to stand up for and rescue any strayed sheep, be it one of his priests or religious or faithful - with the love of our heavenly Father that oozes out from his heart. "A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice." (Isaiah 42:3)

Liturgy is his lifeline and passion. His uncompromising

Dr. Rosily Thomas

The first woman Pastoral Council
Secretary of Syro-Malabar Church



approach to liturgy, explanations, and interest in celebrating the Holy Mass in English, Malayalam, Hindi and Marathi to reach out to different sections of society reveal this. It is a golden feather in Bishop's cap as the Chairman of Synodal Commission for Liturgy that the uniformity in liturgy is brought about unifying the global Syro- Malabar community under one umbrella in the very year of his silver jubilee! There was a lot of argle-bargle in certain dioceses in the implementation of uniformity, but it did not ruffle even a single feather in Kalyan because our shepherd had already groomed us from infancy in the catholic values of submission to Christ and to the Holy Church.

Dear Bishop, we rejoice with you as you celebrate your victory in Christ.





The Paternal Love of Our *Pithav*

Joseph Chittilapilly

Infant Jesus Church, Vikhroli

We were 2 years into the formal beginning of the youth ministry, when we heard of the transfer of our first shepherd to eparchy of Thamarassery. The new incumbent to the Episcopal See was young for a bishop. I was introduced to Mar Thomas Elavanal by the then youth director who belonged to the same congregation as our new bishop. Serving the youth ministry, our interactions grew, and he was eager to contribute to planning the objectives and growth of the ministry and keen in spiritually guiding the ministry. Within a year, I left the ministry to enter Holy Matrimony which was solemnized by our bishop. This paternal relation grew by our interaction in pastoral councils, and by his spiritual guidance in ministries like Christian initiation, catechesis, pro-life, young couples, etc. During these years, the spiritual support extended to my family was immense. From his visit to the ICU to pray for my brother, who met

with a fatal accident 23 years ago, to visiting our home to pray for my bedridden mom and later for her funeral services, his presence was spiritually comforting. Some years later, praying for my dad at the hospital, who succumbed in a few days and about 2 years later, leading the funeral services for my brother-in-law, were acts of his prayerful assurance, during these moments of upheaval. As our children grew up, our bishop helped them to begin their journey to discern their vocations. Providentially, we are commemorating Pithav's jubilee year, coinciding with the celebration of maha jubilee year, of the martyrdom of our father in faith – Mar Thoma. Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to our beloved Pithav on the silver jubilee of his episcopal ordination. May our Good Lord bless him abundantly.





Conversation with His Excellency

On the blessed occasion of the silver jubilee of consecration as the Bishop of Kalyan Diocese, the Kalyan Lantern Editorial Team of **Rev Fr. Biju Mannamcheril** and **Dr. CP Johnson** conversed with **His Excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal** to know more about his shepherding journey. Here are the excerpts:

Pithaave, on behalf of all the religious and faithful of our diocese, let's congratulate you on completing 25 years as the shepherd of our diocese. This has been an incredible blessing! How would you like to summarise this 25 years' experience?

When I was appointed the Bishop of Kalyan I had the apprehension to take up the ministry since I had no much relation with the diocese and the priests with whom I should work. Bp. Paul Chittilappilly encouraged and supported me in every way. During this 25 years there was no serious difficulty or tension in carrying out my ministry. I find that the priests and the people are so cooperative and loving. So everything went on well by the grace of God.





Prior to becoming the Bishop of Kalyan Diocese, you were the Superior General of the MCBS congregation. How did you manage this shift from the religious life to the diocesan administration?

To be the Superior General of a congregation and to take up the office of Bishop are very much different. The term of Superior General is maximum for 6 years but the office of the Bishop is for longer time. There we are involved only with the priests and seminarians, whereas as Bishop one needs to interact with priests, religious and the people of various parish communities and even people of other religions. In the religious life community life is insisted, in the diocese pastoral service for the people is more important. The experience and the satisfaction are different. But there was no difficulty for me to adjust to the new ministry. Still I cherish the beauty of the life in the community.



You are known to be a visionary leader. What was your vision for our diocese and how far you could realize it?

At the initial stages, our diocese was going through difficult situations. Even the relevance of the establishment of our diocese was doubted and questioned. So there was confusion in the minds of the people. I had in mind that we should try to strengthen the communion and cordial relationship with other Bishops especially of other rites and the communion among people and thereby convince them about the relevance of our diocese. Diocese of Kalyan is the first one to be established outside Kerala for the migrant members of our Syro Malabar Church living in Latin territories. So many looked upon our diocese as a test case. Through the years we could prove that the peaceful co-existence and united efforts in the field of pastoral ministry and evangelization is possible among churches of different rites. Now this is generally agreed by all the Bishops of India. As a result other dioceses were also erected for the migrant

communities all over India after the example of the Diocese of Kalyan.

That's an achievement for us and we are extremely proud of it. During your tenure we have witnessed many successful endeavours in our diocese – spiritual as well as social. What have been your major thrust areas towards the development of our diocese?

My primary aim and vision was to help the Diocese to grow from adolescence to maturity or to self-sufficiency especially in personnel, structures, churches and institutions, together with the financial resources necessary for the diocese. Formation of the people especially children and youth through pastoral work was given due importance. Besides, we have been concerned about the integral development of the poor people irrespective of caste and creed.

You are the longest serving Bishop of any migrant diocese of the Syro-Malabar Church. By the very nature of the migrant community, our diocese is quite diverse in terms of geographic distribution, culture, language, etc. What were the main challenges you faced and how did you overcome them?

We have in our diocese the diversity of the languages and cultures among the members and diversity of religions among the people around. The area of the diocese is quite vast compared to the dioceses in Kerala. Already our first bishop Paul Chittilappilly entrusted to religious communities certain districts as mission areas where we give more importance to evangelization. Through parish structures we cater to the pastoral needs of our faithful. Now we have more local vocations. Once these seminarians are ordained, our priests will be well equipped to meet the challenges of the diversity of language and cultures.

Change is an inevitable part of human life. Over these 25 years what significant changes have you observed in the faithful of our diocese?

One of the major changes observed in the last 25 years is the shift in the migration of our members. Till the time of the establishment of our diocese or till 1990 there was inflow of the people from Kerala including our faithful who were coming to Maharashtra in search of job opportunities but since 30 years very few people come here in search of job. Most of the youngsters born and brought up here, as well as educated persons, manage to get a job abroad and migrate to foreign countries and their parents later return to Kerala. So, after the establishment of our diocese within the past 34 years there is a gradual decline in the number of our faithful. Now many of the members of our diocese are either abroad



or back in Kerala. This will adversely affect the future of our diocese.

Oh! That's a serious issue. Have you observed any other major concerns that we need to address on priority in our diocese?

Apart from the migration of our faithful, the other major concern is to keep our youth convinced of our faith tradition and spiritual heritage. Though we try to give good faith formation, some of the youth are not closely associated with the Church and our spiritual practices. How can we keep them in the main stream is one of the major concerns of today. Another concern is the growing number of inter-caste marriages among the youth. That eventually may end up in the Christian partner losing one's faith. Parents also should be seriously concerned about this issue.

You are the Chairman of the Liturgical Commission of Syro-Malabar Church. Could you please describe this experience and talk about the reforms in the liturgy?

It is almost eight years since I have been the Chairman of Syro-Malabar Liturgical Commission. Liturgical Commission through the Central Liturgical Committee takes initiative to make necessary renewal in our Liturgy according to the direction given by our Synod. As we know there is diversity of opinion among the members of our Church with regard to the Liturgy and its reforms. So it was not always easy to come to unanimous decisions in liturgical matters. In spite of that we could complete the renewal of our Qurbana which is now almost unanimously accepted and appreciated by all the members of our Church. We hope that there will be complete unanimity also in the implementation of the uniform mode of celebration of the Holy Qurbana. The Commission is also taking the leadership for translation of our Qurbana into various other languages and renewal of other liturgical books.

Kalyan Diocese is in the 34th year of its existence. We have evolved from a new migrant diocese to a well-established diocese with around 1 lakh faithful, 100+ parishes, and many institutions, associations and departments. What are your future plans for our diocese and what should we focus to accomplish in the golden jubilee year of our diocese?

By the grace of God, we could establish necessary infrastructures including churches, common diocesan centres, educational institutions and centres for social charitable activities. When we think of the future growth of our diocese it is suggested to have a place with better facility for the Bishop's House and other diocesan departments. So

too, in the near future we should have a residence facility for the retired priests. During the past years we were more concerned about the pastoral care of our faithful. Henceforth our diocese should focus more on evangelization so that we become the salt of the earth and the light of the world in Maharashtra. We should concentrate on the formation of local Christian communities, so that we may have more sons of the soil besides our migrated community.



We have a faithful community that eagerly looks forward to your guidance in every walk of our life. What would be your best advice to us, especially to the youth and children?

Though we started our life and mission as a migrant community we should bloom where we are planted. My advice to our members especially youth and children is that we should have the strong conviction that it is because of the plan and providence of God that the Eparchy of Kalyan was erected for the migrant Syro-Malabar faithful in Maharashtra and that we are entrusted with a mission to be fulfilled in Maharashtra. We should be thankful to God for the gift of our diocese and we should be true children of our Syro-Malabar Church. We should keep our belongingness to our Church and our diocese and be proud of being St. Thomas Christians. We should learn more about our faith tradition and the heritage of St. Thomas Christians and our spiritual patrimony.

Dear children and youth, love your Church as you love your mother. To the extent you are close to the Church you are close to God. Love your Christian faith and live your Christian life faithfully.

Thank you pithave for your words of wisdom. On behalf of all the religious and faithful of our diocese, we thank you for being our inspiration and guiding star for all these years. May our good God continue to bless you in all your endeavours.





**SILVER JUBILEE
OF EPISCOPAL
ORDINATION**

27
KALYAN LANTERN
February 2022
COVER STORY







**SILVER JUBILEE
OF EPISCOPAL
ORDINATION**

29

KALYAN LANTERN
February 2022
COVER STORY







SILVER JUBILEE OF EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

31 KALYAN LANTERN February 2022 COVER STORY



Honour her for all that her hands have done (Proverbs 31:31)



10th Death Anniversary

In loving memory of my dearest Mummy

*"Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
still loved, still missed, and very dear."*

Fondly missed and remembered by
family & friends

Theresa John

Born: 16th January 1936

Died: 27th January 2012

Theresa Symon
Amala Matha Church, Mulund (W)

5th death Anniversary

**JOY LONA
KURUTHUKULAM**

Birth: 15th April 1955

Death: 22nd Feb 2017

*You are missed by
us every moment...*

Wife: Philomina
Children: Jenny & John
Son in law: Antony
Daughter in law: Mary
Grandchildren:
Angela, Amalia, Jian & James



Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination - Mar Thomas Elavanal at St. Thomas Cathedral Church, Kalyan (W)





**SILVER JUBILEE
OF EPISCOPAL
ORDINATION**

35
KALYAN LANTERN
February 2022
COVER STORY

ശ്രീമാത മഹാസംഭവം
+ മെത്രാൻ പട്ടാമിഷേകം + അയ്യങ്കോട് സഭയ്ക്കുള്ളിലെ + യാത്രാ കേന്ദ്രം +

പരിശീലനത്തിന് വകയ്ക്കുന്ന മെട്രിസിറ്റോട് ചെങ്ങമംഗലം **സഭയ്ക്കുള്ളിലെ** **യാത്രാ കേന്ദ്രം**
മൃഗങ്ങളുടെ സാന്നിധ്യം
പരിശീലനത്തിന് വകയ്ക്കുന്ന മെട്രിസിറ്റോട് ചെങ്ങമംഗലം **സഭയ്ക്കുള്ളിലെ** **യാത്രാ കേന്ദ്രം**
മൃഗങ്ങളുടെ സാന്നിധ്യം

നാമം:	സിദ്ധസ്ഥിതിയും	ചെല്ലാവാൻ സൗകര്യം
ധർമ്മധർമ്മി സഭയ്ക്കുള്ളിലെ യാത്രാ കേന്ദ്രം	പട്ടാമിഷേകവും 7.45 മുതൽ	മഹാസംഭവങ്ങളുമായി 9.30 ന്നു

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION ❖ FAREWELL ❖ FELICITATION ❖

☆ PROGRAMME PARTICIPATED BY SCORES OF THOUSANDS OF SPIRITUAL DEVOTEES ☆
☆ PRESENCE OF ACCOMPLISHED SPIRITUAL HEADS FROM ALL OVER ☆
☆ ALTAR BOYS IN LITURGICAL VESTMENTS ☆
☆ THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS IN UNIFORM ☆
☆ VIBRANT BANDETS BY TINY KIDS AND MELODIOUS DIVINE MUSIC ☆
☆ ORNAMENTAL FESTIVE UMBRELLAS, COLOURFUL AND FASCINATING ILLUMINATION ☆
☆ A GREAT GALA RECEPTION WITH LIGHTS, INCENSE, AND FLOWERS BY HUNDREDS OF YOUNG LADIES ☆

Dear Friends,

Mr. Rev. Dr. Thomas Elvaral is being ordained as the Bishop of Kalyan on 8th February 1987 at 4.30 pm. The ceremony starts with a colourful procession and the Rev. Elvaral will be consecrated by His Grace Mar Valerius Vithayalil as Chief Celebrant and His Grace Mar Jacob Theodosius, His Eminence, Assistant and Groves Monasteries and to receive and fill with solemn grace.

Ever since the birth of Kalyan Diocese, it has been shy led and administered with the spirit of 'unity, love and sacrifice' by our beloved Bishop Mar Paul Chelappilly. A public meeting is being held to express our sense of gratefulness, love and affection to the outgoing Bishop and also offer him our prayerful greetings and best wishes as the Bishop of Thamassey.

The public meeting will be inaugurated by lighting a lamp at the hands of His Eminence Simon Cardinal Pimenta. The Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, His Excellency DR. P. C. ALEXANDER, has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest and will be presiding over the function.

We take this opportunity to felicitate the newly ordained Bishop of Kalyan, His Lordship Mar Thomas Elvaral and the new Apostolic Administrator His Grace Mar Valerius Vithayalil.

Looking forward to your valuable presence and whole hearted co-operation

President, Mrs. Thomas Theodosius
General Convener, P. J. Agrani
Publicity Chairman, Malayil Joseph K.rian

Winners of the Christmas Quiz

- 1. Emmanuel Leo**, Sacred Heart Church, Bhayandar
- 2. Jovi Vinoj**, Christ The King Church, Bhandup
- 3. Sana Shaiju**, St. Alphonsa Church, Kalewadi
- 4. Angel Maria Jomon**, Infant Jesus Church, Koparkhairne
- 4. Shanelle & Shauna Pallikunnath**, St Joseph Church, Airoli
- 5. Steve Santhosh**, St Thomas Church, Vasai East
- 5. Reynaldo Reji**

Congratulations!

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Own Vehicle

Contact:
C. L. DAVID VALAPPILA
9323196882 / 9821222065
Dombivli
8879229738
Thane
9167534571

Shop No. 1,
Trishul Terraces,
Plot No. 36, 37,
Sector 20, Koparkhairane,
Navi Mumbai - 400 709
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Priests ordained by Mar Thomas Elavanal for Kalyan Diocese

Fr. Jose Kokkopuzha	09-04-1997	Fr. Anoop Poyyaniyil	25-04-2009
Fr. Benny Ezhormattom	28-12-1997	Fr. Jomon Thekkumthala	26-12-2009
Fr. Shibu Pulickal	26-12-1998	Fr. Liju Keettikkal	27-12-2009
Fr. Jeeson Kanjirathingal	28-12-1998	Fr. Jinto Edattukunnel	28-12-2009
Fr. Joju Arackal	28-12-1998	Fr. Shaiju (Augustine) Kattayath	29-12-2009
Fr. Shaji Parickapallil	30-12-1998	Fr. Jerry (Alex) Maleparambil	31-12-2009
Fr. Benny Thanninilkumthadathil	01-01-2000	Fr. Joby Ayithamattathil	27-12-2010
Fr. Saju (Mathew) Adampakallel	01-01-2000	Fr. Nixon (Mathew) Pallan	28-12-2010
Fr. Justin Kallely	28-12-2000	Fr. Joemon (Sebastian) Kurisingal	29-12-2010
Fr. Paul Olickal	31-12-2000	Fr. Jeffrin Pallithara	27-04-2011
Fr. Varghese (George) Vattamattam	03-01-2001	Fr. Jomet Vazhayil	30-04-2011
Fr. Davis Chalissery	12-05-2001	Fr. Thomas Joseph Kunnathettu	26-12-2011
Fr. Rajesh Mathew Paruthippallil	26-12-2001	Fr. Thomas (Bibin) Cheenothuvattukulam	27-12-2011
Fr. Cyriac Kumbattu	29-12-2001	Fr. Liju (Sebastian) Irattakuzhackal	28-12-2011
Fr. Sheen Chittatukara	30-12-2001	Fr. Francis Komban	27-12-2012
Fr. Biju Chittilappilly	31-12-2001	Fr. Jesto Menachery	02-01-2013
Fr. Biju Mannamcheril	01-01-2002	Fr. Bipin Chovattukunnel	03-01-2013
Fr. Martin Kombara	13-05-2002	Fr. Soji Pezhathinkal	03-01-2013
Fr. Kuriakose Kalaparambath	14-05-2002	Fr. Lijo Velliyamkandathil	28-12-2013
Fr. Boby Mulakkampilly	15-05-2002	Fr. Jenson Poruthur	29-12-2013
Fr. Davis Tharakan	29-12-2002	Fr. Frinto Ollukaran	26-12-2014
Fr. Shaibu Paul Malethadathil	31-12-2002	Fr. Franklin Cheruvathoor	27-12-2014
Fr. Biju Kollamkunnel	22-04-2003	Fr. Antony (Sinto) Pulikkottil	29-12-2014
Fr. Sebastian Mudakkalil	27-12-2003	Fr. Kiran Eluvathingal	30-12-2014
Fr. Tomy Nelliyan	22-04-2004	Fr. Sinto (Joseph) Enanickal	31-12-2014
Fr. Paul Kunduparambil	27-12-2004	Fr. Raphael Ainickal	26-12-2016
Fr. Franklin Pottananickal	30-12-2004	Fr. Royce Kalaparambil	29-12-2016
Fr. Jacob (Siju) Kizhakkepallivathukkal	28-12-2006	Fr. Shijo Koothoor	31-12-2016
Fr. Francis (Shaju) Kottarathil	28-04-2007	Fr. Jobymon Jose (Vayalil Muringayil)	30-12-2017
Fr. Lijo Mullonkal	31-12-2007	Fr. Bibil P. B. (Punnakkathadathil)	02-01-2018
Fr. Shinto Vallanattu	01-01-2008	Fr. Danny Davis (Chittilappilly)	03-01-2018
Fr. Joseph (Lijo) Chalissery	20-04-2008	Fr. Jitin Shaju Kottarathil	27-12-2018
Fr. Jaison Kollannur	24-04-2008	Fr. John (Rajeev) Kochuveetil	27-12-2018
Fr. Siby Kochuveetil	26-04-2008	Fr. Jojit Johny Kootungal	31-12-2018
Fr. Jitto (Paul) Thengumpallil	28-04-2008	Fr. Dhanoop Chungath	01-01-2019
Fr. Varghese (Sinto) Davis Chalissery	27-12-2008	Fr. Bibin Thomas Mattaparampil	02-01-2019
Fr. Binoy Kannanaickal	28-12-2008	Fr. Fibin Sunny Kanjiraparambil	03-01-2019
Fr. Shijo Parayil	30-12-2008	Fr. Maxin Pozholiparambil	28-12-2019
Fr. Siby Kulangara	20-01-2009	Fr. Jackson Sebastian Attichirayil	26-12-2021
Fr. Martin Velliyamkandathil	22-04-2009	Fr. Albin Varghese Koonammavu	29-12-2021

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