

## CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Published by: Advocate John Joseph Nalloor

**1 January, 1937:** Inauguration of the Second Floating Dispensary of the Church Missionary Society (CMS). CMS started its medical board in Travancore in 1933, to provide medical aid to the Central Travancore and Kuttanadan villages. At the time only big cities had Government Hospitals. It was very difficult to provide medical aid to the Kuttanadan villages, which were surrounded by water. So the CMS started a floating dispensary in 1934. The dispensary was actually a big Kettuvallam (country boat) with a doctor and a compounder working on it. The first floating dispensary was a big success; in the very first year they treated 15,000 patients and conducted 250 operations. So a second floating dispensary was started on 1 January 1937.

**1 January, 1985:** Death of Rev. M. M. Thomas (b.25 Dec.1927). Rev. M. M. Thomas was a member of the Mundaparampil family of Poovathoor near Chengannur. He became a deacon of The Mar Thoma Church on 14 Dec, 1957 and priest on 12 Feb, 1958. He was the General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam and it was during his term that the Adoor Youth Centre was constructed. He was the first missionary of our church to the Andaman Islands. He was called to his eternal home while attending the New Year service at the Kuttapuzha (Tiruvalla) Mar Thoma Church on Jan 1, 1985.

**1 January, 1881:** Birth of C. K. John Kasseesa –Chettikunlangara (d.26 Jan.1932). C. K. John Kasseesa became a deacon on 10 Nov. 1902 and priest on 15 Feb.1903. He was the vicar of Kannamangalam, Karipuzha Salem, Parimanam and Eramathoor parishes. He led the formation and establishment of the Karipuzha Salem and Parimanam Mar Thoma Parishes.

**1 January, 1897:** Birth of Rev. E. I. Kuruvilla, Kurichiethu Eramalladil, Niranam (d.6 Jun.1980). Rev. E. I. Kuruvilla became a deacon on 22 Aug, 1931 and later ordained as priest. He was the vicar of parishes in Thalavady, Kottayam and Kundara. In addition to his priestly duties, he taught in the Nicholson School in Tiruvalla, M. T. Seminary School in Kottayam and the St. Thomas School in Karthikapally.

**1 January, 1622:** New Year starts from 1 January instead of 25 March. The Roman Catholic Church adopts January 1 as the beginning of the year. Before this it was generally accepted that the New Year began on 25 March.

**1 January, 1643:** Baptism of Renowned Scientist Isaac Newton. English mathematician and physicist Sir Isaac Newton was baptized at St. John's Church in Colsterworth, England. Deeply interested in religion throughout his life, Newton (known especially for formulating the laws of gravitation) acknowledged Jesus as Savior of the world, but not God incarnate.

**1 January, 1863:** Freedom for slaves. American President, Abraham Lincoln (b.12 Feb.1809 - d.15 Apr.1865), freed all slaves in Confederate states by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. Churches throughout North American States held candlelight vigils commemorating the event.

**2 January, 1792:** Edward Perronet, author of the Hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' name" (Hymn No. 90 in Kristheeya Keerththanangal) passes away. Edward was born at Sandrige, Kent in 1726. The Hymn was published in 1779. It is a hymn that will never die. Edward was called home on 2nd Jan, 1792 and was buried at Canterbury Cathedral.

**2 January, 1991:** Death of Rev. Dr. Ninan. A. Kallumpurathu (b.30 Jul.1918) Kuzhikkala. After passing L.Th; B.A., M.A., Th.M., Th.D., he became a deacon on 14 Nov.1939 and priest in 1940. For seven years he was the Principal/ Administrator of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Cherukole-Kozhencherry. He served more than 15 parishes and taught at the M. T. Seminary in Kottayam.

**2 January, 1921:** Pittsburgh radio station KDKA broadcasts the first religious programme over the airwaves: a vesper service of Calvary Episcopal Church. The senior pastor, unimpressed by the landmark broadcast, didn't even participate in the service, leaving his junior associate to conduct it. The two KDKA engineers (one Jewish, the other Catholic), were asked to dress in choir robes to be less obtrusive. Today religious broadcasting is a multi-billion dollar industry.

**3 January, 1521:** Excommunication of Martin Luther (10 Nov. 1483 – 18 Feb. 1546). Pope Leo X creates a bull (Papal Order) of the excommunication of Martin Luther that would have deprived him of civil rights and protection. But before its execution, Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, allowed Luther to recant his beliefs at the Diet of Worms. When Luther affirmed his beliefs instead, the bull was carried out.

**3 January, 1840:** Joseph de Veuster, a Roman Catholic Missionary (Father Damien) who gave his life ministering to lepers in Hawaii, is born in Tremolo, Belgium. He was called home on 15 April 1889.

**3 January, 1653:** Oath of Coonan Cross. Under the influence of the Portuguese Empire a synod was convened at Udayamperoor near Ernakulam in 1599 and the Malankara Church was made part of the Roman Catholic Church. People who wished for freedom from the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church tried to get a bishop from Babylon. On the request of the Syrian Christians, a bishop named Athulla was sent to Malankara in 1652. However, he was captured and killed by the Portuguese in Goa. The Syrian Christians were infuriated and on 3rd January 1653, gathered in large numbers at a church in Mattancherry (Cochin). They tied ropes to the granite cross in front of the Church and by touching the ropes, took an oath severing their connection with the Roman Catholic Church. This incident is known as the Oath of Coonan Cross. (Coonan in Malayalam means bent – The Cross bent to one side during the oath taking ceremony).

**4 January, 1581:** James Ussher (d.21 Mar.1656), Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland, is born. Ussher was famous for a chronology of the Bible that was repeatedly printed in the King James Bible Versions. He was so highly esteemed that Oliver Cromwell gave him a state funeral and had him buried in Westminster Abbey.

**4 January, 1944:** Death of T. M. Thomas Kasseesa (b.1870), Thoppil Vadakkethil, Punthala. T. M. Thomas Kasseesa became a deacon in 1894 and priest in 1895. He was the founding president of the Venmony Centre Sunday School Teachers Association. He provided free Homeo medicine to the sick. He led the construction of the Punthala Mar Thoma Church building.

**4 January, 1965:** T. S. Eliot (b.26 Sep.1888), the most influential English writer in the twentieth century and a devout Christian, who wove his religious convictions into his work, dies.

**5 January, 1945:** Mr. M. G. Chandy (Kunjachen) S/o Rev. M. C. George, Maliyekkal becomes a deacon. Bishop Abraham Mar Thoma ordained M. G. Chandy (Kuriannoor) and K. J. Mathew (Pennukkara) during the service held in the St.Thomas Church in Kuriannoor. After his ordination, Deacon Chandy went back to Bangalore U. T. College to continue his studies and he worked as assistant to Rev. Philip Oommen. (Later Deacon Chandy became Alexander Mar Thoma Thirumeni and Rev. Philip Oommen became Philipose Mar Chrysostom Thirumeni).

**6 January, A.D. 548:** Change of Christmas date. The Jerusalem Church observes Christmas on this 6 January for the last time as the Western Church moves to celebrating the birth of Jesus to 25th December.

**6 January, 1906:** Birth of Rev. M. Mathai, Karimpanammannil, Anicadu (d.13 Jan.1945). Rev. M. Mathai became a deacon on 4 Mar.1935 and priest in May 1935. He was the vicar of the Kayamkulam, Kadammanitta Salem, Naranganam and Mekkozhoor parishes. Rev. A. Mathew is his son and Rev. K. I. Mathai, his son in law.

**6 January, 1850:** Conversion of Charles Spurgeon (b.19 Jun.1834). Charles Spurgeon, who would become one of the greatest preachers of all time, converts to Christianity after receiving a vision, "not a vision to my eyes, but to my heart. I saw what a Savior Christ was," he wrote, "I can never tell you how it was, but I no sooner saw whom I was to believe than I also understood what it was to believe, and I did believe in one moment".

**7 January, 1965:** The Daniel Case - Final Judgment from Supreme Court. The case O. S. No. 116 of 1955 filed in the District Court of Kottayam on 29 Jul.1955 by (plaintiffs) 'Mr. Nina Daniel and others' against (defendants) 'Most Rev. Juhanon Mar Thoma Metropolitan and others' is known as the Daniel Case. The main prayer of the plaintiffs was to restrict Juhanon Mar Thoma from holding the post of Metropolitan on the claims

he rejected the faith of the Mar Thoma Church. After 10 years of litigation, judgment was given in favor of the defendant Juhanon Mar Thoma by the Supreme Court of India.

**7 January, 1953:** Death of P. V. Zachariah Kasseesa (b.1885) Purackal, Cheppad. After his education in CNI (Cambridge Nicholson Institute) Kottayam, he became a deacon on 1 Dec.1902 and priest on 2 Jun.1903. He led the reconstruction of the Cheppad Mar Thoma Church building.

**7 January, 1898:** Birth of Rev. Dr. C. E. Abraham. Rev. Dr. Abraham (d.18 Mar.1985) was a member of the Cheruthottathill family in Kozhencherry. He was ordained a deacon in 1920 and priest in 1930. He was Professor/Principal of the Serampore Theological College from 1925-1959. In addition, he was the General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam and Evangelistic Association. Rev. Abraham also served as a visiting professor for many foreign universities around the world. He wrote many books including "Church History" and "Builders of Indian Churches". He was the editor of the First Mar Thoma Church Directory. Rev. Abraham will be remembered as one of the most learned and farsighted priests of the Mar Thoma Church.

**7 January, 1972:** Rev. Dr. C. G. Samuel (b.12 May.1911), Ayroor, passes away. Following the footsteps of his paternal great grandfather Cherukara Philipose Malpan, Rev. Dr. C. G. Samuel became a priest and worked with the ashram in Palakkad and St. Thomas School in Keezhillam. He later became a Hindu with the name "Easwer Das" and after few years returned to the Mar Thoma Church after tendering due apology to the Metropolitan Juhanon Mar Thoma.

**8 January, 1921:** Ordination of V.P. Mammen (1876-1952), George John (1880-1930), K. E. Oommen (1981-1984) and V. T. Chacko (1888-1954). These four are the first graduates who accepted ordination together in the Mar Thoma Church. They could have secured lucrative secular jobs in the country or abroad, but opted to serve the Church.

**9 January, 1966:** Death of V. I. Philipose Kathanar (b.13 Mar.1883), Vadakkanazhikathu, Kundara. V. I. Philipose Kathanar became a deacon on 15 Apr. 1897 and priest on 10 Mar.1904. He was an expert in the Syriac language and taught many members of our clergy, including our Valiya Metropolitan Chrysostom. He worked hard to propagate the Gospel in Tamil Nadu. Rev. Dr. V. P. Thomas is his son.

**10 January, 1739:** Ordination of George Whitefield (16 Dec.1714 – 30 Sept.1770). George Whitefield, the preacher who sparked America's first great awakening, is ordained to the Anglican ministry on 10 Jan 1739. Whitefield took to open-air preaching after jealous ministers denied him the use of their pulpits, and it suited him perfectly - his booming voice, it was reported, could be heard a mile away.

**10 January, 1966:** Death of P. V. Koshy Kasseesa (b.21 Jan.1877) Perkattu, Pallipadu. After his education in CNI Kottayam, Koshy Kasseesa became a deacon in 1894 and

priest on 11 Feb.1899. He served various parishes including Chennithala, Cherukole, Eramathoor, Karuvatta, and Karthikapally for 63 years.

**10 January, 1905:** Birth of T. L. Varghese Kasseesa, Kundara (d.20 Dec.1962). He was the vicar of parishes in Mylam, Adoor, Kalayapuram, Thalavoor, Pattamala, Kaithacode, Mukhathala, Perayam and Ashtamudi. He was the secretary of Titus II Mar Thoma Metropolitan and Yohannan Mar Timotheos Episcopa (Juhanon Mar Thoma).

**11 January, 1975:** Rev. P. T. Joseph, Palakunnathu (b. 27 Jun.1931) becomes Ramban. Rev. P. T. Joseph and Rev. V. T. Koshy were consecrated as Rambans at the Trichur Mar Thoma Church on 11 Jan.1975. On 8 Feb 1975 they were consecrated as Episcopas with the names Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Irenaeus and Rt. Rev. Easow Mar Timotheos.

**11 January, 1888:** (27 Dhanu 1064 M.E) Third meeting of the Evangelistic Association at Nedumprayar - Maramon School. One of the main decisions taken in this meeting was that all contributions to the association should be voluntary and no one should be compelled or burdened to make any payment to the Association. This practice of voluntary contribution still continues in our Church.

**11 January, 2000:** Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan passes away. Alexander Mar Thoma was born on 10 April, 1913 as the son of Rev. M. C. George, Maliyekkal, Kuriannoor. Became a priest on 5 Jan.1945 and was consecrated as Bishop in 1953, together with Thomas Mar Athanasius and Philipose Mar Chrysostom. In 1976, after the demise of Dr. Juhanon Mar Thoma, he became the Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church.

**11 January, 1916:** Birth of Rev. K. P. Philip, Tiruvalla (d.8 Aug.1991). Rev. K. P. Philip became a deacon on 11 Sep.1943 and priest on 10 Feb.1944. He was the Traveling Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, and General Secretary of the Evangelistic Association, President of the Yuvajana Sakhyam, General Secretary of the Voluntary Evangelists Association, and Principal of the Bible Institute in Kompady etc. For many years he was the director of the Dept. of Sacred Music and led the Maramon Convention Choir.

**12 January, 1908:** Birth of Rev. V. E. Thomas, Singapore (Vadakkethu, Kuriannoor) (d.20 Jan.1996). After passing his B.A., B.D. examinations, Rev. V. E. Thomas became a deacon on 21 Dec 1946 and priest on 11 Jan 1947. He was the Vicar of the Mar Thoma parishes in Singapore, Malaya and Malacca and served as the Principal of the St. Thomas School in Singapore. He had Malaysian citizenship. He passed away in Singapore on 20 Jan.1996.

**13 January, 1945:** Death of Rev. M. Mathai, Karimpanammannil, Anicadu (b.6 Jan 1906). Rev. M. Mathai became a deacon on 4 Mar.1935 and priest in May 1935. He was the

vicar of Kayamkulam, Kadammanitta Salem, Naranganam and Mekkozhooor parishes. Rev. A .Mathew is his son and Rev. K. I. Mathai his son in law.

**14 January, 1875:** Theologian, medical missionary, organist, musical historian, and winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize, Albert Schweitzer is born into an Alsatian family which for generations had been devoted to religion, music, and education. His father and maternal grandfather were ministers; both his grandfathers were talented organists; and many of his relatives were persons of scholarly attainments. He passed away on 4 Sep.1965.

**14 January, 2004:** Death of Rev. V. T. George, Valliparampil, Chachipunna (b. 15 Jun. 1931). Rev. V. T. George became a deacon on 5 May 1965 and priest on 5 Jun 1965. He served the Pattamala, Kanakappalam, Odanavattom, Anchal, Venmony and Kannamangalam parishes.

**15 January, 1929:** Baptist minister Martin Luther King, Jr. (d. 4 Apr.1968), America's most visible civil rights leader from 1955 until his assassination in 1968, is born in Atlanta. In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means. Dr. King was assassinated on 4 April 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

**15 January, 1950:** K.G. Mathew Semmasan (b.20 Jan.1920), Karuvatta passes away. After his training at the M. T. Seminary in Kottayam he became a deacon on 23 Nov.1946. In the Karuvatta parish, he assisted the Vicar Kalleli Vilayil Geevarghese Kathanar. He passed away at the young age of 30.

**15 January, 2006:** Death of Rev. T. M. Thomas (b.9 Nov. 1921) Thazhathillathu, Vadasserikkara. Rev. T. M. Thomas became a deacon on 28 Oct.1950 and priest on 23 Jun 1951. He served the Kaithakuzhy, Pooyapally, Charummood, Ranny Nazareth, Kumbanad, and Vadasserikkara parishes.

**15 January, 1535:** Henry VIII, King of England, declares himself head of the English Church (The Church of England). Henry VIII (28 Jun.1491 – 28 Jan.1547) was King of England and Lord of Ireland, later King of Ireland, from 21 Apr 1509 until his death. Henry was the second monarch of the House of Tudor, succeeding his father, Henry VII. Henry VIII is famous for having been married six times. He wielded perhaps the most unfettered power of any English monarch, and brought about the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the union of England and Wales. Many significant pieces of legislation were enacted during Henry VIII's reign. They included the several Acts which severed the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church and established the king as the supreme head of the Church in England.

**16 January, 1836:** Mavelikkara Padiyoola. The first CMS Missionary, Rev. Thomas Norton came to Kerala in 1816 and three more Missionaries came in the following years and worked with the Malankara Church authorities in cordial relationship. But soon friction between the Missionaries and the Malankara Metropolitan started and the Church was not willing to accept the reforms brought about by the Missionaries in the field of clergy education and accounting systems of the parishes. On 16 Jan. 1836 a synod was called at Mavelikkara and it was resolved not to accept the reforms of the Missionaries. It was decided to settle the property claims between the Metropolitan and the Missionaries by arbitration. The agreement made in Mavelikkara is known as the Mavelikkara Padiyoola.

**16 January, 1929:** Birth of Rev. George Varghese, Vaidyanparampil, Chunakkara (d.15 May 2007). Following the footsteps of his father Rev. V. K. Varghese, he became a deacon on 30 Jul 1953 and priest on 19 Dec 1953. From 1984 to 1990, he was the clergy trustee of the Mar Thoma Church. He served parishes in Chengannur, Poona, Kuttapuzha, Kozhencherry, Maramon and Kattanam.

**17 January A.D. 356:** (traditional date) Antony of Egypt, regarded as the founder of Christian monasticism, dies at the age of 105. Committed to a life of solitude and absolute poverty, he took two companions with him into the desert when he knew his death was near. They were ordered to bury him without a marker so that his body would never become an object of reverence.

**17 January, 1946:** Death of Alexander Kathanar (b.10 Nov. 1865) Lakhavettathu, Pandalam. Alexander Kathanar became a deacon in 1885 and priest in 1888. He was the vicar of Pandalam, Kaipettoor, and Maanthuka. He led the construction of the first Mar Thoma Church in Pandalam and the primary schools in Cherrikkal and Mudiyoorkkonam.

**18 January 1907:** Birth of Rev. P. C. Cherian, Manganam (d.21 Mar.1978). After passing his B.A., L.T., examinations, he served the St. Thomas School in Keezhillam as teacher and headmaster. He became a deacon on 15 Apr.1938. He was the vicar of Keezhillam and Thodupuzha parishes. His brother P.C. George and sister Sr. Leyamma were the founders of the Manganam Agathimandiram.

**18 January, 1947:** Death of Joseph Kasseesa (b.21 Jan.1863) Ayrukuzhiyil, Puthencavu. Joseph Kasseesa became a deacon in 1881 and priest on 21 Jan 1885. He was the Vicar of the Orthodox Church in Puthencavu from 1881- 1890 and afterwards joined the Mar Thoma Church and served as the Vicar of the Puthencavu Mar Thoma Church from 1890 to 1937. He led the construction of the Mathilakam Mar Thoma Church building in Puthencavu.

**19 January, 1907:** Birth of Rev. P. O. Samuel, Kandathil, Karthikappally (d.3 Apr.1972). After passing his TTC examination, he taught in the Karapuram School, and went for theological training in Kottayam. He became a deacon on 2 Jun 1949 and priest on 1 Nov.1949. For many years he taught at the Bible Institute in Kompadi, Tiruvalla.

**20 January, 1568:** Miles Coverdale (b.1488) who produced the first complete printed translation of the Bible into English, publisher of the first printed English Bible and the man who completed William Tyndale's translation of the Old Testament, dies at the age of 80.

**January 20, 1918:** Following the Bolshevik Revolution, all church property in Russia was confiscated and all religious instructions in schools were abolished.

**20 January 1913:** Birth of Rev. T. J. Mathai, Kanniyaplahkathu, Ashtamudi (d.29 Apr.1998). He became a deacon on 4 Mar 1935 and priest on 13 Sep 1936. He served 27 parishes including Pandanadu, Kollad, Kozhikode, and Kundara. After his retirement, he served the Madras Mar Thoma Parish and the Vellore Medical College Chapel.

**20 January, 1996:** Rev. V. E. Thomas (b.12 January 1908) Vadakkethu, Kuriannoor passes away. After passing his B.A., B.D. examinations he became a deacon on 21 Dec 1946 and priest on 11 Jan 1947. He was the Vicar of the Mar Thoma parishes in Singapore, Malaya and Malacca and served as the Principal of the St. Thomas School in Singapore. He had Malaysian citizenship.

**20 January, 1920:** Birth of K. G. Mathew Semmasan, Karuvatta (d.15 Jan.1950). After his training in the M. T. Seminary in Kottayam he became a deacon on 23 Nov.1946. In the Karuvatta parish, he assisted Vicar Kalleli Vilayil Geevarghese Kathanar. He passed away at the young age of 30.

**21 January, 1980:** Pastor. V. J. Jacob, Chennithala (b.1926), passes away. He was the author of "Lokaththilekayaashrayam en yeshu maathram" (song no.58 Maramon Convention 2000). He was a High School teacher for many years and in 1959 wrote the above song, a favorite of the Kerala Christians for their public and private worship services.

**21 January, 1863:** Birth of Joseph Kasseesa, Ayrुकuzhiyil, Puthencavu (d.18 Jan.1947). Joseph Kasseesa became a deacon in 1881 and priest on 21 Jan.1885. He was the Vicar of the Orthodox Church in Puthencavu from 1881-1890 and afterwards joined the Mar Thoma Church and served as Vicar of the Puthencavu Mar Thoma Church from 1890-1937. He led the construction of the Mathilakam Mar Thoma Church building in Puthencavu.

**21 January, 1877:** Birth of P. V. Koshy Kasseesa, Perkattu, Pallipadu (d.10 Jan.1966). After his education in CNI Kottayam became deacon in 1894 and priest on 11 Feb. 1899. For 63 years he served various parishes including Chennithala, Cherukole, Eramathoor, Karuvatta, and Karthikapally.



**21 January, 1884:** Birth of K. M. Mathew Kasseesa, Kozhikunnathu (d.21 Nov.1944), Omalloor. K. M. Mathew Kasseesa became a deacon on 20 May 1921 and priest later. He worked with the CSSM (Children's Special Service Mission) in Kerala for many years and led many children to Christ. Being a good singer, he led the Maramon Convention Choir for many years.

**21 January, 1930:** Birth of Rev. K. T. Mathew, Venmony (d.29 Jul.2000). Rev. K. T. Mathew became a priest on 21 May 1981 and served more than 15 parishes including Naranammoozhy, Perunadu, Channapettah, Chembur and Venmony. He retired from active service in 1987 due to ill health.

**22 January, 1844:** Birth of Abraham Kathanar, Valiya Veettil, Kumbanad. He became a deacon in 1856 at the age of 12. He was the Vicar of the Kumbanad Valiya Palli for 55 years till his death on 27 June 1911.

**22 January, 1918:** Birth of Very. Rev. A. A. Paylee, Rayamangalam. He became a deacon on 30 Sep.1944 and priest on 3 Feb.1945. Achen was a Professor in Alwaye, Union Christian College and afterwards became Principal of the Christian College, in Chengannur. He was called home on 11 May 1991.

**23 January, 1844:** Birth of Mathew Kathanar, Kalluvilayil, Mannady. After learning the Syriac language, he became a priest of the Orthodox Church and served the Kadabanadu Parish. In 1903 he joined the Mar Thoma Church and established the Mannady Mar Thoma Parish and served it till the end of his life.

**23 January, 1893:** Episcopal minister Phillips Brooks, bishop of Massachusetts, staunch abolitionist, substitute evangelist for D.L. Moody, and author of "O Little Town of Bethlehem," dies. He was considered the most "considerable American preacher of his generation."

**24 January, 1076:** Germany's Henry IV convenes the Synod of Worms to secure the deposition of Pope Gregory VII. The Synod charged the pope with serious crimes, called upon Rome to depose him, and issued other anti-papal statements. The pope quickly excommunicated Henry. One year later, Henry traveled to Canossa, Italy, and stood three days in the snow in an attempt to gain Gregory's forgiveness. Gregory granted it, but the two men soon fought again; Henry set up an antipope in Gregory's place.

**25 January, 1954:** Sara Chacko passes away. Sara Chacko (b.13 Feb.1905) was a member of the Mazhuvancherriparampathu family of Ayyanpally. Her father M. A. Chacko was the Diwan-Peshkar, of the Kingdom of Cochin. In 1945 Sara became the Principal of the Esabella Thobourn College, Lucknow. In 1947 she was the World YWCA Vice President. In 1951 she became President of the World Council of Churches (WCC). She died of a heart attack while playing basket ball at the college stadium. She was buried at Lucknow.

**25 January, 1959:** Declaration of Vatican Council. Ninety days after his election to the papacy, Pope John XXIII announces his intention to hold an ecumenical church council. The Second Vatican Council opened October 11, 1962, and was the Catholic Church's most searching self-examination ever.

**25 January 2008:** Death of Rev. C. P. Wilson, Wills Bhavan, Kadampanad, Adoor. Rev. C. P. Wilson became a deacon on 16 June 1989 and priest on 6 July 1989. He served the Mar Thoma parishes in Pallipad, Ulanad, Thumpamon, Kaipuzha, Madras North and Vallamkulam. He was the Chaplain to the Metropolitan, Trivandrum Quilon Diocese Bishop's secretary and the Superintendent of the Balikabhavan in Pallipad. For few years he taught in the E. J. Institute in Tiruvalla. Achen passed away on 25 Jan. 2008 due to cerebral hemorrhage while serving as the vicar of the Mar Thoma Parish in Philadelphia.

**26 January, 1932:** Death of C. K. John Kasseesa, Chettikunlangara (b.1Jan 1881). C. K. John Kasseesa became a deacon on 10 Nov.1902 and priest on 15 Feb.1903. He was the vicar of the Kannamangalam, Karipuzha Salem, Parimanam and, Eramathoor parishes. He led the establishment of the Karipuzha Salem and Parimanam parishes.

**26 January, 1980:** Death of Dr. Sosamma Thomas (Kunjamma) W/o Rev K. V. Varkey, Kulathakkal, Maramon. After passing LMS from Ludhiana Medical College and MBBS from Vellore Medical College she worked with the Irish Presbyterian Church Hospital, in Borsad in Gujarat and CMS Hospital in Kampala (Uganda). In 1968 the Mar Thoma Church took over the management of the American Wesleyan Methodist Church Hospital in Vapi (Gujarat) and Dr. Sosamma became the first medical Superintendent and worked there till September 1979. She was a living witness of her Master. She was called home to her heavenly abode on 26th Jan. 1980.

**26 January 1906:** Birth of Rev. P. M. Chacko, Moozhiyil, Maramon (d.22 Jun.1998). He was one of the students of the first batch of the M. T. Seminary in Kottayam. He became a deacon on 23 Jul.1932 and priest in 1933. He served more than 30 parishes including Kizhakkenmuthoor, Elavumthitta, Pullad, Thumpamon, Chennieerkkara and Aanamala. He led the construction of a primary school in Kottappady and the parsonage in Othara.

**27 January, 1917:** Vicar General Kovoov Ipe Thoma Kathanar (b.1 Dec.1841) passes away. Ipe Thoma Kathanar was one of the prominent priests of the Mar Thoma Church. He bought the Panchayathu Purayidam (present SCS Compound in Tiruvalla) for the Church in 1892 for Rs.600. It was he who started the Kettuthengu - the practice of dedicating coconut trees from each house for the collection of funds for the welfare of the Church.

**27 January, 398:** John Chrysostom, the greatest preacher of his age, is consecrated bishop of Constantinople. John Chrysostom is considered as a "doctor of the Church", and among the greatest of the Greek Fathers. He was admired for his eloquence and gifts in preaching.

**28 January, 1769:** Birth of Thomas Middleton. Thomas Middleton, first Anglican Bishop of Calcutta, is born in England. While he oversaw a vast diocese covering all the territories of the East India Company, the Church made some great advances, including the establishment of Bishop's College, Calcutta.

**29 January 1944:** Ordination of Mr. P. Thomas (b.26 May 1914). He was born in the Panampunna family of Kottayam. He became a deacon on 29 Jan 1944, priest on 2 Oct.1946, Ramban on 20 May 1953, Bishop on 23 May 1953 and Suffragan Metropolitan in May 1978 (Dr. Thomas Mar Athanasius Suffragan Metropolitan). Thirumeni passed away on 27 Nov.1984.

**30 January, 1930:** George John Kasseesa (b.1 Nov.1880) Chathannur passes away. After obtaining his B.A., L .T. degrees he started his career as a teacher in the S.C. Seminary School in Tiruvalla and U. C. College in Alwaye. He worked as the lay secretary of the South Division of the Mar Thoma Church. He became a deacon on 8 Jan.1921 and priest on 18 Dec.1921. He tirelessly worked for the development of the south Travancore parishes of the Mar Thoma Church. George John Achen Memorial Hospital in Valakom is a tribute to his memory.

**30 January, 1986:** Death of Rev. C. Philipose Athiyalil (b.12 May 1903) Tiruvalla. He became a deacon on 27 Sep 1928 and priest on 16 Jun 1929. He served more than 45 parishes including Pathanapuram, Pathanamthitta, and Kumbanad. Achen used to walk for miles as there were no parsonages those days. At one time, Achen was vicar of nine parishes! Chinnamma w/o Rev. K. V. Mathew Kollenttevadakkethil, Pennukkara Chacko P. Athiyal (Bangarapet Bible Seminary), Dr. Saphir P Athiyal (Poona Union Biblical Seminary), Thomas P Athiyal (St.Thomas Residential School, Trivandrum), Rev. Dr. Abraham P. Athiyal (Bishop's College, Calcutta) and Dr. A. P. John (Mar Thoma College, Tiruvalla) are his children.

**30 January, 1996:** Rev. M. K. Koshy (b.7 Jun.1911), Trivandrum, passes away. He became a deacon on 4 Mar.1935 and priest on 22 Dec.1935. He served 20 parishes including Chennamkerry, Kainakary and Venmony. After his retirement he served the Trivandrum Medical College Trinity Parish for 6 years.

**30 January, 2003:** Death of Rev. N. K. Yohannan (b.26 May 1910) Kochalummoottil, Elanthoor. For 19 years, Rev. N. K. Yohannan was a primary school teacher. He became a deacon on 23 Mar. 1945 and priest on 30 Sep. 1945. He was actively involved in the YMCA and Balajana Sakhyam activities. He was the convener of the Prayer book revision committee and Marriage rules committee of the Mar Thoma Church.

**31 January 1901:** Birth of Rev. John C. Varghese (d.13 Oct.1987). He became a deacon on 4 Jan 1947 and priest in Jun 1947. He served 19 parishes including Vazhoor, Kaanam, Vennikulam and Keezhuvaipur. He was an expert watch repairer.

**31 January, 1834:** Death of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, commonly known as C.H. Spurgeon, (19 June,1834– 31 Jan.1892). He was a British Reformed Baptist preacher who remains highly influential amongst Christians of different denominations. He is still known in various circles as the "Prince of Preachers." He also founded the charity organization now known as 'Spurgeon's' that works worldwide with families and children.

