

CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Published by: Advocate John Joseph Nalloor

June, 1921: The beginning of Union Christian College in Alwaye. The Union Christian College in Alwaye was established in June, 1921, as a joint venture of the Jacobite, Anglican and Mar Thoma Churches in the Travancore-Cochin area.

June, 1953: The beginning of St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry was established in June, 1953, by the St. Thomas Mar Thoma Parish in Kozhencherry and near by Mar Thoma parishes under the able leadership of Rev. K. T. Thomas of the Kurumthottical family.

June, 1881: Birth of Kottara Achen (Rev. K. M. Jacob, Kottara, Pooyapally). Rev. K. M. Jacob, of Cherukarakunnil family of Kottara Bethel Mar Thoma Church was born in June, 1881. He became a deacon of the church in 1897, and priest on 8 Oct.1903. He was the first convener of the Kottarakkara Mar Thoma Convention and was one of the founding members of the Jubilee Mandiram in Kottarakkara. For certain parishes he was the Vicar for more than 40 years. Achen was called to his eternal home on 28 March, 1984. Achen served the Mar Thoma Church for more than 86 years and his name is in the Guinness book of world records under the entry 'longest religious service.'

1 June, 1995: Dedication ceremony of Mar Thoma Teachers Training College, Ranny. A college for training teachers (B.Ed.) was established by the Church in Ranny (near Ranny, Vadasserikkara Road, about 2.5 kms away from Ranny Mandiram Kavala) in 1995. Late Most Rev. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan was the main celebrant of the dedication ceremony.

1 June, 1868: (20 Edavam 1043 ME) Consecration of Thomas Mar Athanasius. Rev. Thomas (son of Abraham Malpan) was consecrated by Mathews Mar Athanasius as his successor in 1868 at the Old Seminary Church in Kottayam. It was during Thomas Mar Athanasius' time, that the Mar Thoma church lost most of its property as a result of the "Seminary Case". Despite the loss, the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association was established in 1888. Though the episcopate of Thomas Mar Athanasius was a period of trial and suffering for the Church it was also one of great spiritual promise for the future.

1 June, 1914: Birth of Rev. P. M. Stephen, Pulikkudiyil, Keezhillam (d.28 Jun 1989). Stephen became a deacon on 21 Dec.1945 and priest on 1 Jun 1946. He served 41 parishes including Karuvatta, Karthikapally, Keekozhoor and Kuriannoor. For a few years he taught at the Mar Thoma Schools in Pothinkkad, Perumbavoor, Vengola, Keezhillam and Kizhakkambalam.

2 June, 1916: Birth of Rev. Dr. K. K. George, Kanichakattil, Eraviperoor (d.18 Dec 2006). Rev. Dr. K. K. George became a deacon on 14 Nov. 1939 and priest on 14 Nov 1942. Achen was the General Secretary of Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam from 1952 to 1982. From 1946 to 1982 he was one of the official translators of the Maramon Convention. He was the secretary/chairman of many committees and associations of the Mar Thoma Church. For a few years he was the principal of the Mar Thoma College in Tiruvalla. He was one of the ablest priests of the Mar Thoma Church.

3 June, 1921: Birth of Rev. C. G. George, Manganam (d.16 May 1998). After his education from Ajmeer Board, Patna University and Yavatmal Theological Seminary, he started his career as a teacher. He then joined Palakkad Ashram and participated in Nepal Mission (1952) work. He became priest in 1956 and worked in Katmandu from 1956 to 1972. He has translated the Gospels of Mark and John into Nepali.

3 June, 1991: Rev. A. C. Zechariah passes away. Rev. A. C. Zechariah (b.3 Jul 1909) was a member of the Atthinillkunnathil family of Kuriannoor. After his education in Kolar Bible School; he became a priest in 1948. He was one of the co- founders of the Hoskote Mission Medical Center near Bangalore in the Karnataka State. Achen also served as the Field Director of the Karnataka Navajeevan Samathi and for few years he was the superintendent of the Kumbanad Dharmagiri Mandiram.

4 June, 1897: Death of Rev. K. M. Varghese, Cherukakkasseri, Kunnamkulam (b.7 Jul 1867). He became a priest on Feb 2, 1896 and got married at the age of 13, to an 8 year old girl. After the death of his first wife he remarried, after which he never celebrated Holy Qurbana. According to his conscience, a remarried priest shouldn't officiate such sacraments. But he was a man of faith and many sick people were cured by his prayers.

5 June, 1414: Bohemian reformer Jan Hus (John Hus b.1373) appears before the Council of Constance in Germany. Instead of allowing him to state his beliefs, the council only permitted him to answer trumped-up charges of heresy. Hus was condemned and burned alive in the following month of July (6 July 1415).

5 June, 1902: Birth of Rev. J. Thomas, Kochi. (d.9 Sep 1992). He started his career as a teacher in an English school in Ayroor. He became a deacon on 23 Jul.1932 and priest in November of the same year. He led the establishment of the Mukkola Mission field school and Athiyal Upper primary School.

5 June, 1661: English Mathematician and Physicist Isaac Newton (b.25 Dec, 1642) is admitted as a student at Trinity College, Cambridge. But the "greatest scientific genius the world has ever known" actually spent less of his life studying science than theology, writing 1.3 million words on Biblical subjects. Newton died in 1727 and was buried in the Westminster Abbey.

6 June, 1844: Formation of Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London, England, on June 6, 1844, in response to unhealthy social conditions arising in big cities at the end of the Industrial Revolution (roughly 1750-1850). Growth of the railroads and centralization of commerce and industry brought many rural young men in need of jobs to cities like London. They worked 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week. Far from home and family, these young men often lived at the workplace. They slept crowded into rooms over the company's shop, a location thought to be safer than London's tenements and streets. Outside the shop, things were bad -open sewers, pickpockets, thugs, beggars, drunks, lovers for hire and abandoned children running wild by the thousands. In India, YMCA was introduced in the last quarter of the 19th century. National Council of YMCA's in India was established in 1891.

6 June, 1980: Death of Rev. E. I. Kuruvilla, Kurichiethu, Niranam (b.1 Jan 1897). He became a deacon on 22 August, 1931 and was later ordained as priest. He was the vicar of Thalavady, Kottayam and Kundara. In addition to his priestly duties he taught at the Nicholson School in Tiruvalla, M. T. Seminary School in Kottayam and St. Thomas School in Karthikapally.

6 June, 1901: Birth of Rev. P. G .Oommen, Kozhencherry (d.7 Apr.1988). He became a deacon on 23 July, 1932 and priest on 12 July, 1933. He served 37 parishes including Kundara, Elanthur, Keekozhoor and Konni. He taught schools in Vazhoor and Palakkad.

6 June, 1917: Birth of Rev. C. S. Joseph, Kunnamkulam (d.13 Aug 2004). He became a deacon on 21 May 1953 and priest on 28 Nov.1953. He served many parishes in North Kerala. He was the headmaster of the Nandavanam U. P. School and had written many books including the "Pilgrims Bible".

7 June, 1899: Birth of Matthews Mar Athanasius Episcopa. Dr. Mathews Mar Athanasius Episcopa was a member of the Kurudamannil family of Ayroor. After obtaining B.A. and L.T degrees, he became the Headmaster of the Keezhillam School. He took the initiative for the establishment of the Ashram High School at Perumbavoor. He became a priest in 1929 and Bishop in 1937. He led various organizations of the church. He was called home on 1 Dec.1973.

7 June, 1910: Birth of Rev. P. Samuel, Chettikulangara (d.4 Apr.1984). Rev. P. Samuel became a deacon on 4 Mar.1935 and priest on 13 Sep.1936. He served 12 parishes including Alwaye, Kozhencherry, Singapore, Secundrabad and Madras. For few years he served the Borneo Education Service and was the principal of the Methodist school and St. Andrew's School in Borneo.

7 June, 1911: Birthday of Rev. M. K. Koshy, Trivandrum (d.30 Jan1996). Rev. M. K. Koshy 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 Church for 6 years.

8 June, 1940: Rev. T. Koshy (Aatmaupakaari Achen of CMS Church), author of “Ennullhil-ennum vasichchiduvaa swargga ...” passes away. Rev. T. Koshy was born on 15 May, 1857, as the fifth son of Evangelist Thomas of Mukkadavu family of Kallada village in Quilon district. He became a deacon in 1895 and a priest in 1896. He was the editor of the magazine “Aatmopakaari” for forty years and was a talented artist and Hymn writer. The heading of the Malayala Manorama news paper is his work of art. Hymn Nos. 8(7), 31(29), 147(138), 149(140), 176(167), 186(175) and 274(235) in the Kristheeya Keerththanangal are his translation from English. Hymn nos. 10(9), 37(35), 190(179), 216(201), 220(205), 221(206), 246(224), 297(283), 316(311), and 344 are written by him. Achen passed away on 8 Jun, 1940 at the age of 83 in Mavelikkara.

9 June, 68: Nero Claudius Caesar, the ruler to whom the Apostle Paul appealed for justice (Acts 25:10) and who ordered the first imperial persecution of Christians, commits suicide.

9 June, 1834: William Carey often called "the father of modern Protestant missions" dies, having spent 41 years in India without a furlough. His mission could count only about 700 converts, but he had laid a foundation of Bible translations, education, and social reform. He also inspired the missionary movement of the nineteenth century, especially with his cry, ***"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God"***. As per his will he was buried in the Serampore Cemetery with the following inscription on the tomb stone “William Carey, Born 17 Aug 1761, Died 9 June, 1834; A wretched, poor and helpless worm, on thy kind arms I fall”.

10 June, 1682: Birth of Bartholomew Ziegenbalg. Ziegenbalg was born in a little Saxony town called Pulsnitz in southeast Germany. His parents were God fearing Christians with a missionary outlook. With the help of King Frederick IV of Denmark, Ziegenbalg and his friend started their sea journey to India on 29 Nov 1705 and reached the coast of present Tamil Nadu, a place called Tranquebar on 9 July 1706. They were the first protestant Missionaries to India and hence 9 July 1706 is celebrated as the birthday of Protestant Missions in India. Ziegenbalg passed away on 23 Feb 1719.

10 June, 1983: Death of Rev. K. I. Thomas, Kakkudiyil, Trivandrum (b.9 Jul 1900). He became a deacon on 18 Oct 1925 and priest on 31 May 1931. He served 28 parishes including Chathannur and Perimedu. He led the construction of the Mundakkayam Parsonage, and the Church buildings in Elappara, Pazhavangadikkara, Edayaranmula and Kavumgumprayar. The plot for the Pullad Mar Thoma Convention was purchased by him for the church.

11 June, 1850: Birth of David C. Cook. David C. Cook, a pioneer publisher of Sunday School materials, is born in East Worcester, New York. By the time of his death in 1927,

his company was the largest publisher of nondenominational Sunday school literature in the world.

11 June, 1876: Birth of Rev V. P. Mammen (Kattanathachen). Rev. V. P. Mammen was a student leader and was deeply interested in church matters while he was in college. In 1902, along with his friend Mr. K. M. Abraham, he started the SCS School in Tiruvalla. He was also behind the establishment of the Nicholson School. From 1905 to 1952, he was the General Secretary of the Sunday School Samajam. Achen was called home on 9 Mar 1952.

12 June 1988: Death of Rev. A. G. Varghese, Aalummoottil, Mavelikkara (b.8 Apr 1896). After passing ESLC he started his career as a government school teacher and voluntary evangelist. He became a deacon on 6 Jun 1923 and priest on 10 Feb 1924. During his 42 years career, he served 12 parishes including Alleppey, Trichur and Tiruvalla. He was the honorary Vicar of the Karippuzha Parish for a few years.

13 June, 1525: German reformer Martin Luther marries Katherine von Bora, 16 years his junior, having sneaked her and several other nuns out of their Cistercian convent in empty herring barrels two years earlier. Many viewed the marriage, which lasted 21 happy years, as a scandal.

14 June, 1852: Birth of Stephanos Kathanar, Mavelikkara (d.20 Nov 1904), author of *Shayana Namaskaram*. Stephanos Kathanar, a member of Kallarakkal Peedikayil family of Thazahkkara, Mavelikkara, became a deacon at the age of 8. He was an expert teacher of Syriac. In 1897, he established the Thazhakkara Mar Thoma Church and started a library for the parish. Achen is the author of *The Shayana Namaskaram* (a prayer song usually sung in family prayer or public worship) “njangalkullha karthave...” which is still used by many Kerala Christians. Achen’s grandson Dr. Samuel Mathai was the Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University. Achen was called to his eternal home on 20 Nov 1904.

14 January, 2004 Death of Rev. V. T. George, Valliparampil, Chachipunna (b.15 June 1931). He 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 June, 1911: Death of K. G. Koshy Kathanar, Kochalumplakkal, Aarattupuzha (b.28 Feb.1847). After becoming an expert in the Syriac language, he became a priest. He was the first vicar of the Lakha Mar Thoma Church in Edayaranmula. He took the initiative for the establishment of Edanadu Salem, Mulakkuzha St. Thomas, and Puthencavu Mathilakam Parishes. He taught many young priests the Syriac language.

15 June, 1961: Death of P. T. Varghese Kathanar, Vengal, (b.27 Sep 1876). He became a deacon in 1892 and priest in 1895. Due to the influence of the foreign missionaries he

even went to Sri Lanka (Ceylon) for mission work. In 1910 he went to North Karnataka along with Mr. P. O .Philip and Mr. P. S Mathai for mission work. He was elected twice as the Taluk Local president of Ankola. Mahatma Gandhi visited his mission field during his visit to Ankola.

16 June, 1855: William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, marry, having fallen in love the first night they met. William had escorted Catherine home, and she later wrote, "Before we reached my home, we both felt as though we had been made for each other". William Booth was a British Methodist preacher who founded The Salvation Army and became the first General (1878-1912). The Christian movement, with a quasi-military structure and government - but with no physical weaponry, founded in 1865 has spread from London, England, to many parts of the world and is known for being one of the largest distributors of humanitarian aid.

17 June, 1703: Birth of John Wesley. John Wesley was the founder of English Methodism. He was born in Epworth, Lincolnshire. His father, Samuel Wesley, was the resident vicar. His mother, Susanna, a strict disciplinarian took care of his education. His brother, Charles Wesley wrote many famous hymns. John Wesley passed away on 2 March, 1791.

18 June, 1985: Glory Mathew (b.27 July 1960), authoress of "En Priya nin ponkaram" passes away. She was born as the daughter of Captain T. T. Mathai and Deenamma in a very devoted, God fearing and traditional Christian family in Ranny. Glorymol was an outstanding and exemplary student in her secular studies. Her "record book" is still kept in the Titus II B. Ed. College. Her absolute faith in Jesus enabled her to write this song in 1985. She was called home, few days before her marriage.

19 June, 1834: Birth of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, one of the greatest Christian preachers. Spurgeon was born on 19 June, 1834, in a small Village of Kelvedon in the County of Essex, England. His lineage was well-known for its preachers but none reached the standard of Charles Spurgeon. He started his ministry work as a Sunday school teacher and later he became one of the greatest preachers Christianity ever had. He was called home on 31 Jan 1892.

19 June, 1986: Death of Mrs. Mariamma (Pennamma) Joseph (b.31 March 1917), Co-founder of the Hoskote Mission. Mariamma was the daughter of Mammen Mammen and Mariamma of Manalukalayil, Kumbanad. She did her Teacher's Training Course (TTC) from Peringara School near Tiruvalla, after which she taught in many schools including Arrangatu School, Pullad, Perumbara School near Charal Mount; Kanjeettukara and Nedumbrayar. She had the privilege to attend classes conducted by CMS Missionary, Miss Kellaway (Australia) of Vanitha Mandiram. Pennamma was greatly influenced by the life and testimony of this missionary. She had an earnest desire to go for mission work in Karnataka but her parents did not allow it. However, after her marriage with Mr. M.T. Joseph, her desire was fulfilled as he had got the call to go to

Karnataka for mission work during one of the Maramon Conventions. Because she was obedient to this heavenly call, she resigned from her teacher's job, of a permanent income, to an uncertain future.

19 June, 1566: James VI of Scotland, who later became King James I of England, is born. He wrote treaties on the divine right of kings, witchcraft, Biblical themes, and set into motion a translation of the Bible known as the King James Version (published in 1611).

19 June, 1922: Death of P. J. Jacob Kasseesa, Pattamukkil, Niranam. (b.3 Nov 1878). He became a deacon on 3 Aug 1894 and priest afterwards. He was a teacher in the St. Mary's School in Niranam. He served the parishes in Niranam and Thalavady. He initiated the establishment of a primary school in Niranam Jerusalem parish.

19 June, 325: Bishop Hosius, a delegate at the Council of Nicea, announces the newly written Nicene Creed. Countering Arius (a priest from Alexandria) who taught that "there was a time when the Son was not, and God the Father ranks above the Son, Jesus Christ, and that both rank higher than the Holy Spirit", Hosius said that the Nicene creed describes Christ as "God from very God, begotten not made"(Son is fully divine and is equal to the father).

19 June, 1931: Birth of Rev. Cherian Thomas, Ranny (d.9 Oct 1973). He became a deacon on 22 Jun 1967 and priest afterwards. For a few years he was the General Secretary of the Voluntary Evangelists Association. Achen died in a motor cycle accident in Powathilpadi (Mallappally).

20 June, 1970: Rev. T. M. Mathai (b.17 May 1883), Punnathundiyl, Kuriannoor passes away. After his theological education in Calcutta, he became a deacon on April 7, 1913, and priest 1914. From 1913-1923, he was the missionary in Karwar, north Karnataka. He is the only Mar Thoma Priest who served as Military Chaplain of the British Army (from 1923-1938). For many years he was the Scout Commissioner of Travancore and Kerala.

20-26 June, 1599: Synod of Diamper (Udayamperoor) was held under the president ship of Alexis Menezas, the then Archbishop of Goa. One of the decrees of the synod about marriage reads as follows "No man shall be married hereafter, until he has attained the age of fourteen years at least, nor any woman before she is fully twelve."

21 June, 1947: Problems in Thumpamon Chennirkkara Mar Thoma Parish. On 21 June, 1947, Rev. J. Varghese (b.11 April 1917) Vicar of the Thumpamon Chennieerkkara Parish and many members of the parish were severely beaten up in the Church compound in the midst of a funeral service by the non Christians of that area. The Church building was destroyed and the dead body along with the coffin was thrown out on the road. Communal tension prevailed in that area for days and after the intervention of the government authorities, the body was buried again in our cemetery on the third day.

21 June, 1909: Birth of Rev. T. A. Thomas, Vadasserikkara (d.21 Mar 2000). He became a deacon on 21 May 1940 and priest on 14 Nov 1940. He established the Kaichira, Kappakadu, Ayroor Carmel, Malyalappuzha and Karimkutty Mar Thoma parishes.

22 June, 1714: Death of Mathew Henry, Bible Commentator. Mathew Henry was born on 18 Oct 1662, as the son of a well-known clergyman. He was so frail at his birth that he was baptized when he was only a day old, lest he died within the week. As a boy he was physically weak, but mentally and indeed spiritually strong. He is said to have read aloud a chapter of the Bible when he was only three years old. His work is still published as "Matthew Henry's Commentary".

22 June, 1998: Death of Rev. P. M. Chacko, Moozhiyil, Maramon (b.26 Jan 1906). He was one of the students from the first batch of M. T. Seminary in Kottayam. He became deacon on 23 July 1932 and priest in 1933. He led the construction of a primary school in Kottappady and parsonage in Othara.

23 June, 1923: Birth of Rev. C. M. Abraham, Cheriavadakkedathu, Kuriannoor (d.23 May 2008). Achen was the vicar of the Mar Thoma Parishes in Melpadom, Payippad, Niranam, Kuriannoor Mar Thoma, Kuriannoor Salem, Ayroor Salem, Ayroor Sehion, Ayroor Chayal, Ayroor Carmel, Edappavoor St.Thomas, Edappavoor Bethel, Varvoor Bethel, Kozhencherry, Bombay Dadar, Ranny Nazareth, Keekozhoor, Pullad Sehion, Niranam Jerusalem, Palakkunnu St.Thomas and Thevarcadu St.Mathews. For many years he served as the Central Travancore Missionary of the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association. He was a gifted orator and convention speaker. He was the Patron/ President/ Chairman/ Convener of many inter-religious and Christian organisations and institutions in and around Kuriannoor. He was a poet with many poems to his credit. One poem written in honour of the late Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Mathews Mar Athanasius Episcopa (1899- 1973) on his demise was appreciated by all Church members. He was a strong supporter of Prohibition (Prohibition of alcohol, often shortened to the term prohibition). Achen passed away on Friday, 23 May 2008 at Bombay (Achen was staying with his younger son in Bombay). The Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, 27 May 2008 at the Mar Thoma Church in Kuriannoor.

23 June, 1884: Hermann Gundert finishes the Bible Translation. Gundert started his Bible translation with the book 'The Song of Songs' on 25 Jan, 1843. He finished the entire Bible translation with the last verse of the book of Malachi on June 23, 1884.

23 June, 1908: Birth of Rev. V. M. Abraham, Valiyakalayil, Kuriannoor (d.13 Mar 1967). He became a deacon on 13 March 1949 and priest in 1950. He served parishes in Pazhanji, Thumpamon, Thuruthicadu, Kavungumprayer, Perumpetty, Kuriannoor, Pullad, Othara, Enathu and Vadsserikkara.

23 June, 2000: Death of Rev. V. V. Thomas, Nellikala (b.18 Apr 1934). He became a deacon on 28 Aug 1968 and priest on 21 Sep 1968. He served many parishes including Edappavoor, Eraviperoor, Thonniyamala, Ayroor, Punalur and Elanthur.

24 June, 64: Roman Emperor Nero begins persecuting Christians. Nero (15 Dec 37– 9 Jun 68), was the fifth and last Roman Emperor of the Julio - Claudius dynasty. Nero was adopted by his great uncle Claudius to become heir to the throne. As Nero Claudius Caesar, he succeeded to the throne on 13 Oct 54, following Claudius' death. Nero ruled from 54 to 68, focusing much of his attention on diplomacy, trade, and increasing the cultural capital of the empire.

24 June, 1519: Theodore Beza (d.13 Oct 1605), one of the great statesmen of the Reformation and John Calvin's successor at Geneva, is born in Vezelay, France. Theodore was a French Protestant Christian theologian and scholar who played an important role in the early Reformation. He was a disciple of John Calvin and lived most of his life in Switzerland.

25 June, 1865: Formation of China Inland Mission. English Missionary J Hudson Taylor is the founder of the China Inland Mission. Its missionaries were not having any guaranteed salary. They never appealed for funds. They trusted in God for all their needs and they even adopted the Chinese way of dressing.

25 June, 1878: Birth of Rev. W. C. Cherian, Vattasseril, Mallappally. (d.11 Apr 1930). Brought up in Anglican Church background in Mallappally, he later joined the Mar Thoma Church and ordained at Maramon Mar Thoma Church. His deep Biblical knowledge and leadership qualities were commendable. When the Church Constitution was formulated he became the first Sabha Secretary (Samudaya Secretary) and continued the post from 1904-1926. He took the initiative to establish the Union Convention in Mallappally.

25 June, 1955: Death of Rev. T. M. Cherian, Kolanchikkal, Ayroor (b.27 Dec 1922). After his theological training from the Leonard Theological College in Jabalpur, he became a deacon on 23 Jun 1951 and later priest. He served parishes in Munnar, Vadasserikkara and Trichur.

26 June, 1965: Death of Rev. K. J. Thomas (Sr) Kolathu Kalathrayil, Maramon (b.15 Dec 1896). He started his career with the CSSM (Children's Special Service Mission) work in Travancore. He became a deacon on 13 Sep 1930 and priest in 1931. He served parishes in Mavelikkara, Pullad, Mundakayam, Mallappally, Maramon and Kumbanad. With the permission of the Metropolitan, (in 1947 and 1965), he translated the Mar Thoma Liturgy (Jacob's liturgy) into English.

26 June, 1993: Death of Rev. Dr. M. A. Thomas, Bangalore (d.10 Aug 1913). Achen was a member of the Madathethu Family of Ayroor Salem Parish. He was ordained on 14 Jan

1950. In addition to his parish duties he led youth movements and Ecumenical programmes. From 1963-1980 Achen was the founder president of the Ecumenical Study centre in White Field, Bangalore.

26 June, 1996: Death of Rev. K Thomas Panicker, Kundara (b.28 Oct.1931). After his education in S. N. College, Kollam and M. T. Seminary in Kottayam, he became a deacon on 15 May 1965 and priest on 28 Jul 1965.

26 June, 1892: Pearl S. Buck, Presbyterian missionary to China and author of the bestselling *The Good Earth* (1931), is born. She won the 1938 Nobel Prize for literature.

26 June, 1916: Birth of Rev. M. P. Mathew, Sihora (Kaviyoor) (d.11 Mar 2004). After his primary education in Kaviyoor he went to Trivandrum for high school. When he was in Std. 4, he had the privilege to hear messages of Muthampakkal Sadhu Kochoonju Upadeshi and dedicated his life to God. After his schooling, he joined the South India Plantations office in Trivandrum as an accountant. He was active in the formation of Mar Thoma parishes in South Travancore. Through the influence of Rev. Dr. C. E. Abraham, he decided to form the Sihora Ashram, Madhya Pradesh along with Rev. K. T. Thomas and Rev. John Varghese. He left his job in Trivandrum and went to Sihora. After that he joined the Serampore Theological College in 1949. He became deacon on 1 May 1953, and priest on 25 May 1953. Because of his hard work, many parishes were formed in North India.

27 June, 1880: Birth of Helen Keller (d.1 June 1968) in Tuscumbia, a little town of northern Alabama, USA. As a baby of nineteen months, Helen Keller was stricken with a severe illness which left her totally blind and deaf. Then Anne Mansfield Sullivan came to teach her and there began that remarkable story of her development into a woman of great culture and spiritual insight.

27 June, 444: Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria and author of several writings on the dual natures of Christ, dies. He opposed Nestorius (Bishop of Constantinople), who supposedly taught there were two separate persons in the Incarnate Christ, one divine and the other human. Historians doubt, however, whether or not Nestorius actually taught this. In any case, Cyril deposed Nestorius in 430.

27 June, 1879: Birth of K. I. Joseph Kathanar, Elakattu Kaduppil, Ancheri (d.1 July 1957). Before his ordination, Achen was a teacher in the M. T. Seminary School, Kottayam. Rev. E. J. George and Bishop Joseph Mar Barnabas are the grand children of his brother.

27 June, 1911: Abraham Kathanar, Valiya Veettil, Kumbanad passes away (b.22 Jan 1844). 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.

27 June, 2006: Rev. Thomas Mathew, Mulakkuzha passes away (b.24 Aug 1953). He became a deacon on 23 Apr 1978 and priest on 22 May 1978. He served many parishes including Karunagapally, Roorkala, Jamshedpur, etc. He was a member of the Central Committee of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam.

28 June, 1989: Rev. P. M. Stephen, Keezhillam passes away (b.1 Jun 1914). He became deacon on 21 Dec.1945 and priest on 1 Jun 1946. He served 41 parishes including Karuvatta, Karthikapally, Keekozhoor and Kuriannoor. He taught at the Mar Thoma schools at Pothinkkad, Perumbavoor, Vengola, Keezhillam and Kizhakkambalam.

28 June, 1914 - 28 June, 1919: First World War. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie on 28 June 1914 was one of the causes of the First World War. More than 65 million men fought in the First World War; over eight million of them were killed. In addition, nearly nine million civilians died from starvation, disease, artillery fire and air raids. 300,000 houses, 6,000 factories and 1000 miles of railways were destroyed. The human cost of the war in terms of damaged minds and bodies, and ruined lives was beyond calculation. The War came to an end on 28 June 1919 with the peace treaty signed at Versailles in France.

28 June, 1921: Birth of Rev. C V. Kurian, Pariyaram (d.21 Aug 1991). He became a deacon on 26 May 1956 and priest on 25 Dec 1956. He served more than 25 parishes. For a few years he taught at the Mar Thoma Schools in Kottayam and Keezhillam.

29 June, 1939: (15 Midhunam 1114 ME) Mr. Poikayil Yohannan passes away. Mr. Poikayil Yohannan (Poikayil Shri Kumara Guru) was born on 5 Kumbham 1054 M.E. (17 Feb, 1879) in Eraviperoor in Tiruvalla Taluk in a slave family. His masters gave him the name Yohannan and made him a member of the Mar Thoma Church. He studied the Bible thoroughly and became an evangelist of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. His messages were against social injustice and evils such as slavery, untouchability etc. the Church couldn't accommodate his teachings. He left the Mar Thoma Church and later founded the organisation PRDS- (Prathyasha Raksha Daiva Sabha).

30 June, 1981: Late Rt. Rev. Easow Mar Timotheos inaugurates the Mar Thoma School for the Deaf, Kasargod. It was started under the auspice of a wing of the diocesan Sevika Sanghom – Society for the service of women and children -SSWAC. Now it is one of the best deaf schools in Kerala.

30 June, 1926: Birth of Rev. K. V. Samuel, Cheppad (d.15 Feb 1996). He became a deacon on 2 Apr 1953 and priest 12 Dec 1953. He served 37 parishes. He was secretary to Juhanon Mar Thoma Metropolitan, and superintendent of Ravi Varma Agathimandiram, Trichur, and chaplain of the Kattanam Mission Hospital.

