

CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

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April-May, 1929: Boys Camp starts at Vadasserikkara. The first Mar Thoma boys' camp was held in Vadasserikkara, in 1929. The Boys' camp is a four-day programme during which children are taught about the Bible, Church History, Faith and Practices, etc. Camps are usually held in boarding schools during the summer vacation. Children from standard 7 to 10 are allowed to participate in the camp. A separate camp for girls was conducted from 1977 onwards. Both camps are held under the leadership of the Mar Thoma Teachers Association.

May, 1983: Publication of the Malayalam Bible (Hosanna Bible). A new Malayalam translation (version) based on the "Revised Standard Version" was published in 1983. In addition to Old and New Testaments, 12 Deuterocanonical /Apocrypha books are also included in this Bible. The cost (Rs. 1.1 million in 1983) for the publication of this Bible was donated by an anonymous donor from Holland.

1 May, 1855: Kaithayil Geevarughese Malpan, Puthupally, passes away. Kaithayil Geevarughese Malpan was born in 1788. He became a teacher of the Kottayam Theological Seminary in 1813. Along with Abraham Malpan, he led the reformation of the church. The first Malayalam Holy Communion service was conducted by him in the Kollad church on 1 Sept 1836. Abraham Malpan followed his example and conducted services in Malayalam in the Maramon Parish.

1 May, 1873: Death of David Livingstone. Missionary and explorer, David Livingstone who was responsible for "opening up" central Africa and popularizing missions to that continent, died on 1 May, 1873. He is widely considered as one of Christianity's missionary heroes.

2 May, 373: Church father Athanasius, "the father of Orthodoxy," dies. He attended the Council of Nicea. He was the first to list the New Testament canonical books as we know them today.

2 May, 1995: Rev. C. V. Abraham (b.10 Aug 1910) Tiruvalla passes away. He was a member of the Palamoottil Family of Mallappally; became a deacon on 20 July, 1946 and priest on 16 July, 1947. He served more than 26 parishes and was also a teacher at Palghat Ashram School. He used to write Bible Reading notes in church publications and trained Theological students.

3 May, 1675: Warning to all those who leave church before the end of the service! A Massachusetts law goes into effect requiring church doors to be locked during services.

Officials enacted the law because too many people were leaving the church before sermons were over.

4 May, 1982: Death of C. I. Abraham Kasseesa, Cheppanalil, (b.10 Aug 1891). After his training in CNI (Cambridge Nicholson Institute), Kottayam, he became a deacon on 17 Sept 1916 and priest on 10 Jun 1917. For fourteen years he was the North Travancore Missionary of the Evangelistic Association. He led the establishment of many Schools and Parishes in North Travancore including the Perumbavoor Ashram High School.

4 May, 2008: Death of Dr. Sosamma Philip, Medical Missionary. Dr. Sosamma (b.9 Nov 1917) was the daughter of Late Rev. M. C. George Kasseesa (17 Apr 1874 - 23 Oct 1923) of Maliyekkal House, Kuriannoor. The Late Most Rev. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan (10 Apr 1913-11 Jan 2000) was her elder brother. Dr. Sosamma passed her final school examination in 1933, but couldn't afford a college education. She joined the Under Graduate Teacher's Training Course in Tiruvalla and then became a teacher at Kuriannoor Middle School. The family had to sell a portion of their ancestral property to pay for her dowry. In 1940, she married Dr. P. V. Philip (Palathinkkal, Kottayam), who was working with the Mission Hospital in Karappuram, Cherthala. But unfortunately, Dr. Philip died after nine months of their marriage. She also lost her mother, three months later. Dr. Sosamma had an earnest desire to continue Medical Work of her departed husband. She joined Alwaye U. C. College and passed her intermediate examinations and applied for a seat in Christian Medical College, Vellore. As she did not get admission, she joined the American College in Madurai and finished her B.A. and then joined the Nicholson School, Tiruvalla, as a teacher. But the desire for a medical education was burning in her heart, so she applied again and this time secured an admission in Christian Medical College, Vellore. Immediately after getting her Medical degree, she joined the Karapuram, Cherthala Mission, where her husband worked. After further passing her specialization courses in Chicago, she worked with the Kumbanad and Kattanam hospitals for many years. In 1967, she joined the Mar Thoma Sihora Ashram Hospital in Madhya Pradesh and remained there till her retirement, 30 years later in 1997. As recognition of her work and social service, the Church awarded her the "Manava Seva Award". After her retirement, she returned to stay with her relatives in Kuriannoor. She was called to her eternal home on 4 May 2008 and was buried beside her parents at the St.Thomas Mar Thoma Church Cemetery in Kuriannoor.

5 May 5, 1816: The American Bible Society (ABS) organizes in New York to distribute the Bible throughout the world. The organization has distributed hundreds of millions of Bibles in thousands of languages worldwide.

5 May, 1964: Birth of Rev. C. P. Wilson, Wills Bhavan, Kadampanad, Adoor. He 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 a few years he taught at the E. J.

Institute in Tiruvalla. Achen passed away on 25 Jan 2007 due to cerebral hemorrhage while serving as the vicar of the Mar Thoma Parish in Philadelphia.

May 6, 1945: Consecration of Bishop C. K. Jacob. Rev C. K. Jacob was consecrated as the first Indian Bishop of the Travancore-Cochin diocese of the Anglican Church on 6 May, 1945, in the St. George Cathedral in Madras. He was the chief celebrant of the inauguration ceremony of the Church of South India, held in Madras on 27th September, 1947.

May 6, 1866: Birth of Titus II Mar Thoma Metropolitan (d.6 Jul.1944). He was consecrated as bishop on 9 Dec 1898 and Metropolitan on 5 Nov 1909. He was called to his eternal home on 6 July 1944 and buried the following day at Tiruvalla. During his long tenure as the Metropolitan, he consecrated three bishops. A large number of our church buildings were constructed during his time. Organizations like the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Mar Thoma Students Conference, Teachers-Students Fellowship, Mar Thoma Sevika Sanghom (1919), Voluntary Evangelists Association (1924), etc. started during his time. He took the initiative to translate many of our prayer books into Malayalam.

7 May, 1839: Hymn writer and pastor Elisha A. Hoffman (d.25 Nov 1929) is born in Pennsylvania. His songs include "I Must Tell Jesus," "Down at the Cross," "Are You Washed in the Blood?" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

8 May, 1916: Birth of Late Rev. P. John Thomas of Ankola. Born in Karunagapally, Kerala, he became a priest in 1951. He was one of the founding members of the Ankola Ashram in North Karnataka. He led the formation of the Mangalore, Manipal, Sirsi and Goa parishes. For 28 years he taught in Honavar St. Thomas High school and was called to eternal rest on 5 Oct 1990.

8 May, 1828: Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association, is born in Geneva. He won the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

8 May, 1982 Death of Rev. T. I. Thomas, Venmony (b.22 Feb.1912). After passing his L.Th from the Kottayam Seminary, he became a deacon on 27 Apr.1938 and priest on 12 Nov.1938. He served 30 parishes including Pathanapuram, Kayamkulam, Ranny and Ayroor. For a few years he taught at the S.M.V.E.M School.

8 May, 1916: First CMS (Church Missionary Society) missionary of Travancore arrives at Cochin. Rev. Thomas Norton and his wife arrived in Cochin Port along with their 2 year old son on 8 May, 1816. He started his mission work in Travancore from the port city of Alleppey (Alappuzha).

8 May, 1765: Mar Thoma V (1728-1765) passes away. Mar Thoma V was ordained during the time of Marthandavarma Maharaja of Venadu (A kingdom in Central Kerala).

During his time many foreign bishops tried to interfere with the administration of the Church. In 1754, an agreement was signed with the foreign bishops restricting them from ordaining any person without the permission of the Mar Thoma Metropolitan. Mar Thoma V was called home on 8 May, 1765 and buried at the Niranam Church.

9 May, 1927: Birth of Rev. P. C. Thomas, Peedikaiyil Plammoottil, Kozhencherry (d.21 May 1987). He became priest on 16 Jul 1954 and served parishes in Pazhanji, Aluva, Munnar, Thonniyamala, Nellikkala, etc. Rev. Gigi Thomas is his son.

9 May, 1929: Birth of Rev. K. O. Sam, Kattunilathu, Punalur (d.3 Oct 2000). Following the footsteps of his father Rev. K. G. Oommen, he became a deacon on 30 Apr 1953 and later priest. He served many parishes including Jabalpur, Calcutta, Bhopal and Trivandrum. For a few years he worked in Zambia as the Missionary of Mar Thoma Church.

10 May, 1886: Karl Barth, the most important theologian of the twentieth century and opponent of theological liberalism and political fascism (especially under Hitler), is born in Basel, Switzerland. When asked in 1962 (on his one visit to America) how he would summarize the essence of the millions of words he had published, he replied, "Jesus loves me. This I know, for the Bible tells me so".

11 May, 1990: Death of Rev. C. M. Thomas, Tiruvalla (b.11 Mar.1909). After passing B.A., L.T., examination he started his career as a teacher and taught in Ayroor, Bombay and Trichur. He became a deacon on 22 Feb 1947 and priest on 5 Jul 1947. He served 17 parishes including Coimbatheer and Madras. He also served as secretary to the Metropolitans Juhanon Mar Thoma and Alexander Mar Thoma.

11 May, 1991: Death of Very Rev. A. A. Pylee, Rayamangalam (b.22 Jan 1918). He became a deacon on 30 Sept 1944 and priest on 3 Feb 1945. Achen was a Professor at Alwaye, Union Christian College and afterwards became the Principal of the Christian College, Chengannur.

12 May, 1820: Birth of Florence Nightingale. Florence Nightingale was named after the city, Florence, Italy, where she was born on 12 May, 1820, in a very wealthy family. She was the founder of the nursing profession. At the age of 16, Florence heard the voice of God telling her that she had a special mission in life. She helped the British Army in the Crimean war. Based on her studies, a Sanitary Department was established in India in 1868. She was called home on 13 August 1910.

12 May, 1903: Birth of Rev. C. Philipose, Athiyalil, Tiruvalla (d.30 Jan.1986). He became a deacon on 27 Sep 1928 and priest on 16 Jun 1929. He served more than 45 parishes including Pathanapuram, Pathanamthitta, Kumbanad, etc.

12 May, 1911: Birth of Rev. Dr .C. G. Samuel, Ayroor (d.7 Jan 1972). Following the footsteps of his paternal great grandfather Cherukara Philipose Malpan, he became priest and worked with the ashram in Palakkad and St. Thomas school, in Keezhillam. He became a Hindu with the name “Easwer Das” and few years later returned to the Mar Thoma church after tendering due apology to Metropolitan Juhanon Mar Thoma.

12 May, 1914: Birth of Rev. P. M. Mathew, Kadammanitta (d.7 Aug 1990). He became a deacon on 13 Dec. 1941 and priest on 7 April 1942. He served 32 parishes as vicar. For many years he was the Central Travancore Missionary of Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association.

13 May, 1917: Three shepherd children report that the Virgin Mary appeared to them in Fatima, Portugal.

13 May, 1925: Florida's House of Representatives passes a bill requiring schools to conduct daily Bible readings.

14 May , 1572: Gregory XIII, who reformed the Julian calendar into the calendar used today and celebrated the killing of French Huguenots (Protestants) with a Te Deum (a Latin hymn), is named pope.

15 May, 1857: Birth of Rev. T. Koshy, author of Hymn “Ennullil ennum vasichchiduvan”. Born as a member of the Mukkadavu family of Kallada, he became a priest in 1896. He was a gifted artist, hymn writer and publisher. He was a speaker of the Maramon convention for many years. Hymn Nos. 10(9), 37(35), 190(179), 216(201), 220(205), 221(206), 246(224), 297(283), 316(311), 344, and 352 in the Hymn Book Kristheeya Kerthanagal are written by him.

15 May, 1919: Birth of Rev. John J, Mannamchalil, Thevalakkara (d.19 Mar 2002). He became a deacon on 12 Jul 1948 and priest on 12 Feb 1949. He served 32 parishes including Chengannur and Thevalakkara. Rev. Reji John is his son.

15 May, 1964: Death of Rev. P. V. George, Mallappally (b.15 Feb.1907). Achen’s father T. J. Varkey Ashan was a famous hymn writer. Before ordination George worked with the Sunday School Samajam and the CSSM, and he was the manager of “Our Magazine”. He became a deacon in June 1949 and priest on 2 Nov.1949. Vicar general, Very Rev. P. George Zachariah is his son.

15 May, 2007: Death of Rev. George Varghese, Vaidyanparampil, Chunakkara (b.16 Jan 1929). 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 Church. He served parishes in Chengannur, Poona, Kuttapuzah, Kozhencherry, Maramon and Kattanam.

16 May, 1805: Arrival of Henry Martin in India. Henry Martin, a well-educated Englishman, arrives in India to aid William Carey with the translation work of the Bible.

16 May, 1903: Birth of Rev. T. B. Bahanan, Chennithala (d.7 Apr 1960). Achen was one of the first batch students of Kottayam Mar Thoma Seminary. He became a deacon on 7 Sep 1928 and priest on 13 Jun 1929. After serving the Mar Thoma Church for 10 years he joined the Church of South India (CSI) with the permission of the Mar Thoma Metropolitan.

16 May, 1906: Birth of Rev. C. Chacko, Venmony (d.8 Oct 1998). After 21 years of teaching, he became a deacon on 16 Sep 1950 and priest on 7 Apr.1951. He served 29 parishes including Anicadu, Punnaveli and Aranmula. His wife Mrs. Mariamma is the daughter of Sadhu Kochoonju Upadesi.

16 May, 1998: Death of Rev. C. G. George, Chiramannil, Kottayam (b.3 Jun 1921). After his education from Ajmeer Board, Patna University and Yavatmal Theological Seminary, he started his career as a teacher. He joined the Palakkad Ashram and participated in the 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.

17 May, 1889: Birth of Scout Achen, Rev. T. M. Mathai, Punnathundiyl, Kuriannoor. Rev. T. M. Mathai, born as a member of the Punnathundiyl family of Kuriannoor, became a priest in 1913. He was our first missionary priest in Karwar in Karnataka. He may be the only Mar Thoma Priest who served as a British Military Chaplain. He was the District Commissioner of the Scout movement. He stayed in Charalkunnu for many years, before the establishment of the Sunday School Samajam Camp Center.

18 May, 1931: Mar Thoma Church starts Ashram High School in Perumbavoor. On 18th May, 1931, Abraham Mar Thoma Metropolitan laid the foundation stone for the Ashram High School. Rev. C. T. Matthew (Mathews Thirumeni) was the first headmaster. This school is one of the best boarding schools functioning under the corporate management. "By love, serve one another" is the motto of the School.

19 May, 1959: Death of Rev. K. J. Jacob, Kizhakkethalakkal, Edathua (b.13 Aug 1897). He became a deacon in 1923 and priest in 1924. During his 36 year career as vicar, he served the parishes in Trichur, Mepral, Niranam, Mallappally, Kattanam, Anamprampal, etc.

19 May, 1998: Death of Rev. K. O. Mathew, Pathanapuram (b.17 Feb 1936). He became a deacon in 1971. He served many parishes including Thevalakkara, Attachakkal, and Andamans.

20 May, 325: Emperor Constantine convenes the first Ecumenical Council in Nicea (now Iznik), Bithynia, to discuss Arianism, a heresy arguing Jesus was not divine. "I entreat

you," Constantine said at the opening of the Council of Nicea, "to remove the causes of dissension among you and to establish peace." The council attempted to resolve the bitter conflict by anathematizing Arius (Arianism's founder) and ordering the burning of all his books, but the conflict continued to rage for decades.

20 May, 1506: Christopher Columbus, who saw himself as a missionary, and not just as an explorer, dies impoverished in Spain at age 55. "I hope in our Lord that it will be the greatest honor to Christianity that, unexpectedly, has ever come about," he concluded in the log of his first voyage to the Americas.

20 May, 1820: The Tamil Nadu Auxiliary (Madras Auxiliary Bible Society) came into being on 20 May 1820. This is a culmination of several Bible groups already in operation in around Chennai (Madras). Starting from the times of Ziegenbalg till the modern era, The Tamil Nadu (Madras) Auxiliary has always led the way in being at the forefront of facilitating Bible translation work. The first New Testament published in South Asia was in 1714 and Tamil Bible was published in 1728.

May 20, 1952: Birth of Hymn writer Wilson Chennanattil. Born as the son of an evangelist, he has written more than 50 hymns, many of which are included in the Maramon Convention Song Books, "Nin daanam njaan anubhavichu - Nin sneham njaan ruchicharrinju" (Song No. 47, Maramon convention 2000), "Ellaam nanmaykkaayi swargga thaathan cheythidunnu" (Song No. 35, MC 2001) are written by him.

21 May, 1382: The "Earthquake Synod" in London (so named because a temblor interrupted the proceedings), led by Archbishop Courtenay, condemns as heretical 24 theses from the writings of John Wycliffe. Wycliffe later claimed that God sent the earthquake "because the friars had put heresy upon Christ. The earth trembled as it did when Christ was damned to bodily death".

21 May, 1864: Missionary-priest Joseph de Veuster (better known as Father Damien) is ordained a priest in Honolulu. In 1873, at his own request, he was sent to a settlement of lepers on the island of Molokai, where he later contracted the disease and died.

21 May, 1921: V. Nagel, author of "Samayamaam radhaththil" passes away. Born in Germany on 3 Nov 1867, he came to India in 1893, as a missionary. Along with his wife Harriet, he worked in Kunnamkulam, North Paravur, Trichur and Kumbanad. He has written more than 100 hymns in Malayalam. Hymn Nos. 57, 144(135), 153(143), 155(145), 203(392), 214(199), 223(208), 238(216), 239(217), 242(220), 244(222), 287, 294(280), 298(284), 300, 301, 325(319), 374(257), 380(260), 382(262), 390(269), 402(294), 405(353) and 411(354) in the Hymn Book (Kristheeya Keerththanangal) are written by him.

21 May, 1780: English Quaker and social reformer Elizabeth Fry is born in Norwich, England. Though involved in reforms from education to poverty, her greatest burden was to improve prison life.

21 May, 1987: Death of Rev. P. C. Thomas, Kozhencherry (b.9 May 1927). He became priest on 16 Jul 1954 and served parishes in Pazhanji, Aluva, Munnar, Thonniyamala, Nellikkala, etc. Rev. Gigi Thomas is his son.

21 May, 1992: Death of Rev. V. A. George, Edathua (b.22 Sep 1921). He became a deacon on 14 Jul 1954 and priest on 28 Oct 1954. He served many parishes including Thevalakkara, Thalavady, Pathanapuram and Mangalam.

22 May, 1888: Birth of Yunan Kasseesa, Pallichira, Niranam (d.23 Jul 1923). He was ordained a deacon on 10 Nov 1910 at Parumala Seminary Church by Patriarch of Antioch Mar Abdullah II and later ordained as priest by Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius (Pulikkottil II). But later with interest in the Reformation movement, he joined the Mar Thoma church and served as the vicar of parishes in Kottayam, Manganam, Niranam and Nakkada.

23 May, 1984: Very Rev. K. E. Oommen, Kalamannil, Kumbanad passes away at Vellore. Very Rev. K. E. Oommen (b.1881) was ordained in 1921 and was one of the division Secretaries up to 1939. With his evangelistic zeal and wise counsel he gave great support to Abraham Mar Thoma and later Metropolitans. Metropolitan Philipose Mar Chrysostom is his son.

23 May, 2008: Death of Rev. C. M. Abraham, Cheriavadakkedathu, Kuriannoor (b.23 June 1923). Achen was the vicar of the Mar Thoma Parishes in Melpadam, 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/ Convenor 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 (he was staying with his youngest son in Bombay). The Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, 27 May 2008 at the Mar Thoma Church in Kuriannoor.

23 May, 1923: Death of M. Mathen Kathanar, Kizhakkethalakkal, Edathua (b.1848). He was the vicar of Parishes in Anaprampal, Alappuzha and Chennamkerry. He was a

member of the Bible Revision Committee and translated many hymns and worship books from Syriac and Tamil. He used to bring music teachers from Tamil Nadu to train the Parish choir.

25 May, 1865: Birth of Evangelist John R. Mott. Evangelist and ecumenist, Mott is born in New York. He served 40 years with the YMCA, chaired the 1910 Edinburgh Missionary Conference and was named honorary president of the World Council of Churches at its inaugural session.

24 May, 1543: Polish astronomer and cleric Nicolas Copernicus dies in Poland. His heliocentric (sun-centered) concept of the solar system was radical, though not unheard of before his time. The Roman Catholic Church never ordained Copernicus, but he participated in a religious community at the cathedral of Frauenburg.

25 May, 1868: Birth of Ayroor Achen, Rev. C. P. Philipose, Cherukara (d.2 Feb 1948). Rev. C. P. Philipose was elected as the General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association in 1890 and held that post for more than fifty years till he stepped down due to ill health. He led the Maramon convention and for many years was the translator for the Maramon Convention.

25 May, 1972: Death of P. K. Jacob Kasseesa, Polachirakkal (b.1 Feb 1887). Jacob Achen was a student of the CMS College Kottayam. He had his theological education from the Cambridge Nicholson Institute (CNI) in Kottayam. He served the Mavelikkara Parish continuously for 55 years!

25 May, 2004: Death of Rev. C. A. Kuruvilla, Cheruvazhakunnel, Ranny (b.1 Dec.1930). He became a deacon on 29 Jun 1957 and priest on 17 Oct.1957. He served parishes in Trichur, Mysore, Mallappally, Kochi, Poovathoor, etc. For a few years he was the North Travancore Missionary of the Evangelistic Association.

26 May, 1914: Birth of Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Athanasius. Thirumeni was born to the Panampunnayil family at Kottayam. He was ordained as deacon of the Church in 1944 and as Kasseesa in 1946. On 20 May, 1953, he was consecrated as Bishop. He was designated as Suffragan Metropolitan in May 1978 together with Philipose Mar Chrysostom. He guided the evangelistic activities of the whole Church for many years. The college for women at Perumbavoor was established under his inspiring leadership. Thirumeni was called to eternal rest on 27th November, 1984.

26 May, 1889: Birth of Mandapathil Achen (Rev. P. I. Jacob, Mandapathil, Puthencavu, Chengannur). He became a priest on 17 Sept, 1916, and was Secretary of Central Travancore Mission for 34 years. He was a keen up lifter of the backward community and more than 100 congregations were formed during his time. He was an expert in Homeo medicine and gave free treatment. For many years he published a magazine

“Almaprakashini” from his personal printing press. He was called to rest on 2 July, 1987, and was buried at the Puthencav Church Cemetery.

26 May, 1910: Birth of Rev. N. K. Yohannan, Elanthur (d.30 Jan 2003). For 19 Years he was a primary school teacher. He became a deacon on 23 Mar 1945 and priest on 30 Sep 1945. He was actively involved in YMCA and Balajana Sakhyam. He was the convener of the Prayer book revision committee and Marriage rules committee.

27 May, 1564: John Calvin, French Protestant Reformer, dies. He kept writing and ministering to the Christians in Geneva nearly up to his death, telling his worried friends, "What! Would you have the Lord find me idle when he comes?"

28 May, 1533: English reformer Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, declares King Henry VIII's marriage to Anne Boleyn valid, having earlier approved the king's divorce of Catherine of Aragon.

28 May, 1841: Edwin Moody dies, leaving his wife to raise 4-year-old Dwight Lyman and eight other children. D.L. Moody went on to become the leading American evangelist of his generation. Dwight Lyman Moody (Feb 5, 1837-Dec 22, 1899), also known as D.L. Moody, was an American evangelist and publisher who founded the Moody Church, Northfield School and Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts (now the Northfield Mount Hermon School), the Moody Bible Institute and Moody Publishers.

28 May, 1954: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs a bill adding the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

May 29, 1453: Constantinople, capital of Eastern Christianity since Constantine founded it in 324, falls to the Turks under Muhammad II, ending the Byzantine Empire. Muslims rename the city Istanbul and turn its lavish cathedral, Hagia Sophia, into a mosque.

May 29, 1546: In retaliation for the execution of Reformation preacher George Wishart, Scottish Protestants murder Cardinal David Beaton in St. Andrews. John Knox, who was not part of the assassination plot, went on to lead the Scottish Reformation.

May 29, 1660: England's King Charles II triumphantly enters London, marking the full restoration of the monarchy. Though he promised religious liberty, he cracked down on Dissenters (including John Bunyan) following a 1661 attempt by religious fanatics to overthrow him.

29 May, 1874: English essayist, poet, and writer G. K. Chesterton is born in London. The 400-pound man was occasionally absent-minded, but brilliant. He loved paradoxes, which he called "supreme assertions of truth," and used them often in his writing. Poet T.S. Eliot credited him with doing "more than any man in his time . . . to maintain the

existence of the [Christian] minority in the modern world." Chesterton converted from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism in 1922.

29 May, 1967: Pope Paul VI names 27 new cardinals, including then-archbishop of Krakow, Poland, Karol Wojtyla, later to be Pope John Paul II.

30 May, 339: Eusebius dies at age 74. Author of the 10-volume Ecclesiastical History, he is called the father of church history. In his day, though, he was as much a maker of history as a recorder. At the Council of Nicea, he argued for peace between the heretical Arians and Orthodox leaders like Athanasius. When Arianism became hugely popular after the Council, Eusebius was one of the people to depose Athanasius. Though he wasn't an Arian himself, he strongly opposed anti-Arianism.

30 May, 1416: Jerome of Prague burns at the stake for heresy. When the Council of Constance arrested and tried his fellow Bohemian reformer Jan Hus, Jerome went to defend him, sealing his own fate.

30 May, 1431: French mystic and revolutionary Joan of Arc burns at the stake for heresy. Her last words were, "Jesus, Jesus".

30 May, 1672: The governor of Rhode Island cordially entertains Quaker founder George Fox. "Most of the pupils had never heard of Friends before," Fox said, "but they were mightily affected with the meeting, and there is a great desire amongst them after the Truth.

30 May, 1822: A slave betrays the plans of African Methodist (and former slave) Denmark Vesey to stage a massive slave uprising on July 14. Of the 131 African Americans arrested in the plot, 35 were executed (including Vesey) and 43 were deported. Vesey's Charleston, South Carolina, church was closed until 1865.

30 May, 1934: The first synod of the Confessing Church at Barmen ends. Influenced by Karl Barth, the synod resisted the teachings of the Nazi Germany.

31 May, 1931: Anglican Church ordains first priest from Pulaya Community. Due to the work of CMS missionaries many people from the backward classes were converted to Christianity. But Syrian Christians were not willing to worship with them or accommodate them in their churches or society. Special churches were made for them and they were still treated as untouchables by the high Class Syrian Christians. On 31st May, 1931, Mr. P. J. Thomas a member of the Pulaya community was ordained to priesthood by Bishop Moore in an effort to eradicate this social evil.

31 May, 1899: Birth of Rev. P. E. Thomas, Valliezhathu, Thalavady (d.15 Apr.1958). After his graduation, he became a deacon on 22 Aug.1931 and priest on 5 Nov.1932. For a few years he served as the North Travancore Missionary of the Evangelistic Association. He

served Kuriannoor Salem, Pazhanji, Chalisserry, Ernakulam, Kochi, Kollam and Trivandrum parishes.

31 May, 1994: Death of Rev. M. K. Thomas, Tiruvalla (b.22 Nov 1902). He became a deacon on 23 Jul 1932 and priest on 12 Jul 1923. He served 24 parishes including Kadammanitta, Pulinhitta, Ayroor and Ernakulam. Travancore Divan C. P. Rama Swamy Iyer prosecuted Achen for conducting Church services in Kalampala Sunday School building.

