

CHURCH HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Published by: Advocate John Joseph Nalloor

First Sunday of November – World Sunday School Day. Robert Raikes (1735- 1811), an English Publisher started the first Sunday School in the city of Gloucester in England in 1780. During the early days, reading, arithmetic and Bible were taught in the Sunday School. In 1809, a meeting of the Church representatives of Malankara Churches held at Kandanadu Church, near Ernakulam decided to make facilities to teach the children about the religion, prayers and sacraments. India Sunday School Union was founded in 1876. Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam was established on 25 February 1905, in the Maramon Convention. First Sunday of the Month of November is celebrated as world Sunday School day through out the world.

November – Church Calendar Starts. According to tradition, in Malankara Syrian Churches “Church Calendar” starts from the first Sunday of November every year. In exceptional cases if Sunday falls on 30 or 31 October it starts from that day. The first Sunday of the month of November is called “Koothos Eetho” which means the day for the purification of the church. The second Sunday is called “whoothos eetho” which means the day for revival or dedication of the church.

1 November, 451: The Council of Chalcedon (in modern Turkey) adjourns. The fourth and largest of all the ancient councils, attended by 500-600 bishops, it repudiated the Eutychian heresy (that Christ has one nature, not two) and drew up a Christological statement of faith now known as the Definition of Chalcedon.

1 November, 1512: After four years of work, Michelangelo Buonarroti unveils his 5,800-square-foot painting on the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

1 November, 1880 Birth of George John Kasseesa, Chathannur (d.30 Jan 1930). After obtaining 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 and became deacon on 8 Jan.1921 and priest on 18 Dec 1921. He tirelessly worked for the development of the South Travancore parishes of the Church. George John Achen Memorial Hospital in Valakom is a tribute to his memory.

2 November, 1879: Birth of T. G. Abraham Kasseesa, Thenguvilayil, Mannady (d.24 Jul 1954). He became deacon on 25 August 1905 and priest on 1 November 1912. He established the Mannady, Enathu, and Kannankode parishes and the primary school in Mannady. He was an expert in Malayalam, English and Syriac languages.

2 November, 1533: Harried by Catholic authorities, John Calvin (Reformation leader) flees Paris by lowering himself out of a window with a bed sheet rope and disguising himself as a farmer, complete with a hoe over his shoulder. He spent three years as a fugitive before settling in Geneva.

2 November, 1942: The first workers of Sihora Ashram start from Kottarakkara. On the morning of 2 November 1942 a huge crowd under the leadership of the Bishop Juhanon Mar Timotheos gathered under a tree on the eastern side of the Kottarakkara railway station and gave a sensational send off to Rev. K.T. Thomas, Karimparampil. Anaprampal), Mr. John Varghese (Valethu Thoppil, Puthencauv), and Mr. M. P. Mathew (Mavelil, Kaviyoor), the founder members of the Christa Panthi Ashram. After visiting various north Indian cities, finally they reached Sihora on 13 September 1943 and started the Ashram. Our bishop The Late Rt. Rev .Easow Mar Timotheos was a member of this ashram for 22 years.

2 November, 1831: Baptism of Chandhu Menon. Mr. Chandhu Menon (1778-1837) is the man credited with helping the translation work of the Bible from English to Malayalam. Chandhu Menon was born in Chunagad (a known Hindu family) in the Ottapalam village of British Malabar. The Bible translation transformed his life and he accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour. On 2 November, 1831, he was baptized in the Anglican Church in Calicut and was given the name Joseph Fenn. Later members of his family were also baptized. Chandhu Menon had to resign from his government job as Travancore Rules dictated “non Hindus were not allowed to hold the post of Tehasildar.” However he joined the British Government Service and worked as ‘Salt Peshkar in Ponnani’, Record Keeper in Calicut and District Munsif in Cochin. He passed away in 1837 at the age of 57 and was buried in the St. Francis Anglican Church in Cochin. The Church in Kerala is indebted to this great man who aided in the translation of the Bible into Malayalam.

3 November, 1878: Birth of P. J. Jacob Kasseesa, Pattamukkil (d.19 Jun 1922). He became 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.

3 November, 1534: English Monarch becomes the Head of Anglican Church. On 3 Nov 1534 the British Parliament passed the Supremacy Act, officially making England Protestant and putting the English Monarch at the Head of the nation’s church.

4 November, 1958: Angelo Roncalli becomes Pope John XXIII. Though his papacy was expected to be uneventful, his convening of the Second Vatican Council and his changing of the church's attitudes toward non-Catholics were milestones for Roman Catholics.

4 November, 1646: The Massachusetts Bay Colony makes it a capital offense to deny that the Bible is the Word of God.

4 November, 1740: English clergyman Augustus Montague Toplady (d.11 Aug 1778), author of the hymn "Rock of Ages," is born. No other English hymn can be named that has laid so firm and broad a grasp upon the English speaking world as "Rock of Ages". (Hymn No 149 (140) *Pilharnnoru paarraye* – in our Book-*Kristheeya Keerththanangal*)

5 November, 1991: Death of Rev. V. J. Joseph, Ranny (b 4 Jul 1906) After his training in the Kottayam Seminary, he became deacon on 27 Sep.1928 and priest on 16 June 1929. He served 37 parishes.

5 November, 1994: Death of V. M. Abraham Kasseesa, Valiyakalayil, Kuriannoor (b.20 Apr.1938). He started his career as the Asst. Secretary of the Yuvajana Sakhyam. Became deacon on 20 Apr.1968 and priest later. For few years he was the General Secretary and Vice president of the Yuvajana Sakhyam. Also served the Kumbanad Dharmagiri Mandiram and the Jubilee Mandiram in Kottarakkara.

6 November, 1935: American revivalist Billy Sunday, a baseball player who became one of America's most famous evangelists before Billy Graham, dies at age 73. More than 100 million people heard him speak at his evangelistic crusades, and about 300,000 of them became Christians.

7 November, 1918: Birth of Billy Graham. World famous missionary preacher Billy Graham was born on 07 Nov 1918 in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. Through his powerful messages he attracts millions all around the world.

7 November, 1992: Death of Rev. M. I. Alexander, Karunagapally (b.22 Jul 1930) Became deacon on 22 June 1957 and priest on 19 1957. He started his career as the Asst. Missionary of the Central Travancore Mission and served many parishes including Thalavady, Niranam, Alleppey, Abu Dhabi and Manganam. Rev Alexander M Isaac is his son.

7 November, 1993: Death of Rev. M. T. Philip, Thalavady (b.24 Sep 1939) Became deacon on 22 June 1957 and priest on 19 1957. He started his career as the Asst. Missionary of the Central Travancore Mission and served many parishes including Thalavady, Niranam, Alleppey, Abu Dhabi and Manganam. Rev Alexander M Isaac is his son.

8 November, 2007: Death of Rev. C.A.Mathew (b.19 March 1925), Cherukara, Theodical, Pathanamthitta. Became deacon on 10 April 1954 and priest on 20 December 1954. Few years he taught in the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary in Kottayam. Served many parishes in and around Ayroor. Served as the Traveling Secretary of the Mar Thoma

Evangelistic Association and the Secretary of the Carmel Agathimandiram in Ayroor. Achen passed away on 8 November 2007 at Boston in USA.

8 November, 1674: Death of John Milton. English Poet John Milton known as the author of Paradise Lost (1667), Paradise Regained (1671) and many other works, died at the age of 65, on 8 November 1674.

8 November, 1929: Birth of Rev. P. T. Mathew, Kadammanitta (d.20 Aug 2005) Became deacon on 20 January 1964 and priest on 24 August 1964. He served more than 28 parishes as vicar. He was the Manager of the Mar Thoma High School in Mekkozhooor and the Boarding Superintendent of the Mar Thoma High School in Pathanamthitta.

9 November, 1964: Mrs. Kandamma Varghese (of Mar Thoma Sevika Sanghom) passes away. Mar Thoma Sevika Sanghom owes much to the self sacrificing work of Mrs. Kandamma Varghese who worked untiringly as the Organizing Secretary for over 20 years traveling far and wide, organizing branches in the parishes, doing evangelistic work among Christians and non- Christians, and building up the work in parishes.

9 November, 1917: Birth of Dr.Sosamma Philip- Medical Missionary. Dr. Sosamma (b. 9 November 1917) was the daughter of Late Rev. M.C. George Kasseesa (17 April 1874 - 23 October 1923) of Maliyekkal House, Kuriannoor. The Late Most Rev. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan (10 April 1913 - 11 January 2000) was her elder brother. Dr. Sosamma passed her final school examination in 1933, but she couldn't afford a college education. She joined the Under Graduate Teacher's Training Course in Tiruvalla and then became a teacher in 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 the medical work of her departed husband. She joined Always 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 she 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 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.

9 November, 1879: Birth of Rev. K. V .Jacob, Anicadu (d.27 Apr.1979). He became deacon on 25 Jul 1909 and served parishes in Anikkadu, Punnaveli and Kangazha. He was blessed with long life and faithfully served the church 70 years.

9 November, 1965: Death of Rev. P. J. John, Pattamukkil, Niranam (b.29 Oct.1882) Before ordination he was a teacher in St. Thomas School, Niranam, headmaster of Vattadi Girls school, and administrative staff in Nicholson School, Tiruvalla. He became deacon on 14 April 1934 and priest in May 1934. For a few years he was the Sea Coast Missionary of the Evangelistic Association.

9 November, 1921: Birth of Rev. T. M. Thomas, Vadasserikkara (d.15 Jan 2006). Became deacon on 28 Oct.1950 and priest on 23 Jun 1951. He served Kaithakuzhy, Pooyapally, Charummood, Ranny Nazareth, Kumbanad, and Vadasserikkara parishes.

10 November, 1908: Ten years after Samuel Hill and John Nicholson met in Boscobel, Wisconsin, to begin what would become Gideon's International; the organization places its first Bible in a room at the Superior Hotel in Iron Mountains, Montana.

10 November, 1865: Birth of Alexander Kathanar, Lahavettathu, Pandalam (d.17 Jan 1946). He became deacon on 1885 and priest on 1888. He was the vicar of Pandalam, Kaipettoor, and Manthuka parishes. He gave leadership for the construction of the first Mar Thoma church in Pandalam. and the primary schools in Cherikkal and Mudiyoorkkonam.

10 November, 1483: Birth of Martin Luther. (D.18 February, 1546) The famous reformation leader Martin Luther was born in Eisleben in Germany on 10 Nov 1483.

11 November, 1793: William Carey arrives in Calcutta. William Carey arrived in Calcutta on November 11, 1793, and never returned to his homeland England. He translated, with the help of Pundits, the entire Bible in Bengali, Oriya, Hindi, Marathi, and Sanskrit. Partial translations were made in Punjabi, Pashto, Kashmiri, Telugu, and Konkani. He also translated smaller portions of the Bible in twenty-three other languages and dialects.

11 November, 1889: Birth of N. T. George Kasseesa, Nalamvelil, Niranam (d.17 Aug.1959). After his studies in the Cambridge Nicholson Institute (CNI) in Kottayam he became deacon on 17 September 1916 and priest on 21 April 1919. A primary health centre and post office were established in Niranam due to Achen's efforts. He was a celibate priest. The parsonage building of the St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church in Niranam is Achen's memorial.

12 November, 1660: John Bunyan is arrested for unlicensed preaching and sentenced to prison. While incarcerated, he penned *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, the greatest Puritan spiritual autobiography.

12 November, 1918: Birth of Rev. V. M .Koruth, Ikerameppurathu, Keezhvaipur (d.21 Dec 1970).After passing M.A.,B.D., examinations he became deacon on 26 May 1945 and priest on 22 Jun 1946. He served parishes in Munnar, Kottayam, Anaprampal, Singapore and Tiruvalla. For few years he was the Traveling secretary/Central Travancore Missionary of the Evangelistic association.

13 November, 354: Birth of St. Augustine. St. Augustine was born on 13 November 354, in Tagaste, Numidia, in Roman North Africa of a mixed marriage. His father, Patricius, was an ill-tempered pagan, sometimes prone to drunkenness, but who nevertheless cared for his wife and family. His mother, Monica was a Christian, born into and brought up in a Christian home. She stands out as a great Christian matriarch and her devotion, attachment and prayers for her wayward son are unquestioned. St Augustine died on 28 August 430.

13 November, 1845: Birth of Chandapilla Kathanar, Thazhathu, Kottayam (24 Jul 1931) He became deacon at the age of 9 (1854) and priest on 1 August 1861. For 24 years he was the vicar of the Cheriya pally in Kottayam. He was the founder of the Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church in Kottayam. Achen's courageous stand made it possible for the consecration ceremony of Bishop Titus I Mar Thoma to be held in the Cheriya pally in Kottayam.

14 November, 1967: Death of A.V. Mathai Kathanar, Alunilkunnathil (b.1878) Following the footsteps of his father Kulathakkal Alunilkunnathil Geevarhseese Kathanar, he became a priest. He served Mar Thoma parishes in Kuriannoor, Kumbanad, Pullad and Maramon. He was one of the defendants along with the Metropolitan, of the Maramon Mar Thoma Church civil case which started after the reformation movement.

15 November, 1630: German mathematician and astronomer Johann Kepler, famous for his laws of planetary motion, dies at 58. As a Christian, he believed the universe to be an expression of God's being rather than God's creation.

15 November, 1731: Birth of William Cowper (1731-1800) author of the Hymn 'There is a fountain filled with blood' ('Immanuel than chankathil...' no.147 (138) in our Book-*Kristheeya Keerththanangal*). The words of this hymn are immortal and will be sung as long as there are sinners upon this earth.

15 November, 1885: (29 Thulam 1061 M.E) Verdict of Travancore High Court against Mar Thoma Church. The final verdict from the Royal Court of Appeal was declared on 12 July 1889. Due to this Court judgment Mar Thoma Church lost almost all their Churches except Maramon and Kozhencherry (got by court decision) and Kottarakkara Church without contest. Five Churches were to be used by the two parties on alternate Sundays.

15 November, 1873: Birth of P.T. Mathew Kasseesa, Padipurakkal (d.2 Oct.1898). After his education in Old Seminary Kottayam he became deacon in 1895 and priest afterwards. He served many parishes in and around Kayamkulam.

15 November, 1902: Birth of P. I. Chacko Kathanar, Kathedathu, Adoor (d.24 Jul 2001) He became deacon on 14 April 1934 and priest on 2 March 1935. He served more than 30 parishes. After his retirement, he worked as an honorary missionary of the Mar Thoma Evangelists Association.

16 November, 1855: Scottish missionary-explorer David Livingstone (19 March 1813 – 4 May 1873) sees and names Victoria Falls (in modern Zimbabwe) during his first missionary journey through Africa.

16 November, 1920: Birth of Rev. A. Abraham, Pathanapuram (d.4 Oct.2000) He became deacon on 30 Jul 1953 and priest on Oct.1953. He was the administrator of the Bahrain Centre in Kalluvathukkal and one of the founding leaders of the Kottarakkara Convention.

16 November, 1941: Birth of Rev. M. T. Thomas, Meledathu Mannakunnil, Ayroor (d.24 Nov.1997). After his studies in Ujjain, Vikram, Bhopal and Serampore universities he started his career as a government servant in Madhya Pradesh. He became deacon on 14 Jun 1975 and priest on 24 Jun in 1975. He served parishes in Thalavoor, Keezhuvaipur, Thonniyamala, Vadasserikkara, and Niranam. Achen died in a motor cycle accident in Kozhencherry. Rev. Feno M Thomas is his son.

17 November, 1997: Death of Rev. C. M. Thomas, Kochi (b.20 Aug 1925) Became deacon on 2 June 1956 and priest on 28 July 1956. He was the General Secretary of the Yuvajana Sakhyam, Sea Coast Missionary of the Evangelistic Association, and the Manager of the Mar Thoma Book Depot.

17 November, 1705: Royal declaration by Frederick IV of Denmark ((October 11, 1671 - October 12, 1730) for Missionary work. The first protestant missionaries to serve in India, Ziegenbalg and Plutschau of Halle University in Germany, were sent under the patronage of Frederick IV, King of Denmark. "We, Frederick IV etc., do hereby make known to all concerned that We in Our Royal favour have engaged and appointed, and do herewith engage and appoint Mr. Bartholomew Ziegenbalg, to go as a Missionary from here to Eastern India, and there to apply himself with all diligence to instruct the heathens who dwell within Our territory and on the borders thereof, in the holy doctrine, as set forth in God's Word and professed in the Symbolic Books of this realm agreeing to the Augsburg Confession and bring them to the knowledge of salvation...." Dated 17 Nov. 1705, Copenhagen.

17 November, 3 B.C.: According to early church Father Clement of Alexandria (A.D .155- A.D 220), Jesus was born on this date.

18 November, 2004: Death of Rev. T. I. Joseph, Chengannur (b.21 Mar 1927). After passing B.A., B.D., examinations he became deacon on 16 Jul.1954 and priest on 28 Oct.1954. He took initiative for the establishment of Mar Thoma Parishes in Texas.

November 19, 1862: Baseball player-turned-revivalist William (Billy) Sunday is born in Iowa. An estimated 100 million people attended his 300 revivals, and he claimed that at least one million of them "hit the sawdust trail" to come forward and profess their conversion to Christ as a result of his preaching.

20 November, 1904: Death of Stephanos Kathanar - Author of "*Shayana Namaskaram*". Stephanos Kathanar (born on 14 June 1852) a member of Kallarakkal Peedikayil family of Thazhakkara, Mavelikkara, became a deacon at the age of 8. He was an expert teacher of the Syrian Language. In 1897 he established Thazhakkara Mar Thoma Church and started a library for the parish. Achen is the author of The Shayana Namaskaram- (prayer song usually sung with the evening 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 the Kerala University. He was called to his eternal home on 20 Nov 1904.

20 November, 1947: Death of Geevarughese Kathanar, Kochi, (Kaviyoor) (b.21 Oct.1857). He became deacon at the age 12, on 5 Oct 1869 and priest on 11 Jul 1875. Served many parishes including Kaviyoor, Amalloor, Anjilithanam and Paleyekkara. He used to treat eye sickness.

21 November, 1881: Birth of Very Rev K E Oommen – (21/11/1881 to 23 May 1984). Very Rev K. E. Oommen was one of the first four graduates who accepted ordination together in the Mar Thoma Church. He was one of the Divisional Secretaries of our church till 1939. With his evangelical zeal and wise counsel he gave great support to Abraham Mar Thoma and later Metropolitans. He had a long and fruitful life. He died in 1984 at the age of 103. Most Rev Philipose Mar Chrysostom is his son.

21 November, 1913: Birth of Rev. Dr. T. C. Thomas, Puthupally (d.17 Aug 1987). After passing M.A., L.T., and B.D exams. he became deacon on 28 May 1949 and priest on 18 Feb 1950. He was the principal of Titus II Teachers Training college- Tiruvalla, Mar Thoma College- Tiruvalla and St. Thomas Residential School in Trivandrum. He was the clergy trustee of our Church. Retired Supreme Court Judge K.T. Thomas is his son in law.

21 November, 1944: Death of K.M. Mathew Kasseesa, Kozhikunnathu (b.21 Jan 1884). Became deacon on 20 May 1921 and priest later. For many years he worked with the CSSM work in Kerala and led many children to Christ. Being a good singer, he gave leadership for the Maramon Convention Choir for many years.

22 November, 1873: The French ship Ville du Havre sinks in the north Atlantic, killing all four daughters of Chicago lawyer Horatio G. Spafford. His wife survived, and Spafford immediately booked passage to join her in England. While passing over the spot where his daughters died, he began writing what would become the famous hymn "It is Well with My Soul." (No 901 in Sacred Songs and Solos- Ira D Sankey)

22 November, 1896: Birth of Rev. K. Chacko, Kumbumkattu, Valakam (d.8 Apr.1974). He became deacon on 19 Aug 1919 and priest in 1921. He served 9 parishes including Valakom, Punnaveli, and Karikkam. For few years he was the President of the Valakam Grama Panchayath.

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

22 November, 1896: Death of Yacob Kathanar, Thazhathillathu Puthenveedu, Vaikkam, Ranny (b.1861). Thazhathillathu Ittyavira and Anna were his parents. After the preliminary education he learned Syriac language and became a priest. He was the vicar of Kananaya Valiya pally in Ranny, Ranny Valiya Pally, and Ranny Vaikkam Mar Thoma Parish.

23 November, 101 (traditional date): Clement of Rome dies. According to spurious legend, he was tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea. Considered "the first apostolic father," his letter to the church of Corinth was regarded as Scripture by many Christians in the third and fourth centuries.

23 November, 1654: French scientist and mathematician Blaise Pascal experiences a mystical vision and converts to Christianity. The creator of the first wristwatch, the first bus route, the first workable calculating machine, and other inventions then turned his life to theology.

24 November, 1997: Death of Rev. M. T. Thomas, Ayroor (b.16 Nov.1941). After his studies in Ujjain, Vikram, Bhopal and Serampore universities he started his career as a government servant in Madhya Pradesh. He became deacon on 14 Jun and priest on 24 Jun in 1975. He served parishes in Thalavoor, Keezhuvaipur, Thonniyamala, Vadasserikkara, and Niranam. Achen died in a motor cycle accident in Kozhencherry. Rev. Feno M Thomas is his son.

25 November, 1866: Birth of Mathew Kathanar, Thekkattil, Kallisseri (d.4 Aug 1959) Became deacon on 1905 and priest on 1913. His father Ninan Abraham Kathanar was a prominent priest. Served many parishes including Umayattukara, Othara, Mangalam, Edanadu, and Pandanadu.

25 November, 1885: Birth of C. Cherian Kasseesa, Thazhumadathil, Adoor (d.10 Dec.1952). After passing matriculation he started his career in Adoor, with the judicial department of the Travancore government. At the age of 35 he resigned his government job and went for theological training in Kottayam. He became deacon on 15 Feb 1924 and priest in 1925. He took the initiative for the establishment of Adoor Immanuel, Elabikkal and Munnalam parishes. He did not take any salary while serving the parishes in Adoor from 1928 to 1944.

25 November, 1932: Birth of Bishop Easow Mar Timotheos (d.11 Apr.1988). Bishop Easow Mar Timotheos was a member of Valiyaparampil Family of Thonniyamala near Pathanamthitta. He was a permanent member of our Sihora Ashram from 1951-to 1972. He became deacon on 15 Oct. 1961; priest on 4 March 1962, Ramban on 11 January 1975 and Bishop on 8 Feb 1975. His life of prayer and deep spiritual experience were his special characteristics. He was deeply interested in the rural development activities. Being also in charge of the parishes in the Arabian Gulf area, he raised funds from there for the development of Malabar area. He passed away while visiting our parishes in the Andamans Islands and was buried at Tiruvalla.

25 November, 1990: Death of Rev. Iype Thomas, Koor, Tiruvalla (b.14 Apr.1911). After his theological education in Bishop's college Calcutta, he became deacon on 28 Apr.1945 and priest on 16 Dec. 1945. Served 13 parishes including Kuriannoor, Maramon and Tiruvalla.

26 November, 2003: Death of Rev. K. T. Alexander, Valakam (b.13 Sep 1929) Became deacon in 1960 and priest on 1 Oct.1960. He served as a Missionary in North Travancore, Nilambur, and Palakkad. He was the founding secretary of the Chungathara College Educational Society. He was a close friend of the former Indian President K. R. Narayanan. His wife Dr. Aley Alexander is a missionary doctor.

27 November 1951: Death of Alexanthrayose Kathanar, Ouravumkara, Karunagapally. (B.1864) Became deacon in 1879 at the age of 15. He served the parishes in Thevalakkara, Kollaka and Kozhikode.

27 November, 1970: On a trip to the Philippines, Pope Paul VI is attacked by a dagger-wielding Bolivian painter disguised as a priest. Though the Vatican announced the pontiff was unhurt, he suffered a chest wound in the assault.

27 November, 1901: Birth of Rev. K. G .Oommen, Punalur (d.3 Aug 1981) Born as the son of Geevarughese and Mariamma of Kattunilathu family of Niranam, he became a priest in 1940. He was in charge of our Boys Home in Punalur for many years. He gave able leadership for the establishment of our mission fields in Tamil Nadu. He was also a convention speaker.

27 November, 1984: Thomas Mar Athanasius Suffragan Metropolitan passes away (b.26 May 1914). Bishop Thomas was born on 26 May, 1914, to the Panampunna family, Kottayam. He was a scholar and continued his studies to the end of his days. He was known for his deep devotion and great ability to build up the Church. In 1953, he became bishop, and in 1978, he was designated as Suffragan Metropolitan. His sudden death on 27 November, 1984, was severe shock to the whole Church and to the ecumenical world.

28 November, 1628: English preacher John Bunyan (d. 31 August, 1688), author of more than 60 books, including the famous Pilgrim's Progress, is born in Elston, England.

28 November, 1757: English Christian mystic William Blake is born in London. A poet, sculptor, and engraver, he was unschooled but fascinated with Milton, Shakespeare, Dante, and the Bible. He experienced visions all his life, beginning at age 4 when he saw God looking in his window.

28 November, 1863: The first annual national Thanksgiving Day is celebrated. Back in October, President Lincoln had proclaimed the fourth Thursday of each November from that time forward as a national day of thanks.

29 November, 1898: Christian writer and scholar C.S. Lewis (b.29 November 1898), one of modern Christianity's best-loved writers, is born in Belfast, Ireland.

29 November, 1906: Death of Koshy Mathai Kathanar, Kannampallil, Cheppad (b.1833) after studying Syriac language he became a priest in the Jacobite church and served the parishes in Cheppad and Karichal. Achen was a strong supporter of the reformation movement and he established the Mar Thoma parishes in Paippad, Pallipadu and Cheppad.

29 November, 1973: Death of Rev. P. S. Philip, Kottampally (b.8 Sep 1937) after his studies in U. C .College Alwaye and Leonard Theological College in Jabalpur, became deacon on 28 August 1962 and priest in November 1962. He served 14 Parishes including Kundara, Pathanapuram, Kozhikode and Thevalakkara.

29 November, 1989: Death of Rev. T. G. Samuel, Karunagapally (b.31 Aug 1905). After his training in the Mar Thoma Seminary in Kottayam, became deacon on 21 May 1940 and later priest. He served more than 41 parishes including Thevalakkara, Kottayam and Kozhikode. Gave leadership for the re-construction of church buildings in Cherukole, Chanthannur, Kalluvathukkal, Nakkada and Thevalakkara.

29 November, 1970: Formation of Church of North India (CNI). The inaugural meeting of the CNI was held in the Anglican Cathedral of Nagpur. Our metropolitan (Dr. Juhanon Mar Thoma) attended this meeting. We got full communion relationship with this church from 1972 onwards.

30 November, 1979: John Paul II (18 May 1920 – 2 April 2005) attends an Eastern Orthodox service, the first pope in 1,000 years to do so.

30 November, 1986: Death of Rev. T. K. Chacko, Kaviyoor (b.6 Feb1906). After passing his B.A., L.T., and B.D exams he started his career as the headmaster of the St. Stephen's high school headmaster. Due to the influence of Abraham Mar Thoma, he became deacon on 8 Dec 1946 and priest on 21 Sep. 1947. He served 14 parishes including Edayaranmula, Eraviperoor and Maramon. For few years he was the Traveling Secretary of the Evangelistic Association.

30 November, 1995: Death of Rev. C. M. Abraham, Thalavady (b.31 march 1920). Became deacon on 29 Aug 1950 and priest on 14 Apr.1951. He served 39 parishes including Channapetta, Karunagapally, Ranny and Kottayam. Rev. Alexander Abraham is his son.

30 November, 1945 (1121 Virchikam 15): Sadhu Kochukunju Upadesi (b.Dec.1883) passes away. Sadhu Kochukunju Upadesi (Mr. Moothampakkal Itty Varghese, Moothampakkal, Edayaranmula near Chengannur) was a unique personality in our Church History. For almost forty years he preached the Bible in simple language all over South India. He practiced the life of a Sadhu. He wrote more than 200 hymns many of that are printed in our worship books. Thousands were turned to God by hearing his messages. He was the first General Secretary of the 'Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists' Association, which was founded in 1924, and he continued in that post till 1945. He was called to eternal rest on 15 Virchikam 1121 at the age of 62. And was buried in the St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Lakha, and Edayaranmula.

