

The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America and Europe

Besorah

The Besorah is an official publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe

Message from the Diocesan Bishop

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the glorious name of the Triune God!

Let us thank God for the manifold blessings that we continually receive. I appreciate all parishes for your active participation in the Diocesan activities. We appear to have returned to normalcy, and our parish life is thriving. By God's grace, the Maramon Convention turned out to be a blessed experience. People gathered in large numbers and participated with confidence and in faith, without COVID-19 restrictions. A good number of members from our Diocese attended the convention. Let this spiritual fervor continue to spread in all walks of life. The wellness program and the course on mission and culture are being conducted effectively in the Diocese. I am also happy that the Zonal Center at London was dedicated on March 04, 2023.

We are in the season of Great Lent which gives us an opportunity for self-reflection, renewal, and commitment through fasting and prayer, recalling the suffering and the Cross-experience of Jesus Christ. Let us also pray for the new team of office bearers who take on the responsibility to lead the parishes and organizations of the Diocese.

I pray that God may strengthen everyone to be diligent in serving the community and bringing glory to God.

With prayerful regards,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
Diocesan Bishop

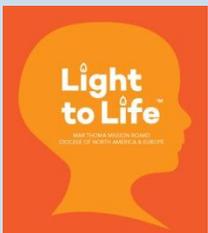
MAR THOMA INSTITUTE OF MISSION AND CULTURE – Inauguration of New Course

Our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, inaugurated the second course offered by the Mar Thoma Institute of Mission and Culture (MIMC) on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (EST) via the Zoom platform. The course titled as **MIMC 210: Introduction to Mission and Culture**, is a six-week online course for youths ages 18–35. Along with Philoxenos Thirumeni, Very Rev. Dr. Cherian Thomas, Dr. Raj Nadella (Columbia Theological Seminary, GA), Dr. Martha L. Moore-Keish (Columbia Theological Seminary, GA), Dr. Joshy Jacob, and Dr. Suresh Mathews serve as faculty members. Sixteen youths have registered and are participating in the course.



Light to Life – Training Session in Karnataka

Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) arranged a training session for the Light to Life Project Directors and Senior Staff members in Karnataka along with the office bearers of the Chennai-Bangalore Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church on February 7, 2023, at the Bangalore Mar Thoma Centre in Beerasandra, Karnataka.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wellness Retreats**
April 22nd – Dallas (MTC Dallas, Farmers Branch)
May 27th – New York (Long Island MTC, NY)
June 17th – Houston
July 22nd – Chicago (St. Thomas MTC, Chicago)
- **Annual Diocesan Clergy Conference**
June 1st (10:00 a.m.) – June 2nd (1:00 p.m.)
Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta
- **Diocesan Assembly Meeting**
June 2nd (5:00 p.m.) – June 3rd (1:00 p.m.)
Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta
- **34th Diocesan Family Conference**
July 6th to July 9th – Philadelphia
- **Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference**
July 20th to July 23rd – Chicago

The Dedication Service and Inaugural Meeting of Mar Thoma Church: UK-Europe Zone

The dedication service of the Zonal Centre and Bishop's House of the UK-Europe Zone of the Mar Thoma Church was held on March 4, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and the Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos, led the service. The Centre is located in close proximity to the Heathrow Airport in London. Following the dedication service, an inaugural meeting was conducted at Tudor Park Sports and Leisure in Feltham. The Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos, presided over the meeting, and His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan delivered an inspiring benedictory speech. The honorable MP Mrs. Seema Malhotra graced the occasion as the guest of honor of the function, and representatives of various organizations delivered felicitation messages.



DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - 2023

The 26th Diocesan Leadership Conference was held from January 5 to 8, 2023, at the Sehion Mar Thoma Church, Dallas, and was hosted by the Youth Fellowship of the parish. The theme for the conference was "Reaching Up, Reaching Out" based on St. Matthew 25:40. The Diocesan Bishop inaugurated the conference, and the Youth Chaplains and Lay Chaplains of the Diocese provided leadership for the various sessions and tracks. Over 85 youths from various parishes and congregations of the Diocese attended.



Diocesan Young Families Fellowship Wellness Retreat



The first Diocesan Young Families Fellowship Wellness Retreat was held December 29-30, 2022 at Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta. The theme for the retreat was **Rekindle: Restoring Hope to Our World**. The sessions focused on physical, mental, and spiritual wellness. Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, Dr. Raj Nadella, Rev. Biju P. Simon, Dr. Binu Chacko, and Mrs. Betsy Chacko led different sessions on various topics. Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas and Mr. Tom Philip were the Conveners, and Rev. Sonu Varughese provided leadership as the Vice President of the Diocesan Young Families Fellowship. The retreat was a blessed experience for the attendees.

Mar Thoma Metropolitan Thirumeni and Isaac Mar Philoxenos Thirumeni with Archbishop Justin Welby at Lambeth Palace



2023 MARAMON CONVENTION

Philoxenos Thirumeni at the Diocese of North America & Europe stall at Maramon with Rev. Dr. Mark D. Chapman and members of the Diocese.



Rekindle: A Wellness Workshop

The Southeast RAC hosted **Rekindle: A Wellness Workshop** on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at the Ascension MTC, Philadelphia. Nearly 100 members including youths from various parishes in the region attended. Rev. Biju P. Simon, Dr. Binu Chacko, and Mrs. Betsy Chacko led the main sessions.



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*The Besorah is a brief overview of some of the Diocesan news and activities.
For more information, please refer to the Diocesan website and/or The Mar Thoma Messenger.*