

MULTICULTURAL E-NEWS

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ST THOMAS FEAST

On the 7th of July 2023 at 7pm, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, and visiting Bishop John Panamthottathil, the newly ordained Eparch of the Syro-Malabar Community in Australia and Oceania, along with Deacon Remo Patroni and several concelebrating priests; celebrated the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle Holy Mass for the Adelaide Archdiocese and the Indian Catholic Community of Adelaide.

Indian Christian Day, declared in 2021, intentionally occurs with the Feast of St Thomas (3rd July) - a significant figure for all Indian Christians, since his presence almost 2000 years ago.

This year our universal prayers and intentions centred around recent events in Manipur, India where Christians and other faiths are being victimised and persecuted. Consequently, an Art Showcase of drawings by children was displayed based on the theme 'current times'. The children

very thoughtfully and artistically pencilled many topics of our times, some also sharing heartfelt prayers.

This St Thomas Holy Mass is a time where all Indian communities in the Adelaide Archdiocese come together to celebrate Holy Mass worshipping as one. Prayers, readings, and hymns from the Eastern Rite Churches of Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara (Malayalam), and the Latin Rite Churches (Konkani, Marathi, Tamil, Hindi, language groups), incorporated the different languages.

Three young girls from the Tamil Community, dressed in Indian traditional costume, performed the "Arathi" liturgical ceremonial, where faith and culture unite. There was also a special liturgical procession of gifts, where communities brought forward symbolic offerings of legumes, rice, cardamom and coconut in thanksgiving for all the produce and blessings God provides bountifully.

The beautiful singing during the Mass was led by the Tamil Choir, with choir from Konkani, Syro Malankara, Syro Malabar communities also contributing. Bishop John, our welcomed visitor, gave a meaningful homily focussing on our much loved and faithfully revered, Saint Thomas, and how we can become more like him.

Something unique to this Mass is the individual blessing of the children! This customary blessing always highlights the faithfulness of the young people in the Indian Catholic Community, bringing hope to our Church.

After the Mass, light refreshments were provided in the Cathedral Hall, by the Indian Community where everyone was welcome. Filling the hall to capacity, there was an atmosphere of 'joy' and a spirit of 'community' as the Catholic church of India in Adelaide celebrated together.

CELEBRATION AT THE NORTHERN LIGHT PARISH WITH FR FRANCO LACANARIA, CS

Father Franco goes where ever the ministry calls him. – in the Phillipines, in Adelaide – Father Franco gathers the Filipino community wherever he goes.... in the vicinity of Noarlunga, Salisbury, Seaton, and Greenacres regularly, as well as Gawler and more recently in the Barossa, Nuriootpa, Murray Bridge and now Port Wakefield.

See him below with this vibrant Northern Lights Community at Port Wakefield on the 30th July – the community enjoyed Mass with a meal - the group prepared a whole roasted pig – *Filipino style* - enjoying fellowship throughout the afternoon.



POLISH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



- Corpus Christi Celebration
- Fr. Stanislaw celebrated 55 years of priesthood
- Fr. Michael's 17th anniversary (on Sunday 11th June)

"We had a beautiful Mass at Unley Church on Saturday 10th June, followed by lunch and celebration at the Millennium Club. We had two cakes!"

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA MASSES

Feast of St Anthony of Padua The Feast of Saint Anthony was celebrated in many parishes and communities across the city on the weekends of 11th of June- 18th June.

Most of us pray to St Anthony when we cannot find our keys, however St Anthony is so much more to many people that have taken patronage to this Saint who walked on this earth almost a 1000 years ago.

St Anthony was a preacher and noted for his simple yet profound teaching of the Catholic faith. He died en route to Padua, Italy, where he is buried.

Anthony was the most celebrated of St. Francis of Assisi's followers and had the reputation of a miracle worker.

Anthony understands charity as the love for God as the supreme good and to love people for the sake of God. Anthony lived the virtues of obedience, poverty and humility; he considered humility the mother of all the other virtues.

The Feast of St Anthony was celebrated in many of our parishes and multicultural communities.

The Italian communities across Adelaide celebrated this important Saint born in Lisbon Portugal – ending his life on earth on his way to Padua Italy.

Visiting priest Fr Andrea Calabria OFM and Fr Michael celebrated Mass at 11am for the Italian Community to celebrate the Feast of St Anthony.

The Tamil and Konkani Indian communities celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Peace on Sunday the 18th June – The Konkani Community paid special thanks to Fr Santosh, Fr Lancy, Fr Santosh N and Fr Eldridge for celebrating Mass, noting a special occasion for Father Santosh who celebrated the Konkani Mass in Australia in his mother tongue on his birthday – a first!

The Tamil Community paid special thanks to Fr Anthoni Adimai, Fr Joseph Raj and Fr John Sebastian OMI.



The Melkites celebrated St Anthony in gratitude for the church they call home (St Anthony's Church, South Road, Edwardstown). The Syro-Malabar Community celebrated this special feast day on their liturgical calendar – also a special day for their parish priest Fr. Ajith Antony who had just returned from holidays.

The Sri Lankan Community also celebrated this special saint and the saint of Father Anthoni Adimai's namesake, at St Martin's Church at Greenacres.

The Italian priest preached....

"The body and relics of St. Anthony tell us that when we talk about him, we are not telling a fairy tale, a myth. When we talk about St. Anthony we are telling a real, historical, concrete and tangible testimony that marked the history of the church."

- Fr Andrea Calabria OFM



THE STORY OF THE MYANMAR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE

The Myanmar Catholic Community of Adelaide (formerly called the Burmese Catholic Community Adelaide) was formed in 2013.

Their story began in 2008, when one of the Chin Catholic members came across St Finbar Church while passing by the area, and had the opportunity to meet Fr Roderick O'Brien, the Salisbury parish priest at the time.

This encounter resulted in regular weekly Mass attendance.

In the same year, Fr Roderick O'Brien, introduced him to a Burmese priest, Fr Matthew William, who was residing in Gawler at this time.

This connection was the catalysts for a milestone event in 2010, when the Burmese Archbishop Filip Lian Khen Thang visited to the newly immigrated Chin Catholic families residing in Adelaide.

This visit united the displaced Chin Catholic families.

For the first time they connected with one another, together forming a strong bond.

Strengthened by this forming community, five Chin Catholic families joined together for the first time to celebrate Christmas at Augustine Pa Dal house in 2012. Since this time, by God's grace, the enduring strength of their bond, and united by love, the Chin families now congregate weekly, to express their Catholic faith by praying the Rosary together after attending Sunday Mass in their local churches.

The Myanmar Catholic Community is continuously growing its membership. It is a vibrant community, with contemporary Catholics who love the Lord Jesus Christ and the Church.

United by faith, this community expresses that love in their local parishes by attending regular Mass, serving, singing in the choir and other ministries including volunteering as catechists at Sunday School, playing music, and organising activities.

The Myanmar Catholic Community is blessed with the pastoral care of the Salisbury St Augustine Parish, shepherded by Fr Shibu Jacob MSFS and the Archdiocese of Adelaide.



THE FEAST OF ST ALPHONSA

The Feast of St Alphonsa was celebrated by the Syro-Malabar St Alphonsa Parish on 30th July 2023 at Queen of Angels Church, Thebarton. The celebration was organised by the many families of the Syro Malabar Community under the guidance of Fr Siby Kurian, the Chaplain to the Community in the South and Central Regions of Adelaide.

A noveva (nine consecutive days of prayer) was held leading up to the feast and many faithful devoted families joined in the prayerful worship in preparation for this saint's feast, who means so much to the people of Kerala.



The feast day was attended by approximately 500 people. The main celebrant was Father John Puthuva from Newcastle Diocese along with Father Joe Jacob, from Alice Springs along with Father Josy Sebastian, parish priest of Seaford/Noarlunga and Father Siby Kurian.

"What I loved most about this very beautiful celebration was the community spirit that was ever present. It was very much a Mass celebrated by the people with great involvement by all. The amazing display of flowers and preparation of the altar; the organization and coordination of the procession by the youth of the parish; the delicious meal and warm curries and delicacies -prepared and distributed to so many people. But mostly it was a celebration where our faith was very much the bond that united us. The Priest, Father Siby addressed the young children with such genuine care and joy, encouraging them to be courageous to share their faith with their friends – and to pray for their parents as their parents pray for them. The youth were congratulated and appreciated for their contributions and the people all very much felt the unity this celebration brought. There was an advertisement for a Family Faith Day on the 19th, where all families are invited to join in a day of faith and fun. I hope to be there."

- Tracey Tessitore

Tradition is important. Food, language, religious faith and practice, are all part of what we call our culture. The Indian community here in Adelaide, brings deep faith, energy, vitality and confidence. The growing presence of new migrants from many countries, brings new energy and new experiences that gives optimism for the future.

St Alphonsa has been a guiding light to the people of Kerala, India, for the last 25 years.



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