HIS BEATITUDE TO BE DECORATED WITH THE TITLE

'JACOB BARADAEUS OF MALANKARA'

His Holiness Ignatius Zakka I Iwas, the Patriarch of Antioch & All the East of the Universal Syriac Orthodox Church, decorated the Catholicos of India H.B. Baselius Thomas I with the title of 'Jacob Baradaeus of Malankara'.

The decoration title will be given to the Catholicos on 12th February 2007, during the public meeting convened at Manjanikkara. The Patriarch authorized the Malankara Jacobite Episcopal Synod Secretary Dr. Joseph Mor Gregorios for delivering the title.

It was earlier planned that The Patriarch will be attending the 75th Dukrono Perunal of St. Ignatius Elias III at Manjanikkara, but the visit is now postponed for another time due to health problems. The Patriarch authorized H.B. Baselius Thomas I, to perform all the services in Manjanikkara, in HH's absence.

Four Bishops from the Middle East will be attending the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, on behalf of the Universal Syriac Orthodox Church.

During the sixth century, the Syriac Orthodox Church endured persecution under the Byzantian Empire because it upheld its faith. It was at this time that St. Jacob Baradaeus emerged on the scene. He journeyed all over the East ordaining priests and deacons thus reviving the church from the brink of extinction. Jacob Baradaeus is considered as a great Saint of the Syriac Orthodox Church, but not its founder. Hence, the Church rejects the name Jacobite. This is a name used by the adversaries of the church who attempt to belittle the church by suggesting that the church was founded by St. Jacob Baradaeus. It should however be noted that Syriac Orthodox Christians in Malankara (India) innocently refer to themselves as Jacobites. For several centuries Christians in Malankara were referred to by the term Nazarani. The term Jacobite was introduced into Malankara in the nineteenth century by Anglicans. Christians who remained in the mother church following schisms influenced by the Anglicans adopted the term without realizing its negative connotations.
ഉദയം കയ്യാഗ്രം
’എം.ഇ.എസ്.
ചാവളടുക്ക
നബുജിയാവ’ അനുബന്ധി

- പുനരുദ്ധരം

കാലാ

മലയാളത്തിലെ ഒരു വിപുലമായ കഥാരംഗവും സംഗീതവും ശാസ്ത്രവും സമ്പാദിക്കാൻ ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ട ഒരു ചിത്രാംഗവുമാണ്‌ നബുജിയാവ്. കഥാരംഗവും സംഗീതവും ശാസ്ത്രവും സമ്പാദിക്കുന്ന പുനരുദ്ധരം നബുജിയാവ് എന്ന പേരിൽ മിക്കവാറും പ്രചാരത്തിലാണ്‌ ജീവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്.

നബുജിയാവ് 12 മാസം പഴക്കങ്ങളാണ്. ഇത് ഫിലിയിന പിന്നിലെ കോഴിക്കോട് ജില്ലയിലെ കുത്തൻ എന്ന സ്ഥലത്ത് ആരാധിക്കുന്നു. പാമ്പലാലിയ്ക്ക് മെയിൻനിർമിച്ച മനോഹരമായ ഉള്ളിയാൽ മിക്കവാറും ദീർഘകാല ദിവ്യശാസ്ത്രം കൊണ്ട് പുനരുദ്ധരം നബുജിയാവ് ചെയ്ത മനോഹരമായ ചിത്രാംഗം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മാതൃകയാണ്.

നബുജിയാവ് മലയാളത്തിലെ ഒരു വിപുലമായ കഥാരംഗവും സംഗീതവും ശാസ്ത്രവും സമ്പാദിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ചിത്രാംഗവുമാണ്. ഇത് ഇന്ന് ഒരു മാസം പഴക്കം ആണ്. മലയാളത്തിലെ കോഴിക്കോട് ജില്ലയിലെ കുത്തൻ എന്ന സ്ഥലത്ത് ആരാധിക്കുന്നു. പാമ്പലാലിയ്ക്ക് മെയിൻ നിർമിച്ച മനോഹരമായ ഉള്ളിയാൽ മിക്കവാറും ദീർഘകാല ദിവ്യശാസ്ത്രം കൊണ്ട് പുനരുദ്ധരം നബുജിയാവ് ചെയ്ത മനോഹരമായ ചിത്രാംഗം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മാതൃകയാണ്.
Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I, the spiritual head of the Syrian Christians of India, was born in the Cheruvillil family of Vadayambadi, Puthenkuriz to Mathai and Kunjamma on 22nd July 1929. Early part of his life was full of sufferings. Though he belonged to an aristocratic family, by the time he was born the family had seen bad days. As a child he had frequent bouts of illness which affected his education. His mother used to take the young boy frequently to the nearby Malecuriz Dayro where the relics of late Patriarch St. Ignatius Elias III and Saint Gregorios Geevarghese (Parumala Thirumeni) had been interred. One night, as his mother prayed with the young boy on her lap, she had a vision which prompted her to dedicate the boy to the service of the church. Within days, the boy's illness was entirely cured. God was with him, guiding him and shaping him.

His priestly formation was under the guidance of Mor Philoxenos Paulose (late Catholicos Mor Baselios Paulose II) who ordained him 'Korooyo' in 1952 and 'Shamshono' at Kadamattom Church in 1957. In August 1958, C M Thomas was ordained 'Kassisso' (full priest) by Mor Yulius Elias at the Majanikkara Dayro. In 1959 he was appointed as the vicar of St.Peter's church, Puthencuriz. Later he served the churches at Vellathooval, Keezhumuri, Fort Cochin, Valamboor, Calcutta and Thrissur. For a period of seven years from 1967, he was the organizing secretary of Kolenchery Medical Mission Hospital. He also served as the Chief organizer of the North Indian mission at Bhilai in 1970's and as the secretary of the 'Pourasthaya Suvishesha Samajam' in 1974. He was well known as a great revivalist preacher and was also recognized as an excellent organizer.
In January 1974, Fr. C M Thomas was elected to the episcopate by the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Christian Association convened at the Karingachira St. George Church and was consecrated Metropolitan with the title 'Mor Dionysius' by H.H. Mor Ignatius Ya`qub III on 24th February 1974 at Damascus, Syria. He was entrusted with the charge of Angamali diocese, the largest of all the Syrian Orthodox dioceses which has a membership of more than half a million. The untiring efforts of Mor Dionysius in those days had helped a lot to revive the confidence of not merely the faithful of the diocese, but the entire Malankara Church. Metropolitans Mor Dionysius, Mor Gregorios Geevarghese (late) and Mor Koorilos Kuriakose (late) together were a great support to the (late) Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Paulose II, the then Chief of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church. As the Metropolitan of Angamali Mor Dionysius had successfully initiated many welfare programs and also reorganized the diocesan administration. In 1978 Mor Baselios Medical Mission Hospital at Kothamangalam was started under his patron-ship.

**Catholicos-designate** Following the demise of Mor Baselios Paulose II in 1996, Mor Gregorios Geevarghese (Perumpally Thirumeni) become the President of the Episcopal Synod of the Church in India. After the passing away of Mor Gregorios Geevarghese in February 1999, Mor Dionysius assumed the Presidency of the Malankara Church Synod. On 27th December 2000, His Excellency was chosen as the Catholicos-designate by the Holy Episcopal Synod. The Church delegates meeting held at Puthencuriz on the same day, unanimously approved this decision. H.H the Patriarch, however, waited for two more years in expectation of a peaceful settlement to the longstanding dispute between the two factions of Malankara Church. But as it became clearer that the chances for reconciliation is remote because of the insincerity on the part of the opposite faction; a crucial convention was convened at Puthencuriz, Kerala on 6th July 2002 in which delegates from all the parishes participated and they approved a new constitution for the effective administration of the Indian Church, with the consent of the supreme head, the Patriarch of Antioch & all the East. H.E. Mor Dionysius Thomas was elected as the Catholicos and the Metropolitan Trustee of the Jacobite Syrian Christian Church at this historic Church Association. The election was later ratified by the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church on 22nd July 2002.
Catholicos Enthronement

On Friday the 26th July 2002, His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas the Patriarch of Antioch & all the East, consecrated the 73-year old Mor Dionysius Thomas as the CATHOLICOS with the title ‘BASELIOS THOMAS I’ at a solemn function held at the St. Peter & St. Paul Cathedral in Mor Ephrem Monastery, Ma`arat Sayyidnaya, near Damascus. Thus, fulfilling the wishes of multitude of faithful, the Malankara Church received a Catholicos after a gap of six years (Catholicos Mor Baselios Paulose II died in 1996). In the Syrian Orthodox Church hierarchy, the Catholicos is second in rank to the supreme spiritual head, the Patriarch of Antioch.

Fourteen Syrian Orthodox Bishops, from India, Syria, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, Lebanon, Jerusalem, Turkey and Australia attended the enthronement ceremony as the co-celebrants. Thirty five Rambans, many Nuns of the Church and lay people were also present on the occasion to participate in the historical ceremony. Representatives from Government of Syria & India attended the consecration ceremony as special guests. Besides the three Metropolitans who were the co-celebrants, the Church in India was represented by Very Rev Eraalil Geevarghese Ramban (Kerala), Rev. Fr. Prince Mookkanottil (Vicar Mor Ignatius Syrian Orthodox Church Dubai), Rev. Fr. Eldho Veliya Parambil (Vicar-St.George Abu Dhabi), Rev. Fr. Kurian Maliyil (Vicar Sharjah), Rev.Fr. Mathews (Muscat) and Rev. Fr. Varghese Maikkulangara (Kerala). The consecration ceremony started with the celebration of Holy Qurbono at 8 AM by His Holiness the Patriarch, followed by enthronement ceremony, signing of 'SUSTATHIKON' (Agreement) and 'OKSIOS' (Rising and Declaration). The ceremonial Services ended with the completion of the Holy Qurbono by the newly consecrated Catholicos.
Metropolitans who were the co-celebrants of the Catholicos enthronement:-

H.G Julius Yeshu’ Çiçek  (Central Europe)  
H.G Philoxenos Matta Semavun  
H.G Theophelos George Saliba (Lebanon)  
H.G Timotheos Samuel Aktas (Tur’abdin)  
H.G Philoxenos Yusuf Cetin (Istanbul)  
H.G Osthatheos Matta Rohum (Jezirah & Euphrates)  
H.G Gregorios Joseph (Kochi)  
H.G Dioscoros Benyamin Atas (Sweden)  
H.G Severios Malke Mourad (Jerusalem & Jordan)  
H.G Dionysius Isa Gurbuz (Germany)  
H.G Julius Kuriakose (1st Secretary to the Patriarch and the Patriarchal Vicar for Indian affairs)  
H.G Silwanos Petrus al-Ni’meh (Homs and Hama)  
H.G Ivanios Mathews (Kandanadu)  
H.G Ivanios Paulos Al-Souky (Damascus)  

After the enthronement ceremony a reception was given to the Catholicos His Beatitude Mor Baselios Thomas the First. During the speech delivered on the occasion, His Holiness emphasized the commitment of the Holy See to the Church in India. Replying to the congratulatory messages, His Beatitude the Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I reiterated that he like his predecessors, will always take great care in the continuance of the faith and traditions of the Syrian Church.

Catholicos reaching India On Saturday 27th July at 10.50 am, His Beatitude arrived at Cochin International Airport where he was given a rousing reception by thousands of people from all walks of life. The representatives of the State government including Cabinet Ministers were present at the Airport to welcome the new Catholicos. Soon after his arrival His Beatitude went to the nearby Akaparambu Mor Sabor Mor Aphroth Church and offered prayers. The Catholicos then proceeded to the Kothamangalam MarThoma Church where the mortal remains of Maphriyono St. Baselios Yeldho (1685) is entombed. Later
His Beatitude visited Malecuriz Dayro and offered prayers at the tomb of his immediate predecessor Aboon Mor Baselios Paulose II. By around 7.00 PM the Catholicos reached St. Joseph's Cathedral, the headquarters of Kottayam diocese and then visited the Manarcaud MarthMariam Church, a major Syrian Orthodox pilgrim centre in Kerala. All through the way, huge gathering of faithful assembled at various places to have a glimpse of their beloved Catholicos and chanted, 'long live Patriarch Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas', 'long live Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I', 'long live Antioch-Malankara relationship'. On Sunday the 28th, H.B. the Catholicos celebrated the Holy Qurbono at the Kyomtho Seminary chapel to commemorate the second dhukrono of Mor Osthatheos Thomas, the former Metropolitan of Kochi diocese.

On 31st July 2002, the Sunthroniso of Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I Bava was held at the Kothamangalam Marthoma Cheriapally. H.E. Mor Julius Kuriakose, the first secretary to the Patriarch of Antioch read the Susthathicon, the Patriarchal Bull, proclaiming the enthronement of the new Catholicos for the Church in India. The function was attended by all the Metropolitans of the Malankara Church, hundreds of priests and very large number of laymen who came from all parts of Malankara.

As the head of the Church in India the Catholicos presides over the Holy Episcopal Synod of Malankara Church which includes all the Metropolitans of the Syrian Orthodox Church in India. His Beatitude is also the Metropolitan Trustee of the Jacobite Syrian Christian Association.
The Catholicate office of His Beatitude Baselios Thomas I functions at the Patriarchal centre in Puthencuriz near Kochi, which is also the headquarters of the Syrian Orthodox Church in India. His Beatitude resides at Mor Ignatius Seminary at Kothamangalam.

**Catholicate Office:**
Patriarch Ignatius Zakka I Iwas Centre (Patriarchal centre)
Puthencuriz - 682 308 Ernakulam, Kerala, INDIA.
Tel: 0484 - 2732804
Fax: 0484 - 2732804

**Catholicate Residence:**
Catholicate Aramana
Mount Sinai
College P.O., Kothamangalam - 686 691
Kerala, INDIA
Tel: 0485 - 2822485
Fax: 0485 - 2822101

**Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I - Important dates**

Date of Birth: 22nd July 1929

Ordained 'Korooyo' & 'Shamshono' by Catholicos Mor Baselios Paulose II: 1957

Ordained 'Kassisso' by Mor Yulius Elias (Patriarchal delegate): 1958

Ordained Metropolitan by Patriarch Ignatius Yakoob III: 24th February 1974

Elected President of Holy Episcopal Synod of Malankara: 23rd February 1999

Chosen as the Catholicos-designate: 27th December 2000

Malankara Church accepting the new constitution: 06th July 2002

Consecrated as CATHOLICOS: 26th July 2002

**External Links:**

1. Chronological list of the Catholicos's (Maphriyono) of the East & the History of the Syrian Orthodox Catholicate: [http://catholicose.org/PauloseII/Catholicate.htm](http://catholicose.org/PauloseII/Catholicate.htm)

2. List of all the present Metropolitans of the Church in India: [http://www.SyrianChurch.org/bio/MalankaraPrelates/MalankaraBishops.htm](http://www.SyrianChurch.org/bio/MalankaraPrelates/MalankaraBishops.htm)


4. Visit of His Beatitude the Catholicos to Göppingen, Germany on 24 October 2004: [http://catholicose.org/PauloseII/Catholicate.htm](http://catholicose.org/PauloseII/Catholicate.htm)

5. Catholicos in Holland on 30th October 2006 to attend the first anniversary of Metropolitan Mor Julius Yeshuş Çiçek
   (a) [http://www.flickr.com/photos/arnasia/sets/72157594350408708/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/arnasia/sets/72157594350408708/) (external link)
   (b) [http://www.flickr.com/photos/arnasia/sets/72157594350593584/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/arnasia/sets/72157594350593584/) (external link)