SALEM MAR THOMA CHURCH
ERNAKULAM



SALEM MESSENGER

2026 October - December

Convent Road, Ernakulam - 682 035, Kerala
8848514706, 94478 19778
salemmtcekm@gmail.com

ആരാധനാ സമയക്രമം

Day	Time	Service
1st Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion Malayalam
2nd Saturday	8.00 am	Holy Communion Malayalam
2nd Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion English
3rd Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion Malayalam
4th Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion Malayalam
5th Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion Malayalam

Organizations

Sunday School	After Sunday Church Service
Yuvajana Sakhyam	After Sunday Church Service
Sevika Sangham	Every Tuesday @ 10.30 am at Church and at Thevara on 2nd Tuesday, Cottage Prayer on Fourth Tuesday of every month @10.30 am in all areas
Edavaka Mission	Every Tuesday @ 6.00 pm at Church
Choir Practice	Every Saturday 5.30 pm
Senior Citizens Fellowship	Every 2nd Saturday after Church Service (9.30 am)
Young Friends Forum	Every 2nd Sunday after Church Service

List of Prayer Groups assisting Sunday Services and the duties assigned to them

Altar Flower Arrangement , Lesson Reading (2 persons), Offertory (6 persons), Prayer after Sermon (1 Person), Ushering (2 persons)

Date	Area Prayer Group
04/10/2026	MTVEA Day
11/10/2026	Thevara Area Prayer Group
18/10/2026	Yuvajana Sakhyam Day
25/10/2026	North Area Prayer Group
01/11/2026	World Sunday School Day
08/11/2026	Kaisthana Samithy Members
15/11/2026	Vaduthala Area Prayer Group
22/11/2026	SRM-Elamakkara Area Prayer Group
29/11/2026	Kaloor Area Prayer Group
06/12/2026	Kakkanad Area Prayer Group
13/12/2026	Panampilly Nagar-Vytilla Area Prayer Group
20/12/2026	Church Area Prayer Group
21/12/2026	Thevara Area Prayer Group
25/12/2026	North Area Prayer Group
27/12/2026	Vaduthala Area Prayer Group
31/12/2026	SRM-Elamakkara Area Prayer Group

Vicar

Rev. Shibu P.V.
Mob : 9643417401
9447819778

Co-Minister

Rev. Jabin Daniel
Mob : 9082936173

Office Ph : 88485 14706
Email : salemmtcekm@gmail.com

ഉള്ളടക്കം

	Pages
❖ Lectionary (സഭാപഞ്ചാംഗം)	4
❖ Message - Vicar Rev. Shibu P.V.	5-6
❖ Message - Co-Minister Rev. Jabin Daniel	7-8
❖ Sabha / Parish Vishesha Dinam 2026	9
❖ Sunday School	10
❖ Yuvajana Sakhyam	11-12
❖ Young Friends Forum	13-14
❖ Edavaka Mission	15
❖ Suvishesha Sevika Sangham	16-17
❖ Senior Citizens Fellowship	18-19
❖ Congratulations to the Office Bearers	19
❖ Kanivu	20-21
❖ Irene Homes	22-23
❖ Area Prayer Meeting	24-25
❖ Kudumba sangamam Shedule	25
❖ Manifestations of love in the Bible	26 -27
❖ From Memory to Hope	28
❖ New Member / Obituary	29
❖ Activities of the Parish	30
❖ New Parsonage Project details	31

Editorial Board

- ❖ Rev. Shibu P. V. - Vicar
- ❖ Rev. Jabin Daniel - Co-Minister
- ❖ Mr. Patrick Koruthu George (Chief Editor)
- ❖ Mr. Tom Mathews - Secretary
- ❖ Mrs. Madhu Blessy - Editorial Board Member
- ❖ Mr. Roy Varghese M. - Trustee Finance

Lectionary (സഭാപഞ്ചാംഗം)

Date	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel
04.10.2026	Num. 11:24-30	Act 06:01-07	2 Cor. 04:01-06	St. John 15:12-19
11.10.2026	Isa. 35:01-10	2 Cor. 12:01-10	2 Cor. 04:16-18	St. John 09:01-07
18.10.2026	Dan. 06:01-10	Heb. 11:17-31	Rom. 12:01-08	St. Matt. 07:21-27
25.10.2026	Zec. 08:01-08	1 John 02:07-14	Col. 03:12-20	St. Mark 03:31-35
01.11.2026	Dan. 03:14-30	1 Thess. 05:05-11	Eph. 05:08-14	St. Matt. 05:13-16
08.11.2026	Isa. 02:02-04	1 Cor. 01:10-17	2 Cor. 13:05-11	St. Matt. 18:18-20
15.11.2026	Jud. 13:02-14	Heb. 06:09-12	Rom. 10:09-15	St. Luke 01:05-23
22.11.2026	Zec. 02:10-13	Rom. 01:01-07	1 Cor. 01:26-31	St.Luke 1:26-38
29.11.2026	Jer. 33: 10-16	Rom. 15:01-07	2 Thess. 01:03-05	St. Luke 01:39-45
06.12.2026	Jos. 24:15-21	Gal. 01:11-17	2 John 01-06	St Luke 01:57-66
13.12.2026	Jud. 06:11-24	Acts. 09:10-19	1 Thess. 05:14-22	St. Matt. 01:18-25
20.12.2026	Isa. 11:01-09	Heb. 01:01-14	Eph. 02:13-22	St. John 01:01-14
21.12.2026	Joel 02:11-18	1Thess. 01:2-10	2 Thim. 03:10-17	St. John 11:05-16
25.12.2026	Isa. 60:01-07	1 John 01: 5-10	Phil. 02:01-11	St. Luke 02:01-14
27.12.2026	Mal. 03:13-4:2	Acts 01: 06-11	1 Thess. 04:13-18	St. Matt. 24: 42-51
31.12.2026	Lam. 03:21-31	1 Thim. 01:12-17	1 Cor. 01:01-09	St. Luke 17:11-19

Message from the Vicar

Dearly beloved in Christ,

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1) As we step into the final quarter of the year, our hearts overflow with gratitude for the abundant blessings our Lord has showered upon us. The months of October, November and December bring with them a beautiful season of fellowship, spiritual renewal and celebration. Let us journey together with expectant hearts, drawing closer to God and to one another.

A story is told of a traveller who noticed three men working on a building. He asked the first what he was doing, and the man replied, "I am laying bricks." The second said, "I am building a wall." But the third, with a gleam in his eye, said, "I am building a cathedral." In our Parish, we are not just attending services; we are building a living sanctuary of faith, starting right within our homes. This journey of building together takes a beautiful shape as our **Family Week begins on October 12th.** During this blessed week, six families in each neighbourhood will meet every evening to study the Word of God and enjoy deep Christian fellowship. I urge every family to actively participate and experience the warmth of Christ in your neighbourhoods. We will culminate this week of fellowship with our **Family Sunday Worship on October 18th**, and we are deeply honoured to welcome our **Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos.** Episcopa, as the Chief Guest for this special service. Let us gather as one large family to worship and receive the Word of Grace through His Grace.

As we look to the future of our faith, Scripture reminds us to "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6). With great joy, our Salem Mar Thoma Church will be hosting the **World Sunday School Centre Meeting on November 1st.** Let us uphold our children and teachers in prayer as they gather to celebrate and grow in the Lord. Following this, we enter

into a time of deep spiritual introspection with our **Parish Convention on November 6th, 7th, and 8th.** We are blessed to have **Rev. Bobby Mathew and Rev. Shibu Kurian** break the Word of God for us during the convention, leading us into a sacred time to pause, listen to God's voice and renew our covenant with the Almighty. This season of revival will culminate with our **Parish Day on November 8,** which will serve as the grand finale and final message of our convention. On this auspicious occasion, **Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Ivanios, the Diocesan Bishop of Mumbai Diocese**, will be our Chief Guest to deliver the final convention message and guide us in celebrating our identity as a Parish Community.

Finally, December brings the joyful anticipation of the Nativity of our Lord, reminding us that "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). It is the season of sharing love, peace and hope. Our celebrations will commence with the **Organization Carols on December 13th,** followed by the **House-to-House Carol Rounds from December 14th to 19th.** We will gather for our grand **Church Carol Service by the Choir on December 20th**, and culminate our celebrations with the solemn **Christmas Worship Service on December 25th.** Let us ensure that as we decorate our homes and sing carols, we also prepare a room in our hearts for the Prince of Peace, reaching out to those around us. May this final quarter of the year be a time of abundant spiritual harvest for our families and our parish. Let us commit all our upcoming programs into the hands of the Almighty.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Shibu P. V.
Vicar

Renewed Strength for the Road Ahead

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary… He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength… they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." — Isaiah 40:28-31

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In November this year, the Indian Space Research Organisation is expected to send its uncrewed Gaganyaan capsule into orbit - a mission that was first promised for 2022. Since then it has quietly slipped, year after year, to 2024, then 2025, then 2026, and now the crewed flight itself waits for the first quarter of 2027. Every time it moved, headlines called it a "delay." ISRO called it something else: refusing to rush a spacecraft carrying human lives until every system had been tested and tested again. Somanath, the former ISRO chief, put it simply, he did not want what happened to Boeing's Starliner to happen to India's astronauts, so caution came before schedule.

That is a strange kind of strength: the strength to wait on purpose. It is also, almost word for word, what the prophet Isaiah preached to a nation of exiles who had run out of patience with God. Their idols had failed. Their empire had fallen. And Isaiah does not offer them a quick rescue, he offers them a description of God's character so large that waiting on Him stops feeling like delay and starts feeling like strategy.

Waiting Is Not Wasted Time

The Hebrew word behind "wait" in verse 31 is qavah — the same root used for a taut, twisted cord. It does not mean idle sitting. It means a tension held, a rope pulled tight between where you are and where God has promised to bring you. Commentator John Oswalt, in his standard work on Isaiah, notes that this waiting is covenantal trust in action, not resignation - the exile's discipline of leaning the whole of one's weight on a God who has not yet visibly moved. Walter Brueggemann makes a similar point: Isaiah 40 is not comfort that ignores Israel's exhaustion but comfort that relocates its source of energy entirely outside itself. As this quarter opens, ask what you have been quietly straining against, and whether the tension itself might be exactly where God is doing His deepest work in you.

Eagles Don't Flap - They Ride

Anyone who has watched a kite hawk over the Kerala backwaters knows the picture Isaiah reaches for. An eagle does not out-muscle the sky. It finds a thermal — a rising column of warm air — and lets the air do the lifting. Its wings barely move. Strength, in this image, is not more effort; it is better

positioning. Many of us will enter October to December assuming that surviving the year-end push targets at work, exams, festival expenses, and family obligations means gritting harder. Isaiah's picture says otherwise: find the current of God's presence - His Word, His people, His Spirit and let it carry weight you were never built to carry alone.

The Ordinary Mile Matters Most

Notice the sequence is deliberately reversed: mounting up like eagles comes first, but the passage ends on the humblest verb of all - walk, and not faint. Any believer can feel spiritual on a mountain-top Sunday. Fewer survive the ordinary Tuesday commute, the same strained relationship, the same unresolved diagnosis, still walking with God with nothing dramatic to show for it. As Eugene Peterson once described discipleship, it is "a long obedience in the same direction" - not a sprint of feeling, but a walk of fidelity. That is the strength this quarter is actually asking of you.

A Season to Observe

As December approaches, the Church calls us into the twenty-five day Nativity Fast, from December 1 to 25 - a season set apart to slow down, deny the body, and prepare the heart for the God who did not stay distant but came to walk among us. In a quarter crowded with festival noise and year-end fatigue, let this Fast be your thermal current: a deliberate slowing that positions you to be lifted rather than depleted.

Thoughts to Ponder:

1) Where in your life right now does waiting feel like wasted time? What might change if you saw it instead as qavah - a cord pulled taut toward God's promise?

2) Are you trying to out-muscle this season, or have you found the current of His presence to ride on?

3) What would it look like for you to walk faithfully through one ordinary, undramatic day this week - with nothing to prove and nothing to perform?

4) As you enter the Nativity Fast, what single discipline will you take up to prepare room in your heart for Christ's coming?

Peace be with us.

God bless us all.

His Clay,

Rev. Jabin Daniel

Co-Minister

SABHA / PARISH VISHESHA DINAM 2026

4th October 2026, Sunday	MTVEA Sunday
10th October 2026, Saturday	Diocese Program "Drishyam" at Salem MTC, Ernakulam Youngs Friends Forum-Family Picnic to Chalakudy
11th Oct. 2026, Sunday	Day of the Differently-Abled children
12th-15th October 2026 Monday - Thursday	Clergy Conference at Perungalam Dyanakendram, Kollam
12th-17th October 2026 Monday - Saturday	Family Week Observed as Neighbourhood Prayer & Fellowship
18th October 2026, Sunday	Family Sunday. Holy Qurbana Service begins at 7:30 am Holy Qurbana Service by Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos Episcopa
25th Oct. 2026, Sunday	Youth Sunday
1st Nov. 2026, Sunday	World Sunday School Day Koodhos Etho
6th – 7th November 2026	Parish Convention at 6:30 pm Speakers–Rev. Bobby Mathew & Rev. Shibu Kurien
8th November 2026, Sunday	Parish Day & One-Day Income collection Holy Qurbana Service by Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa.
20th – 21st November 2026	Youth Camp at Mar Thoma Retreat Centre, Munnar
21st Nov. 2026, Saturday	Parish Sevika Sangham Picnic
24th-27th Nov. 2026	Clergy Conference at CEC, Charal Kunnu
1st-30th November 2026	Area Prayer Groups 'Kudumba Sanghamam"
1st December 2026	25 days Lent Begins
5th Dec. 2026, Saturday	Carols - Sevika Sangham Area Prayer Group
6th Dec. 2026, Sunday	Ernakulam Centre Choir "Walk to the Manger"
13th Dec. 2026, Sunday	Carols - Parish Organisation
14th - 19th Dec. 2026	Yuvajana Sakhyam Carol Rounds
20th Dec. 2026, Sunday	Carols at 6:00 pm - Parish Choir
21st Dec. 2026, Monday	Sabha Dinam. Holy Qurbana Service at 6:30 pm
25th Dec. 2026, Friday	Christmas Day. Holy Qurbana Service at 6:00 am
31st Dec. 2026, Thursday	Watch Night & Holy Qurbana Service at 9:30 pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Salem Mar Thoma Sunday School is conducted each Sunday after the Holy Qurbana Service at the 3rd and 4th floors of the Church. It opens with a Common Session followed by classes for the children from Nursery to Young Adult.

Half Yearly Exam:
The Half Yearly Exam was held on July 12th at the Sunday School and most of the students gave the test.

Parents Teachers Meeting:
A Parents-Teachers Meeting was held at the church on July 26th to discuss the Half Yearly Exam Results as well as the general functioning of the school. Encouraging words and suggestions were put forward by the parents.

VBS Follow-Up 2026
The Vacation Bible School Follow-Up was held on September 6th under the guidance of our Co-Minister, Rev. Jabin Daniel. Around 45 children and teachers attended the energetic session. The gathering was co-ordinated by Mr. Aaron Philip and Mrs. Anila Koshy Kochamma.

Sunday School Junior Camp :
As part of the Ernakulam Centre Convention 2026, the Sunday School Junior Camp for classes from Nursery to Junior along with parents and teachers was held at the Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Elamkulam on September 26th.

Our upcoming events:

October 16-18 - Senior Student Camp at Shanthigiri Ashram
November 1 - World Sunday School Day
November 22 - Annual Exam
November 29 - Memory Verse Competition
December 6 - Birudhu Exam

Mrs. Asha James
Secretary



Action Song



All Smiles at the VBS Follow-up

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We thank God for His blessings and guidance during the second quarter of 2026. The following activities were conducted by the Salem Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam, Ernakulam, during this period.

On 15th August, 2026 our youth along with the Kaisthana Samithy Members joined together to commemorate India's 80th Independence Day. The program began with a Flag - Hoisting Ceremony, followed by special prayers for our nation and its leaders.

Under the Yuvajana Sakhyam initiative on 15th August, 2026, the youth along with the Parish members joined together in cleaning the whole Church premises.

The Parish Onam celebration was held on Sunday, 23 August, 2026. The gathering provided an opportunity for the members of the Parish to celebrate Onam together and strengthen the spirit of fellowship and unity.

The Yuvajana Sakhyam continued its Breakfast Sale initiative, that's held on the first Sunday of every month. Two successful sales have been conducted so far.

The Salem Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam, Ernakulam, organized a Youth Meet on Sunday, 19 July, 2026, after the Holy Qurbana service, under the theme "Gathered in Faith, Inspired to Impact." The programme featured a talk by Dr. Sara Varghese, followed by activities, games and a singing session, fostering fellowship, spiritual growth, and unity among the youth.

A Cloth Drive was organized by the Yuvajana Sakhyam, and the collected clothes were donated to Amar Saath Foundation, an NGO based in Kochi. This initiative provided an opportunity for members to extend support to the community through a practical act of service and generosity.

Cottage Prayer was held on 11/08/2026 at the residence of Miss Sona Elizabeth Abraham and Mr. Shawn Varghese Abraham. These gatherings provide a blessed opportunity for the youth to come together in prayer, fellowship and spiritual growth in strengthening their faith and unity in Christ.

UP-COMING ACTIVITY

A Yuvajana Sakhyam Camp is tentatively scheduled for October 20 and 21 with a trip to Munnar Retreat Centre.

We thank God for His continued faithfulness and for the support and participation of our members. We pray for His guidance and blessings as the Yuvajana Sakhyam continues to grow in faith, fellowship and service.

Aaron Thomas Philip
Secretary



Youth Meet with Dr. Sara Varughese



Cloth Drive - Donated to Amar Saath Foundation, Kochi



Cottage Prayer at the residence of Miss Sona & Mr. Shawn



Independence Day Flag - Hoisting

YOUNG FRIENDS FORUM (YFF)

Growing Together in Faith, Friendship and Fellowship

The Young Friends Forum (YFF) of Salem Mar Thoma Church, Ernakulam, was formed with the vision of bringing together young adults and couples of the Parish for fellowship, meaningful interaction, spiritual growth and active participation in the life of the church. Adv. George A. Cherian and Mrs. Betsy Thankachan serve as the Coordinators. It was also decided to conduct meetings on every 2nd Sunday.

The inaugural meeting was held on 12 July 2026, immediately after the Sunday Holy Qurbana Service. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Shibu P. V., Vicar, and inaugurated by Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas, Judge, High Court of Kerala. Rev. Jabin Daniel, Co-Minister, offered felicitations. The meeting marked the beginning of this new fellowship initiative.

The August gathering, held on 9 August 2026, featured an Informative Session titled "Building Better Futures – Smart Investments, Stronger Families." Mr. Alex K. Babu, Founder & Managing Director, Hedge Equities Ltd., led the session, focusing on practical aspects of financial planning, investments, insurance, children's future and responsible financial stewardship.

The September meeting, held on 13 September 2026, brought members together through a Bible Quiz, Games and Fellowship. An open discussion was also conducted to gather members' ideas and suggestions for the future activities of YFF, including fellowship programmes and outings.

As part of its continuing activities, YFF is organising a One-Day Family Picnic at The Estate 64, Chalakudy, on 10 October 2026. The picnic will provide an opportunity for members and their families to relax, spend quality time together, participate in group games and enjoy fellowship, with special activities planned for children.

YFF warmly invites all who are young at heart, along with their families and friends, to participate in the upcoming meetings and the family picnic and become part of this growing fellowship.

Coordinators

Adv. George A. Cherian • Mrs. Betsy Thankachan



Building Better Futures - Smart Investments Stronger Families



Speaker
Mr. Alex K. Babu



YFF Members with Family



Inauguration of the first YFF
Meeting by Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas



Welcome Speach
by Adv. George A. Cherian

EDAVAKA MISSION

Edavaka Mission members meet every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at the Church that include Intercessory Prayer and Bible Studies and conclude by 7:30 pm. Cottage Prayer Meetings are conducted on every Fourth Tuesday of the month at one of the members' house in an Area Prayer Group.

At the Annual General Body Meeting on 14/07/2026 of the Kochi-Kottayam Diocesan Voluntary Evangelists Association, Mrs. Suja Annie Jacob was elected as the Ernakulam Centre Representative

On 28/07/26, Tuesday, Cottage Prayer was held at the residence of Mr. Thomas Mathew & Mrs. Valsa Thomas Panampilly Vytilla Prayer Group (PV52) which was attended by 25 members.

Edavaka Mission organised a Cottage Prayer Meeting on 29/07/26, Wednesday, at the residence of Late Mr. P.M. Thomas, North Prayer Group, in fellowship with the bereaved family, which was attended by 35 members.

A Cottage Prayer Meeting was organised by the Edavaka Mission on 10/08/26, Monday, at the residence of Late Mrs. Molly John, Vaduthala Prayer Group, in fellowship with the bereaved family in which 30 members attended.

14/08/26, Friday – MTVEA Centre Meeting – A joined meeting of the Suvishesha Sevika Sangham and Edavaka Mission was hosted at St. Thomas MTC, Kalamassery. Thought for the day was, 'Christ Minded Families: In Changing Times' It was attended by 10 Edavaka Mission members of our Parish and 7 Sevika Sangham members.

A Cottage Prayer Meeting at the residence of Late Mr P.I. Rajan, Vaduthala Prayer Group, was organised by the Edavaka Mission on 15/08/26, Sunday, in fellowship withthe bereaved family in which 25 members attended.

Edavaka Mission organised a Cottage Prayer Meeting on 08/09/26, Tuesday, at the residence of Late Mr. Baby P.C., Thevara Prayer Group, in fellowship with the bereaved family which was attended by 25 members.

On 13/09/26, Tuesday, Edavaka Mission organised a Cottage Prayer Meeting at the residence of Late Mr. K.M. Koshy, North Prayer Group, in fellowship with the bereaved family. 35 members attended this meeting.

As part of the Edavaka Mission Sanga Varam - 28/09/26 to 03/10/26 Cottage Visits are being arranged at the residence of the sick and Senior Citizens.

On 29/09/26 – Lay training is scheduled to be conducted for the members by Rev. Shibu P.V and Co-Minister Rev. Jabin Daniel.

By the Grace of God we were able to gather at the Church every Tuesday at 6:00 pm for a Christian Fellowship with Intercessory Prayer and Bible Study with an attendance of around 25 members.

Activities for the Next Quarter (October - December)

04/10/26, Sunday – MTVEA / Edavaka Mission Day.

27/10/26, Tuesday - Cottage Prayer

24/11/26, Tuesday - Cottage Prayer

Request all Parish Members who have completed 18 years to join the Edavaka Mission meetings held every Tuesday at 6:00 pm to listen to the Word of God.

Mr. Patrick Koruthu George
Secretary

SUVISHESHA SEVIKA SANGHAM

Salem Suvishesha Sevika Sangham meeting is held in Church, every Tuesday, at 10.30 am and on every fourth Tuesday, Cottage Area Meeting in all the 8 Area Prayer Groups of the Parish.

The Bhadrasana Meeting was held on June12, 2026 at Jerusalem MTC, Kottayam. Bhadrasana Representative Mrs. Cissy Varghese and Secretary, Mrs. Minnu Thomas attended the meeting.

The Annual Retreat was held on July 25, 2026 at our church and 110 ladies participated. Mrs. Merlin T. Mathew Kochamma gave the message and the meeting ended with lunch.

The Kottayam-Kochi Diocese Sevika Sangham Secretary's Conference was held at Chemmarappally Bethel MTC, Manganam on July 29, 2026 which was attended by Secretary, Mrs. Minnu Thomas and Treasurer, Mrs. Minu Paul.

The Ernakulam Centre Meeting held jointly by Sevika Sangham and Edavaka Mission was on August 14, 2026 at St. Thomas MTC, Kalamassery. The meeting was attended by 17 Sevika Sangham members and 10 Edavakka Mission members.

During the Sevika Sangham Week, Sept 7-13, 2026, Sevika Sangham members along with SCF members visited the houses of 10 Parish Members and spent time with the aged and the sick persons.

On Sevika Sangham Day, September 13, the Sevika Sangham Members assisted in the Holy Qurbana, the Special Liturgy, Bible Reading, Offertory and Thubden reading. A Choir of 32 ladies sang the special Sevika Sangham Dinam Song. The theme of the week was - Women who trust God - Fearless and Faithful. The message during the Holy Qurbana Service was given by Mrs. Lalikutty Thomas Kochamma. After the service, Vattayappam was served to all the Parish Members.

The Kottayam-Kochi Bhadrasana (Aluva, Ernakulam, Keezhillam, Munnar) Mekhala Sammelanam was held at St. Paul's MTC, Perumbavoor on September 22, 2026 from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. The meeting was chaired by Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Thimotheos, Episcopa and the theme was 'Who touched me? Mission from the margins' - Mark 5:25-34. Rev Shibu P.V said the opening prayer. Mrs Minnu Thomas, Secretary attended the meeting. Nearly 50 ladies participated from Ernakulam Centre Sevika Sangham.

Activities for the Next Quarter :

October 2 : Ernakulam Centre - One Day Mission Trip to Thaliyoor MCRD

November 21 : Sevika Sangham Picnic

Dec 5 : Sevika Sangham Christmas Carols.

Mrs. Minnu Thomas
Secretary



Sevika Sangham Retreat



Choir on Sevika Sangham Dinam



Choir on Sevika Sangham Retreat

SENIOR CITIZEN FELLOWSHIP (SCF)

Regular meeting of the SCF is held following the Holy Qurbana Service on every second Saturday. The meeting commences with a hymn and prayer followed by the Presidential Address of the Vicar, Rev. Shibu P.V. Regular Meditation Session, Bible Quiz, Exercises suitable for Seniors, etc are generally conducted by its members with active participation of all in the events. In addition to such regular programmes, a theme talk with Q&A session on matters of special interest by subject experts is a regular feature of the SCF meeting.

1) 'A Heart worth caring for' by Dr. Anish Philip, Cardiologist, Lisie Hospital.
2) A Talk and an Interactive Session led by Dr. K.M. Mathew, Head of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Aster Medcity.
3) 'Safeguarding Our Golden Years' covering Financial Security, Wills & Legal Awareness for Seniors by Adv. Laji Sam Zacheriah.
4) On 15/09/2026 Kottayam-Kochi Senior Citizens Fellowship elected Mr. Titus Verghese as the Kendara Committee member (2026-2029)

About 35 members attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Ernakulam Centre Senior Citizen Fellowship held at Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Thiruvankulam on July 26, 2026. A special talk on "Mental Health and Healthy Ageing" by Dr. Jino Joy, Consultant Geriatrician, Medical Trust Hospital was followed by a demo exercise for Seniors by a team from the hospital.

Sunday, the 20th September, is being celebrated as Senior Citizens' Day. During the month, SCF and Salem Suvishesha Sevika SangHam jointly are visiting sick and ailing members of the Parish.

Mrs. Susie Babu Varghese
Secretary



SCF Centre meeting at Thiruvankulam Mar Thoma church.



Our members with Dr. Anish Philip, cardiologist, Lisie Hospital.

Congratulations



Mr. Titus Verghese

Elected as the Secretary of the Ernakulam Mar Thoma Guidance Centre for the period 2026-29.

Elected as the Vice President of Senior Citizen Fellowship Kottayam - Kochi Diocese for the period 2026-29



Mrs. Suja Annie Jacob

Elected as the Ernakulam Centre Representative to the Diocesan Committee of the Kottayam - Kochi Diocesan Evangelists Association



Mr. Mathew Chacko

Elected to the Board of Directors of the Mar Thoma Educational Society, Kakkanad for the period 2026-29.

'കനിവ്'



Donation for Kanivu
Salem Mar Thoma Church
Account No : 0021012193271
IFSC code: CSBK0000021
CSK Bank Ltd, Market Road
Branch : Ernakulam.

An ambitious project conceived by the Salem Mar Thoma Church to feed the hungry destitutes, was inaugurated on the All Saints Day (Kerala Piravi Day) November 1st, 2016.

Our Regular Activities:

a) Distribution of approximately 50 lunch packets to the destitutes every day

b) Distribution of new clothes once-a-year with 'sponsor support'.

c) Provide medicines to the poor

ONAKODI

As part of our Onam Celebrations, we distributed ONAKODI and provided special meals in association with our Sevika Sangham at 11.30am on 25th August, 2026

Our Vicar, Rev. Shibu P.V. addressed the marginalized and our Co-Minister, Rev. Jabin Daniel prayed prior to the distribution

10th Anniversary

November 1st will mark the 10th Anniversary of the un-interrupted supply of mid-day meals by KANIVU.

A Thanksgiving Prayer, Distribution of 'Health Kits' and Special Meals. Is scheduled to be held on 3rd November at 11.30 am along with the Sevika Sangham members.

Blessy Mathews, Convenor

For KANIVU TEAM.











SUPPORTING TRIBAL STUDENTS AT VATTAVADA

Iren Homes was happy to support the students of **Sneha Deepthi Primary School, Vattavada**, as part of an initiative towards the education and overall development of tribal children.



During the reopening of the school, we provided **school uniforms, school bags, textbooks, notebooks and umbrellas** to the students.

This initiative was made possible through the generous support and contributions of well-wishers. We are grateful to everyone who joined hands in supporting the education and future of these children.

Together, we can help create brighter opportunities for every child.

SUPPORTING DIALYSIS PATIENTS

Irene Homes is pleased to support the humanitarian initiative of the **Cochin Community Welfare Society (CCWS)**, which provides financial assistance to patients undergoing regular dialysis treatment at **MAJ Hospital, Edappally.**

CCWS currently supports **10 dialysis patients**, with an approximate monthly treatment expense of **₹80,000**. With more patients seeking assistance, continued support from generous individuals and well-wishers is greatly needed.

SUPPORT A PATIENT:

₹2,000 – ONE WEEK
₹8,000 – ONE MONTH
₹96,000 – ONE YEAR

Your contribution can help a patient continue essential treatment with dignity and hope.

BANK DETAILS GIVEN BELOW

Name : **Cochin Community Welfare Society**
Bank : **Union Bank of India**
Branch : **Puthecruz**
Account Number : **425902010001982**
IFSC code : **UBIN0533882**

Every contribution can make a difference.

irene homes

APARTMENT AVAILABLE FOR Booking

Irene Homes, Puthencruz offers a peaceful and welcoming environment designed for comfortable senior living.

Our **newly completed apartment** is now available for lease, with access to a range of thoughtful facilities and community amenities.



Facilities Include

- Clinic & healthcare support
- Chapel & library
- Housekeeping
- Kitchen & dining hall
- Walking & recreational areas
- Parking & 24-hour electricity








For Booking Enquiries
94976 22607 I 82812 92607
Mar Chrysostom Mount, Puthencruz, Ernakulam

IRENE HOMES
Home Away from Home
www.irenehomescochin.com

Area Prayer Meetings

CHURCH AREA (Sundays at 4:00 pm)			
DATE	**DIR: ID**	**HOST**	**MOBILE**
15/11/26	CH46	Mr. Thomas Chacko	9446023323
22/11/26	CH32	Mr. Samuel Lukose	9496356949
29/11/26	CH02	Mr. Abraham Joseph	9446961900
THEVARA AREA (Sundays at 6:00 pm)			
DATE	**DIR: ID**	**HOST**	**MOBILE**
04/10/26	TH04	Mr. Abraham P. A.	9446134840
NORTH AREA (Thursdays at 7:00 pm)			
DATE	**DIR: ID**	**HOST**	**MOBILE**
01/10/26	NR20	Mr. Mathew Chacko	9846057975
12/11/26	NR27	Mrs. Ramani Thavo	9946275942
VADUTHALA AREA (Sundays at 4:00 pm)			
DATE	**DIR: ID**	**HOST**	**MOBILE**
04/10/26	VD30	Dr. Rajan Varughese	9447140390
18/10/26	VD14	Mr. James P. I.	9388607163
25/10/26	VD31	Mr. Rajesh L.	9446969562
15/11/26	VD10	Mr. Jacob Alexander	9747007635
22/11/26	VD13	Mr. Jaison C. George	9447665002
29/11/26	VD12	Mr. Jacob Oommen	9745278208
SRM-ELAMAKKARA AREA (Fridays at 7:00 pm)			
DATE	**DIR: ID**	**HOST**	**MOBILE**
09/10/26	SE28	Mr. Ranjit J. Koshy	9446533632
13/11/26	SE10	Mr. Blessy Mathews	9447115441
20/11/26	SE31	Mr. Samuel Varghese	9847667464
KALOOR AREA (Fridays at 7:00 pm)			
DATE	**DIR: ID**	**HOST**	**MOBILE**
02/10/26	KL56	Mr. Abraham P. Samuel	9846965677
09/10/26	KL39	Mrs. Saramma Kurian	9544500402
23/10/26	KL18	Mr. John Lukose	9447058700
30/10/26	KL36	Mr. Renji Jacob	9447054800
13/11/26	KL01	Mr. Abraham Varghese	9539920662
20/11/26	KL23	Mrs. Mariamma Cherian	9388604647

Area Prayer Meetings

KAKKANAD AREA (Saturdays)			
DATE	**DIR: ID**	**HOST**	**MOBILE**
03/10/26	KK26	Mr. Shaji John	8129322022
28/11/26	KL09	Mr. K.V. Jacob	9745180180
PANAMPILLY NAGAR-VYTILLA AREA (Sundays at 6:00 pm)			
DATE	**DIR: ID**	**HOST**	**MOBILE**
04/10/26	PV15	Mr. Manoj Samuel	9177943425
18/10/26	PV47	Mr. C.V. Thomas	9447841330
08/11/26	PV18	Mr. John Alexander	9895319492
15/11/26	PV57	Mr. Zachariah Koshy	8281577006
22/11/26	PV59	Cmdr. Cibin Charlie	8951155942

KUDUMBA SANGAMAM SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	PRAYER GROUP
03/10/26	Saturday	5.30 pm	At the Prayer Group	Kakkanad Area
21/10/26	Wednesday	6.00 pm	SMTC, 4th Floor	Church Area
30/10/26	Friday	7.00 pm	SMTC, 4th Floor	SRM - Elamakkara Area
31/10/26	Saturday	6:00 pm	SMTC, 4th Floor	North Area
01/11/26	Sunday	6.30 pm	Association Hall West Gate Terrace (SI Flats)	Thevara Area
14/11/26	Saturday	5.30 pm	SMTC, 4th Floor	Vaduthala Area
22/11/26	Sunday	6.00 pm	SMTC, 4th Floor	Kaloor Area
22/11/26	Sunday	6.30 pm	At the Prayer Group	Panampilly - Vytilla Area

Love in the Bible can be understood as the expression of affection, romance, emotional attachment, marriage, desire and devotion found throughout Scripture. Although the Bible is primarily a religious and spiritual text, it also presents love and human relationships with remarkable emotional depth and beauty.

1. Romantic Love

The Bible does not reject Romantic Love. Instead, it presents marital love as something beautiful and meaningful. The Song of Solomon (Song of Songs) is the clearest example. It contains poetic expressions of attraction, longing, admiration and affection between a man and a woman. "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." (Song of Solomon 6:3)

The book celebrates physical beauty and emotional intimacy within a loving relationship. It demonstrates that affection between husband and wife can be viewed as part of God's creation.

2. Love and Marriage

The relationship between Adam and Eve represents the first Biblical picture of companionship and marriage. Adam's response to Eve expresses recognition and emotional connection: "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." (Genesis 2:23)

Genesis presents marriage as a relationship in which two people become "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Thus, Biblical romanticism is connected not merely with physical attraction but with companionship, commitment and unity.

3. Romantic Love in the Story of Isaac and Rebekah

The relationship between Isaac and Rebekah provides one of the most touching examples of marital affection. After Rebekah becomes his wife, Scripture says: "And he loved her." (Genesis 24:67)

This simple statement is significant because the Bible openly acknowledges love as an important element of marriage.

4. Jacob and Rachel

The story of Jacob and Rachel provides perhaps the strongest example of romantic devotion in the Old Testament. Jacob was willing to work for seven years to marry Rachel: "And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her." (Genesis 29:20)

This is a powerful Biblical picture of patience, sacrifice and romantic devotion. The fact that seven years appeared to Jacob "but a few days" demonstrates the depth of his love.

5. Ruth and Boaz

The story of Ruth and Boaz presents love in a different form. Their relationship develops through loyalty, respect, kindness and responsibility rather than mere

physical attraction. Ruth's loyalty to Naomi and Boaz's protection of Ruth ultimately lead to marriage.

Their story demonstrates that Biblical love involves character, responsibility and commitment.

6. David and Jonathan

The relationship between David and Jonathan is one of Bible's strongest examples of deep emotional friendship. Scripture says: "The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David." (1 Samuel 18:1)

Their relationship illustrates that Biblical love is broader than Romantic Love. Friendship, Loyalty, Sacrifice and Emotional attachment are also important expressions of love.

7. The New Testament and Christian Marriage

In the New Testament, marriage is presented as a relationship characterised by self-sacrificial love. Ephesians 5 compares the love of a husband for his wife with Christ's love for the Church: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church." (Ephesians 5:25)

Here Romantic and Marital Love is elevated beyond emotion. True love requires sacrifice, forgiveness, protection, faithfulness and service.

8. Spiritual Love

The Bible also uses the language of love to describe the relationship between God and His people. In the Old Testament, Israel is sometimes portrayed metaphorically as God's bride. In the New Testament, Christ is described as the Bridegroom, while the Church is portrayed as His Bride.

This gives Biblical Love a deeper spiritual meaning: human love becomes a metaphor for divine love.

Conclusion

Love in the Bible is not limited to romantic attraction. It includes romance, desire, companionship, loyalty, sacrifice, marriage and spiritual devotion. From Adam and Eve to Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, Ruth and Boaz, and ultimately Christ and the Church, the Bible presents love as one of the most powerful forces in human and spiritual life.

The Biblical understanding of Romantic Love can therefore be summarised as:

Attraction + Affection + Commitment + Faithfulness + Sacrifice = Biblical Love

The Bible does not portray genuine Romantic Love as something shameful. Rather, it places love within the broader framework of faithfulness, dignity, responsibility and God's purpose for human relationships.

- **Note from Shibu Achen.**

The above article is inclusive of the famous 20th Century Theologian, C.S. Lewis's theological perspective of Love wherein there are four distinct types of Love. They are Storge or Affection, Philia or Brotherly Friendship, Eros or Romantic Love and Agape or Divine Love.

From Memory to Hope – Mathew Cheruvathoor

We gather where old stories live,
In echoes time could never take;
The joys that taught us how to give,
The wounds that taught us not to break.

We carry songs of brighter days,
Of courage born in darkest night;
Of hands that lifted fallen hearts,
And kept alive the fading light.

The scars remain, yet so does grace,
For pain has lessons deep and true;
The past is not a prison wall,
But ground from which new dreams can grow.

We honour those who walked before,
Their faith, their labour, and their tears;
Not merely keeping memory's 's flame,
But letting it illumine years.

For hope is more than wishful sight—
It is the choice to build anew;
To plant a tree whose shade we know
May shelter generations too.

A community of memory
Becomes a community of hope
When hearts unite beyond their grief,
And choose a wider, stronger scope.

Then every triumph, every loss,
Becomes a thread in one shared rope;
Binding the past to what can be -
A people woven strong with hope.

And so we walk, not looking back
With longing for what used to be,
But carrying yesterday's wisdom
Toward the dawn we long to see.

New Members (July – Sept. 2026)

1. Mr. Sandeep S. Thomas, Mrs. Tina Ann Kuricheria, Master Kevin Sunny Thomas and Miss. Tessa Ann Thomas, Flat 4D, SFS Kingdom, Karingachira, Thripunithura Panampilly Vytilla Prayer Group (PV64)

Obituary (July – Sept. 2026)



Mr. P. M. Thomas (88)
North Prayer Group (NR37) was called to eternity on 26/07/26 and funeral was held on 30/07/26 at Ebenezer MTC, Othara.



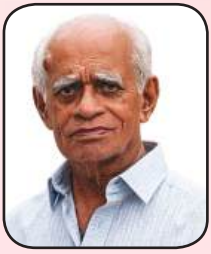
Mrs. Molly John (81)
Vaduthala Prayer Group (VD24) was called to eternity on 9/08/26 and funeral was held on 11/08/26 at Salem MTC, Ernakulam.



Mr. Rajan P.I. (66)
Vaduthala Prayer Group (VD29) was called to eternity on 15/08/26 and funeral was held on 16/08/26 at Salem MTC, Ernakulam.



Mr. Baby P.C. (86)
Thevara Prayer Group (TH13) was called to eternity on 31/08/26 and funeral was held on 02/09/26 at St. Thomas MTC, Kottarakkara



Mr. K.M.Koshy (91)
North Prayer Group (NR17) was called to eternity on 12/09/26 and funeral was held on 14/09/26 at Salem MTC, Ernakulam.

Other payments to Church – Bank Account Details

Kindly use the below mentioned bank accounts for all other payments except Kanivu and Parsonage Donations.

Salem Mar Thoma Church

Union Bank of India, M G Road Branch, Ernakulam
Savings Account Number: 425 902 010 004 099 or
Current Account Number: 425 901 010 741 048
IFSC: UBIN0542598
May God bless you all.

SALEM MAR THOMA CHURCH
Convent Road, Ernakulam
Email : salemmtcekm@gmail.com

ALL DONATIONS, OFFERTORY & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please use the above QR Code for UPI CODE - salemekm@uboi



Awarding the Parsonage Construction work order to Mr. Mohan Pulimood









Cleaning of the Church & the Premises



"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." – Psalm 127:1

Elevation plan of the New Parsonage at Mahakavi Bharathiyar Road to accommodate the Vicar,
Salem Mar Thoma Church, Convent Road, Ernakulam.

Parsonage Donations may be send to :-

Salem Mar Thoma Church

Union Bank of India

M.G. Road Branch, Ernakulam.

Account No. 425902010617792

IFSC code: UBIN0542598

PLEASE NOTE : ABOVE ACCOUNT IS SPECIFICALLY FOR PARSONAGE DONATIONS ONLY

AVT

PREMIUM

CTC DUST TEA

കടുപ്പമേറുമ്പോൾ അടുപ്പവുമേറും



ഏറ്റവും കടുപ്പമുള്ള ചായ. സ്ഥിരമായി.