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(This newsletter is for private circulation only)

Published by **P. M. Jacob**, Parish Secretary
For and on behalf of Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston
Cell: 832.567.0745, email: secretary@immanuelmtc.org



Immanuel Mar Thoma Church

Houston, TX

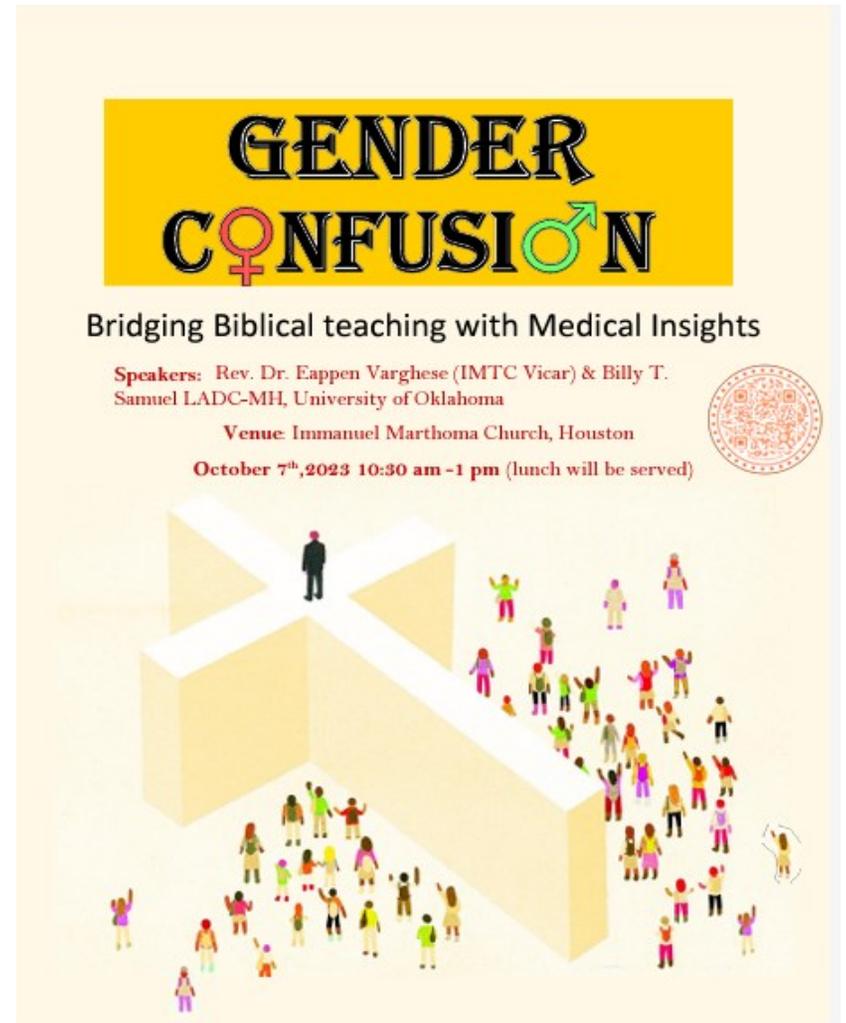


NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

WORSHIP SCHEDULE OCT. 2023

Oct. 01 Christian presence in Differing Life Spaces			
8.00 am	English HQ assisted by Hebron area prayer group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Isa. 49: 1-6 Acts 16: 19-34 Gal. 1: 11-17 Luke 12: 41-48
10:30 am	Malayalam HQ assisted by Horeb area prayer group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Isa. 49: 1-6 Acts 16: 19-34 Gal. 1: 11-17 Luke 12: 41-48
Oct. 08 Differences & Dignity of all creation			
8.00 am	G3 & English HQ assisted by the YF	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Isa. 35:1-10 Acts.14:1-10 1Thes. 5:12-22 Luke 14:12-14
10.30 am	Malayalam HQ assisted by the Jerusalem area prayer group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Isa. 35:1-10 Acts.14:1-10 1Thes. 5:12-22 Luke 14:12-14
Oct. 15 Youth with Christ			
10:30 am	English HQ assisted by Salem prayer group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Dan. 1:11-17 1 Pet. 3:13-18 1Tim. 4:11-16 Matt 7:21-27
Oct. 22 Family, an Expression of the Kingdom of God			
9.00 am	Malayalam HQ assisted by Sehion area prayer group PARISH DAY	Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Josh.24: 14-22 Acts 10: 1-8 Eph: 5: 21-33 Luke 10: 38:42
Oct. 29 Confession : Sacrament of Reconciliation with God and Human			
10.30 am	G3 & English HQ assisted by the YF	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Gen. 45: 1-15 1 Cor. 6: 1-11 2 Cor. 5: 16-21 Matt 22: 35-40



GENDER CONFUSION

Bridging Biblical teaching with Medical Insights

Speakers: Rev. Dr. Eappen Varghese (IMTC Vicar) & Billy T. Samuel LADC-MH, University of Oklahoma

Venue: Immanuel Marthoma Church, Houston

October 7th, 2023 10:30 am -1 pm (lunch will be served)

Inviting all youth and young adults ages 12-24 to an important open discussion on a topic that affects many young adults today - Gender Dysphoria

Date: Saturday, October 7th, 2023 | Time: 10:30 am | Location: IMTC

In today's rapidly changing world, questions and concerns related to gender identity and the dilemmas faced by young adults can be complex and sensitive. This discussion aims to create a safe, collaborative, and supportive space for you to share your thoughts, learn from others, and explore how to navigate these issues.

2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICE BEARERS

Vicar	Rev. Dr. Eappen Varghese	713.330.5299
Assistant Vicar	Rev. Santhosh Thomas	832.837.4721
Vice President	Mr. K.K. John	713.408.0865
Secretary	Mr. P.M. Jacob	832.567.0745
Treasurer	Mr. T.V. Mathew	281.499.7414
Accountant	Mr. John K. Philip	832.744.0271
Lay Leader (Malayalam)	Mr. Saji John	847.903.6505
Lay Leader (English)	Mr. Navid John	281.788.6233

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Bethel	Mr. Mathews Varghese	832.205.6860
Bethlehem	Mr. Varghese Rajesh Mathew	832.630.0748
Carmel	Mrs. Mariamma Oommen	281.734.7093
Ebenezer	Mr. K.T. Sajee	281.750.5141
Hebron	Mrs. Susmy Prasanth	713.923.0778
Horeb	Mr. Rajan Daniel	832.628.5481
Jerusalem	Mr. Daniel Varghese	908.591.3621
Salem	Mrs. Annamma Jacob	832.332.1007
Sehion	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	516.467.7926
Sharon	Mrs. Elizabeth Benni	832.462.9383
Sinai	Mr. Philip Mathew	682.246.1255
Tabor	Mr. John Varghese	281.746.0005

CHURCH ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Choir	Mr. Derrick Kurian	832.744.1664
Edavaka Mission	Mr. Mathew T. Scaria	281.857.5611
Senior Fellowship	Mrs. Sara Philip	281.889.8566
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Lata Mathews	832.205.6861
Sunday School	Mrs. Bincy Puthenmadathil	832.215.2462
Young Family Fellowship	Mr. Ninan Philip Kalloor	281.995.8124
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Alan John	832.877.6873
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Sajan John	832.429.5353

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY & MANDALAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Assembly	Mr. Binu Pappachan	405.922.5716
Diocesan Assembly	Ms. Jewel Zachariah	832.334.8622
Diocesan Assembly	Mr. Siju Philip	516.503.5589
Sabha Mandalam	Mr. M.G. Mathew	281.857.3088

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS

IMC Administrator Scheduler	Mr. Zachariah Koshy	281.780.9764
IMC Facility Manager	Mr. John Varghese	832.938.8664
IMC Facility Manager	Mr. John P. Mathew	832.656.1836
Technology Director	Mr. Abraham Kurien	832.623.2330

AUDITORS

Auditor	Mr. John Varghese	832.938.8664
Auditor	Mr. Aju John	832.846.0763

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK



Ink Pot

From the Desk of the Vicar...

Greetings in the name of the Lord,

Mar Thoma Church is an Eastern Church. It is a Biblical-based and mission-oriented church. It is a reformed church, but not in the protestant or western way. We follow Eastern practices in worship. It is important that we know and understand our worship and practices as well as the meaning of the signs and symbols of the worship.

We stand and worship. Why do we stand to worship? In the ancient Roman Empire, people would stand in the presence of the emperor. When the emperor is around the citizens and the subjects will stand in reverence. For Christians, Jesus Christ is the Lord, God, and King. In the worship service, God is present. God is enthroned in the sanctuary (Isaiah 6: 1). As God is enthroned, the worshippers stand and worship the Lord. Sthaoumen kalose (Syriac words), which we use in the worship service means 'let us stand in reverence'. The Nicene council instructs the Christians to stand and worship. It also indicates that we worship, the risen God. Standing indicates resurrection.

We worship facing the East. According to Rev. Dr. K. V. Mathew, there are two reasons for facing the East. God is metaphorically described as the sun of righteousness (Malachi 4: 2). Secondly, Eden, the garden of God's presence, is in the East (Genesis 2: 8). It is also believed that our Lord will come again from the East. It is in anticipation of the second coming we worship facing the East. Scientifically, the earth rotates eastward. Standing towards the east helps us to be in accordance with the motion of the earth and compatible with cosmic energy. The church building also faces the East. The congregation faces the East in prayer and in worship. It sets the right direction in worship and offers uniformity. It may be a mistake to relate it with sun worship.

We must respect the worship. Worship is not a program. It is an interaction with God, the eternal one. All the congregation who come to the church must pay serious attention to this. It is so sad to see our people spending time in the fellowship hall, in the lobby, and gathering in the office of the trustees at the time of the worship service. It is an irreverence to worship. I also encourage our members to participate in the Bible study program and in all the spiritual nurturing and get edified.

October is an important month for the Immanuel Mar Thoma Church. We celebrate our 29th Parish Day. Diocesan Episcopa is visiting our parish on 22nd October. We are looking forward to the laying of the foundation stone of the Jubilee project. We have our parish convention on the third week of the month. 7th October, we are conducting a program on 'Gender Confusion' organized by the parish with the support of the Medical Ministry and YF for the teens and the youth. Kindly encourage them to participate. May the Grace of our Lord be with all.

Rev. Dr. Eappen Varghese
Vicar

CALENDAR

October 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 am English Holy Qurbana 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Malayalam Holy Qurbana	2 6 am Prayer 7:30 pm MTVEA Diocese Prayer	3 6 am Prayer	4 6 am Prayer 8 PM Ephphatha	5 6 am Prayer 7:30 PM Edavaka Mission Prayer	6 6 am Prayer 10 am Fasting Prayer 7 PM Young Adult	7 9 am Sinal Picnic 10 am Senior Fellowship 10:30 am Gender 7 PM Prayer Celebration
8 8 am G3 YF and Holy Qurbana 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Malayalam HQ 5 PM Executive Committee	9 6 am Prayer 7:30 PM MTVEA Center Prayer	10 6 am Prayer	11 6 am Prayer 8 PM Ephphatha	12 6 am Prayer 10 am Holy Qurbana 5 PM Rehearsal 7:30 pm Edavaka Mission Prayer	13 6 am Prayer 10 AM Fasting Prayer Collage Station	14 9:30 am Sevika Sanghom 11:30 House Warming 2 PM Wedding
15 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 English Service 5:30 PM House Warming	16 6 am Prayer 7:30 PM MTVEA Regional Prayer	17 6 am Prayer	18 6 am Prayer 8 PM Ephphatha	19 6 am Prayer 10 am Rakalweedu 7:30 PM Edavaka Mission Prayer	20 6 am Prayer 10 AM Fasting Prayer 7 PM Prayer Lally George	21 7:30 PM Prayer Sajeevithy
22 9 AM Malayalam Holy Qurbana Parish Day 5 PM Thirument Send Off Meeting.	23 6 am Prayer 7:30 PM Sevika Sanghom Center Meeting	24 6 am Prayer	25 6 am Prayer 8 PM Ephphatha	26 6 am Prayer 7:30 PM Edavaka Mission Prayer	27 6 am Prayer 10 AM Fasting Prayer	28 9 am Auction 6 PM Halaluja Night
29 10:30 AM G3 YF English Holy Qurbana	30 6 am Prayer	31 6 am Prayer				

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

The Southwest Regional YF Retreat will be held on November 17th - 19th at Latham Springs Camp and Retreat Center. We strongly encourage all youth between the ages 12 and 18 to register and attend this retreat. Early Bird registration ends on October 13th.

HAGAR FUND DRIVE

IMTC SEVIKA SANGHOM

HAGAR FUND

SHE REACHES OUT TO THE NEEDY; SHE STRETCHES OUT HER HANDS TO THE POOR.

Proverbs 31:20

Hagar Fund drive has already started. Please give your donations to the Sevika Sanghom office bearers

Come join us!

Guest Speaker : Mr Sunny Stephen

IMTC Parish Mission Retreat

9/29/2023 - 10/01/2023
 Trinity Pines Conference Center

God's Emergency Numbers

When in sorrow - call John 14
 When you are lonely or fearful - call Psalms 23
 When you want to be fruitful - call John 15
 When you have sinned - call Psalms 51
 When you grow bitter and critical - call 1 Corinthians 13
 When you worry - call Matthew 6: 19-34
 When you feel down and out - call Romans 8: 31-39
 When you are in danger - call Psalms 91
 When your faith needs stirring - call Hebrews 11
 When God seems far away - call Psalms 139
 When others fail you - call Psalms 27
 When you leave home to labor or travel - call Psalms 121
 When you want assurance - call Romans 1: 1-30
 For Paul's secret of happiness - call Colossians 3: 12-17
 For Paul's idea of Christianity - call 2 Corinthians 5: 15-20
 When the world seems bigger than God - call Psalms 70

OCT. BIBLE QUIZ QUESTIONS

Bible portion Psalms 137-150

1. I praise you because I am ----- and ----- made. (Fill in the gaps)
2. Who made their tongues as sharp as a serpent?
3. Let a righteous man strike me it is a --- --- ---; let him rebuke me --- --- --- - (Fill-in the gaps)
4. Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow. Who said this?
5. Name the Psalm in which all lines say "praise the Lord"?

Answers for September Bible Quiz. Psalms 121 to 136.

1. 122:3, 2. 125:1, 3. 126:5, 4. 127:3, 5. 136.

ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School	Sunday school starts @ 9.30 am Oct. 28: Hallelujah Night @ 5 pm
Sevika Sanghom	Oct. 14: prayer meeting @ 9.30 am Hagar Fund Collection - please donate
Edavaka Mission	Prayer Meeting @ 7.30 pm via Zoom (Every Thursday)
Senior Fellowship	Oct. 07: Monthly Prayer Meeting @ 10.00 am Oct. 12: HQ in Malayalam @ 10 am Oct. 19: Pakal Veedu @ 10 am
HOPE	Oct. 01: Volunteer training after service
IMAFF	Oct 20: Prayer meeting @ 7.00 pm at IMTC
AREA PRAYER GROUPS	<p>Hebron area prayer meeting: Saturday October 7th at 7.00 pm at the residence of Mr. Reji V. Kurian (ID # 400). Address: 7327 Love Creek, Missouri City, TX. 77459.</p> <p>Hebron area prayer meeting: Sunday October 15th at 7.30 pm at the residence of Mr. Saji Pappachan (ID # 657). Address: 2715 San Bernard Dr., Missouri City, TX. 77545.</p> <p>Carmel area prayer meeting: Friday October 20th @ 7.30 pm at the residence of Mrs. Lally George (ID # 198). Address: 1218 Mountain Lake Dr., Missouri City, TX 77459.</p> <p>Sinai area prayer meeting: Saturday October 21st at 7.30 pm at the residence of Mr. Sajeev G. Kutty (ID # 486). Address: 2709 Wild Lilac Dr., Pearland, TX. 77584.</p> <p>Hebron area prayer meeting: Sunday October 29th at 7.00 pm at the residence of Mr. Thomas K. Varghese (ID # 378). Address: 4711 Wildhorse Ct., Missouri City, TX. 77459.</p> <p>Horeb area prayer meeting: Friday Nov. 3rd @ 7.00 pm at the residence of Mrs. Annamma Lukose (ID # 217). Address: 5402 Mason Glen Ct., Sugar Land, TX 77479.</p>



IMTC ANNUAL PARISH Convention

OCTOBER 13-15, 2023
FRI & SAT : 7PM - 9PM
CONCLUDES WITH SUNDAY SERVICE



Main Speaker
PROF. KOSHY THALAKAL

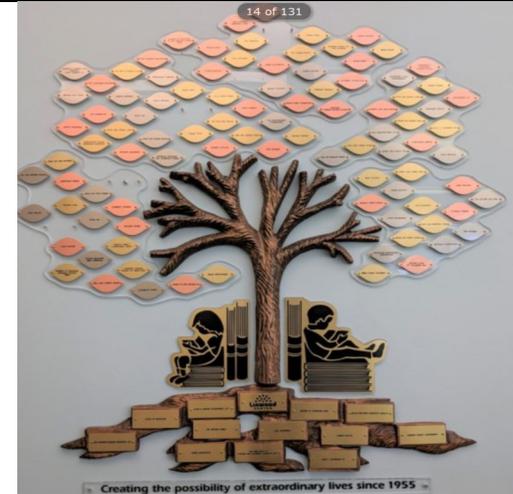
Theme:
"Get a new Heart & a new Spirit". Ezek. 18:31
"പുതിയ ഹൃദയത്തെയും പുതിയ ആത്മാവിനേയും സമ്പാദിക്കുക". യെഹ. 18:31

CONDOLENCES

1. Mrs. Saramma Chacko, 89 years old, elder sister of Mr. Monachan Thomas, ID # 334, of the Bethel area prayer group was called to eternal rest in Ayroor, Kerala.

The vicars and members of the Immanuel Parish express our heartfelt condolences. Kindly uphold the bereaving family members in your thoughts and prayers.

NEW JUBILEE PROJECT FUND-RAISING INITIATIVES



1. Donor Tree:

Church Members who have donated more than \$15,000 dollars towards the Jubilee Project will be recognized on a donor tree that will be featured on a wall in the Jubilee Hall.

2. Room Sponsorships: Church Members or church organizations will have the opportunity to sponsor a new room that will be constructed as a part of the Jubilee project. *Sponsors will be recognized on a 15 x 12-inch plaque that will be placed at the door entrance to that room.*

Available rooms (as of 9/28/23) are as follows:

- Basketball Court (1) @ \$50,000.00
- Multipurpose Rooms (2) @ \$25,000 each.

We have received sponsorships for the following:

- Jubilee Hall = \$50,000.00
- Basketball Court (1) @ \$50,000.00
- Multi-purpose Room (1) = \$25,000.00
- HOPE room for \$25,000.
- Clergy Room = \$15,000.00
- Meeting Room = \$15,000.00

HAPPY 29TH ANNIVERSARY...

We are getting close to celebrating the 29th parish day of our Immanuel Mar Thoma Church. Our church came into being 29 years ago. To be exact, it was on October 2, 1994 that we celebrated the inaugural Holy Communion along with the laying of the foundation stone by the then Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus.

We have experienced 29 years of God's faithfulness. It's an opportune time for us to reflect on the abundance of grace that we have received over the years. It's a time to look back and thank God for the many ways in which He has so faithfully led us. Hitherto, God has been good to us and in turn our hearts should be filled with gratefulness and thanks.

The courage and vision of the pioneering leaders of the church is remembered with thanks at this time. Also, we acknowledge and appreciate the struggles and sacrifices of all our founding families. God placed us here as a church to be His witnesses. We journeyed together thus far to become a blessed worshipping community. May our life and mission continue to bring glory and honor to God.

P.M. Jacob, Secretary

Kindness.....

is more than a deed, It's an attitude, an expression, a look, a touch. It's anything that lifts up someone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please mark your calendars and save the date !

Oct.13-15	Parish Convention
Oct. 22	Parish Day
Oct. 22	Jubilee Project Foundation Stone Laying
Oct. 22	Send-off - Philoxenos Thirumeni
Oct. 28	Annual Auction
Oct. 28	Hallelujah Night
Dec. 01	House to House Christmas Caroling (Tentative)
Dec. 23	Christmas Carol Service
Dec. 29-31	Year end Retreat



OCTOBER 2023 BIRTHDAYS



Rosie Mathew	1-Oct	Chandler J. George	8-Oct
Anisha Philip		Timothy Ajay Thomas	
Ajo T Koruthu		Daniel Varghese	
K. J. Abraham	2-Oct	Anugraha Ann Jeffrin	9-Oct
Addyson Hope Varghese		Edwintom Joseph	
Varkey T. Varkey		Sherline Rachel David	
John Kurien	3-Oct	Stanley Jacob	10-Oct
Nakul P. Joy		Sheeba M. Varghese	
Terish Mathew Thomas		Shawn Samuel Oommen	
Rincy Jacob	4-Oct	Neal Johny	11-Oct
Susan V. Kattappuram		Arun Abraham	
Varghese K. Idiculla		Jesmi Jacob	
Samuel K. Samuel	5-Oct	Sarah Marie Thomas	12-Oct
Acsah Beth Joseph		Ajo Thomas	
Sosamma Varghese		Sachin Kulkarni	
Sherin M. John	6-Oct	Annamma Abraham	13-Oct
Joshua Dennis Mathew		Christina Ann John	
Rony Johnson		Brady Varkey Mathew	
Jissan Cherian	7-Oct	Christian Alexander Mathew	14-Oct
Reyan Abraham		Mercy Varghese	
Nikhil Raphael James		Varghese T. Mathai	
Ishaan Joseph James	8-Oct	Benjamin M Ninan	15-Oct
M.M. Thomas		Lian Jacob	
Jacob Thomas		Yohannan Mathunny	
Sheena Abraham	9-Oct	Angel Annie Philip	15-Oct
Rupesh Koshy		Thomas Koshy	
Gijitha Jacob		Baizil S. John	
Joe P. Varghese	10-Oct	Belinda Roy Thomas	15-Oct
Rija Dena Roby		Robin John Kaarikottu	
Shanthi Cherian		Sosamma Samuel	
Kuruvilla Velangadan	11-Oct	Naveen Varghese	15-Oct
Sara Chacko		Shane V. Matthew	
Aji Varghese		Sharon A. Matthew	
Stephen Kattuvilath Varghese	12-Oct	Annamma Mathai	15-Oct
		Evelyn Marie Mathew	
		Shogan Reni Kavalayil	
		Josiah Jacob	15-Oct
		Isabelle Ann Mathew	
		Cyril Thomas	
		Joel M. John	15-Oct
		Mariam Vicky Varghese	
		Shibi Babu	
		Reena George	



OCTOBER 2023 BIRTHDAYS



Febin Jose	16-Oct	Thomas Samuel	24-Oct
Acha Ann Grace Jacob		Lincy Ann George	
Leah Philip		Manoj George	
Jewel Elise George	Julie Varghese		
Sosamma Mathew	Jonah Mathew		
Nidhin Mathew Varghese	Sosamma George		
Minal Thomas	17-Oct	Jonah Mathew	25-Oct
Biju J. Thomas		Christopher Chacko	
Aannamma Daniel		Dr. Thomas Kannankara Abraham	
Crystal N. Samuel	18-Oct	Sujith Kurian	26-Oct
Neethu T Kourth		Angel Mary Roy	
Shibu John		Caleb George Eapen	
Jaeron George Mathew		Tony V. Philip	
Johan Sajeev		Magie M. John	
Chris Sajeev		Riya Regi	
Sheela George	19-Oct	Justin J. Samuel	27-Oct
Sneha M. John		Thomas Mathew	
Mereena Mathew		Dannie N Jacob	
Ethan Joji		Dr. Varghese George	
George P. Thomas		Gracy Thomas	
Julia Vera	20-Oct	Riju Kuruvilla	28-Oct
Selah Ann Jacob		Susamma Oommen	
V.J. Thankachan		Ruby Varghese	
Saramma Rajan		Shiney Susan Thomas	
Caroline Suzanna Chacko		Daniel T. Mathew	
Sindhu P. Mathew	22-Oct	Reuben Kurian Thoams	29-Oct
Thomas O. Keerikattu		P.I. Cherian	
Mithun Mathew Thomas		Daisy A. Philip	
Anil K. Oommen	23-Oct	Shane V. Jacob	30-Oct
Elias Koshy		Shiju Kuruvilla	
Shawn B. Varghese		Abel Philip	
Emarie Mariam John		Ann Philip	
Neil Abraham		Thomas Varghese	
Mathew Daniel		Sherin E. Varghese	
Gena Ceana Abraham		Emmanie Olivia Thomas	
Dr. Tara Ninan		Jince Jacob	
Naysa Ann Shybu		Talia Mathew	
Amy Mercy Sinu		Jacob K. Alexander	
Elizabeth Thomas	Michele Mariam Jacob	31-Oct	
Neha Abraham	Tessy Eapen		
	Shibu Thomas		
	Joyce John		
	Elijah Sunny Praveen		



OCTOBER 2023 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Naveen Varghese & Christina Jose	3-Oct
Siju Philip & Nisha John	4-Oct
John Kurien & Mariamma J. Kurien	5-Oct
Jacob Thomas & Lally Thomas	6-Oct
Mathew Jacob & Sumy Jacob	6-Oct
Preven C. Jacob & Tina V. Philip	7-Oct
Reji V. Kurian & Mini T. Luke	7-Oct
Cecil Koshy Mathew & Lesiley Susan Mathew	7-Oct
Dr. Abraham Chacko Jr & Priya Ann Chacko	8-Oct
Zachariah Koshy & Grace Zachariah	9-Oct
Shiju Pappachan & Anjaly Skaria	10-Oct
Sam Rajan Daniel & Courtney Woodson	12-Oct
Saji Mathew & Mereena Mathew	16-Oct
Santhosh Paul Joseph & Roshini E. Joseph	16-Oct
Varghese Koshy & Jessy V. Koshy	17-Oct
John Joshy & Aleykutty Joshy	18-Oct
Saji John & Anitha Philip	18-Oct
Ricky Kuruvilla & Monica Mathews	20-Oct
Philip Thomas & Susha Thomas	20-Oct
Samuel K. Samuel & Mariamma K. Samuel	21-Oct
Aswin Cherian Mathew & Evelin Mary Sam	22-Oct
Rev. Eappen Varghese & Mary Neena Varghese	23-Oct
Oommen K. Mathew & Mariamma Oommen	23-Oct
M. A. Varughese & Annas M. Varughese	24-Oct
Toby C. Thomas & Jamie S. Thomas	25-Oct
George Jacob & Reena Jacob	26-Oct
Vinod Abraham & Manju Abraham	27-Oct
Dr. Sajan K. Eapen & Dr. Julie C. Eapen	27-Oct
Santhosh J. Kalathra & Jiny Kalathra	28-Oct
Jacob John & Gemini Jacob	29-Oct
V.J. Thankachan & Mariyamma Thankachan	30-Oct