



## SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, MELBOURNE



### *Prayer for vocations*

Holy spirit of wisdom, You have graced your people with many different gifts. Bless those discerning a vocation in their lives. Open their minds and hearts so that they can listen attentively to your call. Give them courage to face the challenges inherent in answering your call. Guide them towards lives of holiness and love. Let your light shine upon them and draw them ever closer to you. Amen.

*Address of the Minor Seminary:*

**St. John Paul II Minor Seminary**  
Thirumudikunnu, Koratty East  
Thrissur – 680308, Kerala - India

Tel: 0480 2731311

Mob: 9847923332

Email: stjohnpaulseminary@hotmail.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Since the establishment of our Eparchy in Australia, our great desire is to have sufficient priests according to the heart of Jesus Christ. Currently, 23 seminarians (from various dioceses in Kerala) are undergoing priestly formation in different seminaries exclusively for our Eparchy. Our Eparchy has the Saint John Paul II Minor Seminary at Thirumudikunnu, Kerala for the initial formation of our seminarians.

As the bishop, I have had the blessing of coming to know each of these young men personally. They are good, balanced, intellectually gifted, joyful, generous and solid. Each man has his own story, his own set of gifts that he brings to our Eparchy.

Would you be willing to make an investment in the future of the Eparchy by helping to support our seminarians who will in future celebrate sacraments, give priestly presence and spiritual guidance to you, your children and your grandchildren?

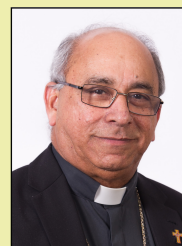
First and foremost, I ask you to pray for our priests and seminarians and for an increase in the number of men who respond to the call to serve as priests in the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Saint Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne. I thank you very sincerely for your precious prayers and sacrifices for our priests and seminarians.

In addition to your prayers, I invite you to make a financial contribution towards the priestly formation of our Eparchy. Please see the details. I thank you most sincerely and pray for you and for your dear family.

May God bless you!

Yours in Jesus,

+ **Bosco Puthur**



### Academic Tenure

Minor Seminary: Three year course. one year of initiation into the seminary and spiritual life and two year Higher Secondary course and spiritual formation. Three year Tertiary course of Bachelor degree in any subject. Major Seminary formation includes two year course on philosophical subjects and four year course on Theological subjects.

### The Spiritual Benefits of Sponsors

Everyday seminarians will be praying for you and your family. Our Eparchy prays for the benefactors regularly. A Holy Qurbana been offered for benefactors in parishes and missions of our Eparchy every year. The priests of the Eparchy offer one Holy Qurbana every year for the benefactors.

### The Expenses for Seminarians

We spend per year, (as of last year), more than Rs. 100,000.00 (One Lakh) towards the expenses of one seminarian for his boarding, lodging, travel, personal expenses, tuition fees and medical expenses. These costs are met with the partial support of sponsors. The amount would usually increase by 15-20% yearly due to inflation.

### The Obligations of Sponsors

Daily, or whenever possible, pray for our seminarians. Regular offerings be made towards the support of seminarians as agreed in the beginning. The amount could be given either monthly or quarterly or annually. Make a one-off donation.

## **A Profile of St. John Paul II Minor Seminary**

Since the inauguration of the Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle Melbourne in 2014, one of the major goals was to provide priests for pastoral care across communities in Australia.

Our Eparchy started the St. John Paul II Minor Seminary in a rented facility at Pazhayannur, in Thrissur, Kerala on 18 June 2016. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Thaikattil, was appointed the Rector of the Seminary. Due to the inconvenience of the location at Pazhayannur, the seminary was shifted to Thirumudikunnu, Koratty, Kerala, on 30 November 2016, a rented building belonging to the Sisters of Sacred Science. Currently 23 Seminarians in various levels are undergoing formation in different seminaries in Kerala and in Rome.

The St. John Paul II Minor Seminary is the house of formation for the candidates who are aspiring in their journey to priesthood, to be shepherds. The candidates are given initial spiritual orientation and formation to enable them to discern God's plan in their lives, and prepare them to be priests in the Australian Syro-Malabar Church.

These seminarians will be the future priests of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Australia who will shepherd you and your children for all pastoral and sacramental needs. It would be a holy endeavour to be part of the priestly formation of our Eparchy. In the initial stage a good number of eparchies in Kerala had shown generosity towards our Seminary. But we cannot expect any more financial support from Kerala or elsewhere for the priestly formation of our seminarians.



By the grace of God, we still get vocations from Kerala. We need to encourage our youth in Australia to priestly vocations. At present, our Eparchy undergoes many initial difficulties such as scarcity of priests and finance as well. Yet we are hopeful that God will inspire many of our young people to accept His call to priesthood and our faithful to support with generosity this divine plan through prayer and financial help.

## **Your Contribution Counts**

You are contributing mainly to the Seminary Fund and your kind financial offerings will be spent towards the expenses of the priestly formation of our seminarians. Here is an occasion for you to promote the priestly vocation through generous contributions.

Make a one-off donation  
AUD 5,000.00/10,000.00

**OR**

Make an ongoing donation  
To Sponsor a seminarian yearly:  
AUD 1,000.00

## **Bank Details:**

Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas,  
**BSB 083 347, A/C No. 247 851 691**  
Please quote your name and reference –  
SAS (Sponsor a Seminarian)

**Fr. Sebastian Mandapathil**  
Finance Officer

Email: [procurator@syromalabar.org.au](mailto:procurator@syromalabar.org.au)