

Syro-Malabar Catholic Church Ireland

Charity N0NIC106671
Company No.NI645327

Report for the year April 2022 to March 2023

The Syro Malabar Catholic Church in the Diocese of Down & Connor had diverse activities in the year April 2022 to March 2023. It is with the commitment of so many dedicated people that the Syro Malabar community had a flourishing year.

There was Lenten retreat preached by Sr. Ann Maria on 1st, 2nd and 3rd April 2022 at All Saints College, Beechmount. Syro Malabar community celebrated Palm Sunday on 10th April at Clonard. Holy week was celebrated and well attended by Syro Malabar Community. On 24th April community celebrated 'Puthunjayar Thirunal' at Holy Spirit church, Glen Road. On 30th April 2022 fourteen of our children received First Holy communion and Bishop Stephen Chirappanath was main celebrant.

12th May as International Nurses day our community conducted a Zoom meeting in honour of all nurses in the community. Knock pilgrimage was on 21st May and good number people of Diocese of Down & Connor attended this pilgrimage.

July 3rd was celebrated together at Clonard from all mass centres of Down & Connor. On 13th July church conducted a bachelor's meet, a seminar for unmarried youngsters upto 35 years.

This year's Bible convention was on 21st, 22nd and 23rd August and preached by Rev Fr. Daniel Poovannathil.

28th August 2022 is a memorable day for the Syro Malabar faithful in the diocese of Down & Connor. The amalgamation of three mass centres Bangor, Ballyhackamore and Belfast took place on that day and we started first Mass @ St. Bernadette's Church Rosetta Road and we received the name St. Thomas Syro Malabar Rosetta Mass Centre. We remember with gratitude most Rev. Noel Treanor, the former Bishop of Down & Connor for allowing the community to use St Bernadette's church for the liturgical and social celebrations. We can't forget our former Chaplain Msgr. Antony Perumayan for his hard work to avail this church for the community.

Catechism classes for 2022 started on 4th September Sunday in St Bernard's School.

On 26th September 2022, Down & Connor welcomed one more Syro Malabar priest Fr. Renson Thekkinethu.

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Christmas retreat was preached by Sr. Ann Maria on 9th and 10th December at St Bernard's church. On 24th night there were Carol song and crib competition in unit level and Christmas midnight was well attended by community.

The new Mass centre committee was formed in the month of January and they took charge on 15th January. Bible Kalolsavam for Northern Ireland Mass centres was conducted on 18th and 25th Saturdays of February. There was Syro Malabar Holy Mass every day during the Lenten season. Lenten Retreat was held on 17th – 19th February and was preached by Fr Samson Mannoor.

Pithruvedhi – Belfast

Pithruvedhi conducted a charity collection for families in need. Food items were collected from mass centres and handed over to Rev. Fr. Tony Devlin to be managed by St Vincent de Paul at St Paul's Church, Belfast.

On 19/6/22 Pithruvedhi celebrated Father's day. On 24/09/22 Pithruvedhi conducted a One day trip

The First Pithruvedhi meeting of 2023 was conducted on Sunday, 19th of February. This meeting was organised to plan the activities for the coming year.

Mathruvedhi- Belfast

Mathruvedhi activities are going well in Belfast. At present there are 98 active members in this group. Under Fr Paul Morely's leadership there are many activities being held. Many programs were organised recently under this faith group like 'Mariya Samarpanam', a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, honouring of all the fathers on Father's Day etc.

In 2022 during the COVID pandemic the meetings had taken place in different houses hosted by some of the Mathruvedhi members.

In March 2022 there was a special celebration of Mother's Day in the parish church with special liturgical celebration lead by the members followed by the distribution of Payasam organised by fathers. This news was later published in British Malayali.com.

During the month of September 2022, a meeting was held at Mrs Sheena Aby's house, in which there was a prayer session followed by a group discussion. A decision was made to organise a pilgrimage to Medjugorje lead by Mrs Biji Jose in March 2023.

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In October 2022 a coffee morning was organised and all the members who were able to attend participated in it.

In November 2022 the meeting was held in Mrs Shiji Tomy's house and during the discussion a decision was made to organise a secret Santa for the members interested and instead of exchanging gifts to each other all agreed to pray for each other, and a collection was made to help a family in India.

In December 2022 a meeting was held at Mrs Bincy Joby's house and arrangements were made to handover Rs50000 to a family following the collection made through secret Santa.

In January 2023 a meeting was held at Dr Sagitha Sanil's house. After the prayer session the members discussed the challenges faced by parents in Migrant families like ours.

In February 2023 a meeting was held at Mrs Anju Job's house and following the prayer session a discussion was held based on the topic of Spirituality in Motherhood. There was a decision made to gather in the church on the 4th Sunday of every month after the Holy Mass considering eased COVID restrictions. On 26/02/2023 new office bearers were elected during the meeting in the presence of Fr Paul Morely and Fr Renson Thekkinezath. The office bearers are Biji Jose (president), Sheeba Raju (Vice President), Sheena Aby (Secretary), Meetu Devasia (Joint Secretary), Ligi Dellish (PRO), Shiji Tomy (Treasurer), Sheena Sunny (Intercessory Leader). Committee members are Jancy Mones, Reena Thomas, Swapna Francis, Biji Sunny, Bincy Joby, and Lisha Rajeev.

Following the selection of the new office bearers, all the new members joined the group were introduced and welcomed to the faith group.

On November 2 and 3, a retreat for Teens, Gratiae Revive was conducted. SMYM is committed to providing opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and develop into well-rounded individuals in Christ. A youth meet was held on February 12, 2023, led by Fr Binoj Mulavarickal. 90 youth attended the meeting. The meeting was divided into different sess

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SMYM and SM Teens

Waves of Grace monthly programme conducted for the SM Teens in the months of June, July, August, September, October. SMYM Belfast organised a football tournament on 26th August 2022.

SMYM organised few programs over the months in 2023.

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