

EPHREM NEWS



FEBRUARY 2024

St. Ephrem's Theological College, Satna



Patron : Rev. Dr. Mathew Kazhuthadiyil

Editors

Bro. Alen Pothanamuzhiyil, Bro. Alan Mullappallil

MONTHLY



On 8th of February, we came together in reverence and humility to observe the Prayer Day, a time dedicated to profound act of communion with God. Fr Joseph Ammaikunnel CMF was the Preacher. He gave us practical knowledge for living our priestly life. In our moments of prayer, we found renewal, inspiration, and a deepening of our faith.

MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATION



Mission Sunday is a special day in the Catholic Church dedicated to raising awareness about missionary work and supporting missions around the world. In connection with the feast of St Ephrem, we organised the Mission Sunday events in our seminary. It was a day dedicated to spreading love, compassion, and hope to our communities. Each one in our community engaged in friendly competition and all have treated their taste buds to a culinary extravaganza at our bustling food court. All have supported our endeavours and made a difference by participating competitively in the auction. Bid on unique items, and artworks, all have generously donated to the mission. We savoured a delicious lunch, indulging in a spread of wholesome dishes that nourished our bodies. Each bite was a symphony of flavours, crafted with care and expertise. We concluded the day on a reflective note with an inspiring film.

THE PARISH FEAST CELEBRATION

The Parish Feast brings together the members of the community in celebration. It strengthens the sense of unity and belongingness as we come together to commemorate and celebrate the feast of our Patron Saint, St Ephrem. The celebration was an opportunity for spiritual renewal and rejuvenation. It was an occasion to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for the blessings bestowed upon us. Celebration of the feast is not only a religious obligation but also a source of joy and spiritual enrichment for us. It always reminds us of the importance of faith, tradition, and fellowship. The parish feast of St. Ephrem's Church was celebrated on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of February. The feast has begun



with Kodyettu by our rector Fr Mathew Kazhuthadiyil on the 2nd. On the 3rd, the feast celebrations continued with procession to each of the houses of Ephrem Pariwar. The procession ended in St. Ephrem's Theological College followed by Nercha. On the 4th we celebrated the main Feast in a very solemn way. There was Raza Qurbana celebrated by Fr Noby Thekkepalakkuzhayil, the rector of St. Thomas Minor Seminary, Satna and all the fathers, sisters, brothers, candidates and parishioners of Ephrem Pariwar participated in the Raza. It was a time of joy, gratitude, and spiritual renewal as we came together to celebrate the feast of our patron



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ASH MONDAY AND THE START OF THE GREAT LENT

Ash Monday marks the beginning of the Season of Great Fast, a significant period in the Catholic Church. It is a time of spiritual preparation, repentance, and renewal leading up to the celebration of Easter. The Season of Great Fast offers an opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter, the central event of the Christian faith. Through fasting, prayer, and acts of self-denial we seek to deepen our relationship with God and cultivate a spirit of humility, repentance, and gratitude. On Ash Monday we impose ashes on the foreheads along with the accompanying the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". This act serves as a powerful reminder of human mortality, the need for repentance, and a call to spiritual renewal. As we embark on the Season of Great Fast, let us embrace this sacred time with reverence and humility, mindful of the transformative power of Christ's love and the grace of redemption offered to us. May this season be a time of spiritual renewal, growth, and grace as we journey together towards the joy of Easter.



SYMPOSIUM



A symposium on Laudato Si and Laudate Deum was organised on 22nd of February to delve into the themes of Pope Francis's encyclical, Laudato Si and apostolic exhortation, Laudate Deum and their profound implications for ecological stewardship and spiritual renewal. The symposium aimed at fostering dialogue, exchanging ideas, and inspiring collective action in response to the urgent environmental challenges facing our planet. The symposium commenced with thought-provoking addresses by our dear brothers, Charanal Jithin, Karamban Shenil, Koyickal Binil and Pallattu Jerald who highlighted the foundational principles of Laudato Si, emphasizing the interconnectedness of environmental degradation, social injustice, and spiritual impoverishment. All the presentations underscored the call to integral ecology, urging the partakers to embrace a holistic approach to environmental sustainability rooted in respect for human dignity and the sacredness of creation. The symposium featured a series of dynamic panel discussions exploring various dimensions of Laudato Si and Laudate Deum. The event concluded with a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to care for our common home.

VISIT OF FR. ANTONY PLACKAL VC



The seminary community was filled with anticipation and excitement as we prepared to welcome the first Rector of ETC, Rev. Fr Antony Plackal after an extended absence. His visit was a momentous occasion to reflect on the seminary's journey and renew the commitment to its mission and values and also a momentous occasion to honour his legacy of service and inspiration. He reflected on the seminary's mission and the sacred responsibility of forming future priests. Despite the passage of time, the seminary had evolved, new buildings had risen, curricula had expanded, and faces had changed, but the core values instilled by Fr Antony remains steadfast. His presence served as a beacon of wisdom and inspiration. The seminary community gathered for the Holy Mass presided over by Fr Antony Plackal. Inspired by his wisdom and encouraged by his support, the seminary community embraces the journey ahead with renewed zeal and determination.

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VISIT OF MAR. MATHEW NELLIKUNNEL CST

The visit of the Bishop Mar. Mathew Nellikunnel CST, the bishop of Gorakpur on 8th February was very significant for St. Ephrem's Theological College. In the Holy Mass, the Bishop delivered a thought provoking homily and also expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to visit and engage with the seminary community. The Bishop engaged in dialogue with us regarding the importance of cultivating a strong spiritual life, rooted in prayer, devotion, and a deep



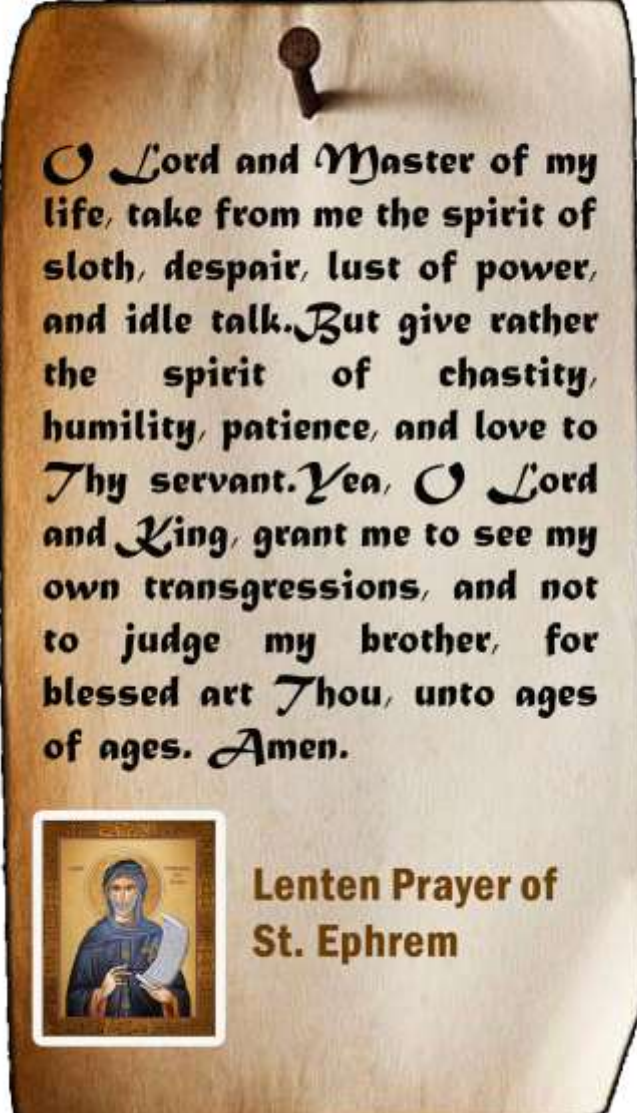
understanding of theology. He encouraged us to pursue excellence in our studies, equipping the necessary theological and philosophical knowledge to effectively serve the Church. The visit of Mar. Mathew Nellikunnel was deeply enriching experience for the entire seminary

community. The guidance and encouragement received from the Bishop will undoubtedly continue to inspire and guide the our community in our journey towards priesthood and service to the Church.




Wish You

A Prayerful Lenton Season...



O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.



Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem

“FOR YOU ARE DUST, AND TO DUST YOU WILL RETURN”

