



Bethel Herald

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL MAR THOMA CHURCH



CHRISTMAS: THE INCARNATION OF LOVE

OCT-DEC 2025 ISSUE (VOL. 35)

(For Private Circulation Only)



BETHEL MARTHOMA CHURCH Krishnarajapuram

From the Vicar's Desk

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is with a heart full of joy that I greet you through this edition of the 'Bethel Herald'. The warm reception of our revived printed newsletter has been a tremendous encouragement, and I am deeply grateful for your positive response. This tangible connection within our Parish family is a true blessing. I congratulate the team behind making this a meaningful one.

We are living in a time of significant change within our nation's social fabric. As minority communities, including Christians, face growing challenges, we are called to respond not with fear, but with a deeper, more sincere commitment to Christ and His mission. Let us hold in steadfast prayer our brothers and sisters across the country who endure persecution for their faith. In prayerful vigilance, we must also cherish and uphold the constitutional freedoms and rights granted to us—precious gifts from God that we are entrusted to protect. In this situation, may we be a community known for our strong faith, our united love, and our courageous witness to the hope we have in Christ.

As we step into the final quarter of the year, our hearts overflow with gratitude for God's unceasing grace and faithful guidance. Our Bethel Mar Thoma family is poised for a vibrant season of thanksgiving, celebration, and spiritual renewal.

We give thanks for the dedicated ministries of our Parish organizations. Following last month's beautiful celebrations for Sevika Sanghom Day and Senior Citizen's Day, we now look forward to the special days for the Edavaka Mission, Yuvajana Sakhyam, and Sunday School. These events are a testament to their faithful work in nurturing our Parish through worship, witness, and service. I encourage everyone to participate prayerfully and support these vital ministries.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming celebrations:

Harvest Festival (October 12): Let us gather in a spirit of joyful thanksgiving to offer the firstfruits of our labor unto the Lord. May our collective offering be a generous reflection of our gratitude for His abundant provision.

Parish Convention & Family Sunday (October 31 - November 2): This will be a sacred time for spiritual rejuvenation and a renewal of our family commitments to faith. Let us unite in prayer and reflection to draw nearer to God and to one another.

And then as the Advent Season begins, let us prepare our hearts to welcome the birth of our Savior with expectant hope and profound joy. Our Christmas programs in December will be beautiful opportunities to reflect Christ's light in our community and rejoice together in His coming.

We will conclude the year gathered in worship, thanking God for His countless mercies and committing ourselves anew to His faithful hands for the year ahead.

Let us move forward together - rooted in faith, abounding in love, and steadfast in hope.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. James M. Koshy Veeramala
Vicar



BETHEL MARTHOMA CHURCH
Krishnarajapuram

Message from the Bethel Herald Convenor

Dear Church Family,

Welcome to Our Church Newsletter.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

We thank God Almighty for His blessings and divine presence as we present this edition of our newsletter. We are excited to share updates, inspiring stories and upcoming events of our Parish with you.

In this issue we cover the completed and upcoming events of the Parish and the Organizations which include the community outreach programs, inspiring articles and creative art work from our parish members.

Our upcoming next quarter issue theme is "Journey to the Cross". We invite you to share articles, reflections or artwork connecting with this theme.

We express heartfelt gratitude to our Vicar Rev. James M. Koshy Veeramala for leadership and guidance, the editorial team Mrs. Shani Thomas and Mr. Kevin Joy Thomas for the tireless efforts, the Executive Committee members for their support and to Nithi Graphics for quality printing.

Thank you for being part of our Church family. May God's love and guidance be with us always.

Warm regards,

Mathew Philip
Parish Secretary / Bethel Herald Convenor

Worship Arrangements and Lectionary

Date	Worship Arrangements	Theme	Lessons	Epistle	Gospel
05-Oct-25	Edavaka Mission	People of God: Conveyors of God's love Voluntary Evangelist's Association Day	First : Jeremiah 1:1-10 Second: 2 Corin. 4:1-6	1 John 4:7-12	Luke 10:25-37
12-Oct-25	Ramamurthy Nagar B Harvest Festival Service at 7.00am	Day of the Differently Abled , Honour the Difference	First : Exodus 4:1-17 Second: Acts 9:32-35	Acts 3:1-10	John 5:2-9
18-Oct-25	Malayalm Holy Communion , 08:30 am Senior Citizen				
19-Oct-25	Yuvajana Sakhyam	Youth Sunday, Youth in Christ style	First : Daniel 6:1-10 Second: Acts 6:1-6	I Timothy 4:7-16	Matthew 19:16-22
26-Oct-25	Udayanagar	Family: Place of pure love Christian Family Dedication Sunday	First : Job 1:1-5 Second: Acts 10:1-8	1 John 2:7-11	Mark 3:31-35
02-Nov-25	CV Raman Nagar Family Sunday	Family: Place of pure love Christian Family Dedication Sunday	First : Job 1:1-5 Second: Acts 10:1-8	1 John 2:7-11	Mark 3:31-35

09-Nov-25	Mahadevapura (CSI Malayalam Service at 09:00 am)	Church: One body in Christ Festival of the Unity of Communion of churches in India	First : Joshua 22:21-29 Second: Ephesians 4:1-7	1 Corin. 12:12-27	John 10:11-18
15-Nov-25	Malayalm Holy Communion, 08:30 am Senior Citizen				
16-Nov-25	Sunday School	World Sunday School Day Children: Participants in the ministry of the Kingdom of God	First : Judges 13:2-14 Second: Romans 10:9-15	Hebrews 6:9-12	Luke 1:5-23
23-Nov-25	Ramamurthy Nagar A	Willingness to be the will of God Annunciation to Mary	First : I Samuel 2:1-11 Second:1 Corin. 1:26-31	Galatians 4:1-7	Luke 1:26-38
30-Nov-25	Hindi Service	Meeting of Virgin Mary and Elizabeth. Celebration of Hope: From dishonour to honour	First : 1 Samuel 1:9-20 Second: 2 Corin. 1:3-10	Hebrews 11:1-12	Luke 1:39-45
07-Dec-25	Ramamurthy Nagar B	Birth of John the Baptist — Bible Sunday Word of God, the source of Peace	First : Jeremiah 15:15-21 Second:Acts 13:17-26	Hebre. 4:12-14	Luke 1:57-66
14-Dec-25	Udayanagar	Annunciation to Joseph Immanuel: Celebration of Joy	First : Isaiah 7:10-17 Second: Romans 8:31- 39	Ephe. 1:15-23	Matthew 1:18-25

20-Dec-25	Malayalm Holy Communion, 08:30 am Senior Citizen				
21-Dec-25	CV Raman Nagar	Sabha Dhinam Church : The way of Christ Celebration of Love: The Lord is coming	First : Joshua 24:1-14 Second: Hebrews 13:7-16	Ephe. 2:19-22	John 14:1-7
25-Dec-25	Mahadevapura	Christmas: Birth of Jesus Be the space for Christ	First : Micah 5:1-4 Second: Colo. 1:15-20	2 Timothy 2:8-13	Luke 2:1-7
28-Dec-25	Ramamurthy Nagar A	Reflect, Rejoice and Renew	First : Isaiah 40:25-31 Second: Phili. 2:12-18	1 Thessa. 5:14-28	Matthew 5:13-16

Church and Organizations Shedules

Worship Timings	08:00am : Malayalam Service on all Sundays except Third Sunday
	12:00 noon : English Divine Service on all Sundays except First Sunday and Third Sunday
	12:00 noon : English Service on First Sunday
	08:00am : English Service on Third Sunday
Sevika Sanghom	10:30am : Bible Study on All Tuesdays , online via Zoom Platform
Edavaka Mission	07:00pm : Bible Study on All Fridays online via Zoom Platform
Yuvajana Sakhyam	All Sundays After Holy Communion Service, Cottage Prayers every Third Sunday
Sunday School	All Sundays After Holy Communion Service
Young Family Fellowship	All Sundays after Holy Communion Service
Intercessary Prayer	10:30am : All Fridays at Church



Bethel Herald – Hard Copy Release



Honoring the Clergies on the Clergy Sunday



Honoring the Members who turned 60 years and 80 years



Independence Day Celebration



MCRD Children and Director's visit to our Parish



One Day Retreat of Parish Committee and Office bearers of Organizations



Parish Cultural Program Inauguration



Parish Picnic at Dhaya Bhavan



Sevika Sanghom Day



AISSA Bible Quiz First Prize Winners



Teachers Felicitation on Education Sunday

Highlights of Activities, Jul to Sep25

Parish

- a) 13-Jul25 - The Parish celebrated Clergy Sunday by felicitating esteemed clergies, Rev. Dr. Iype Joseph, Rev. Dr. Joseph Ayrookuzhy, Rev. James M. Koshy Veeramala, Rev. Joel George Philip and Rev. Lethin Joseph. Each clergy member was presented with a gift, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their dedication and service.
- b) 17-Jul25 - The Parish Executive Committee Members, Internal Auditors, and Office Bearers of all organizations gathered at Camp Revive, Hosur, for a one-day retreat. Rev. Dr. Jacob P Thomas from UTC delivered an impactful talk, guiding attendees toward spiritual growth and effective service. A total of 35 members participated, fostering camaraderie, reflection, and teamwork — a truly enriching experience of spiritual renewal.
- c) 15-Aug25 - India's 79th Independence Day was joyfully celebrated with a flag-hoisting ceremony at 9:00 am paying tribute to the nation's freedom and heritage.
- d) 27-Aug25 - The Parish Picnic was held on August 27 at St. Gregorius Daya Bhavan, Kunigal, Tumkur. A total of 65 members participated, enjoying fellowship, games, and quality time together. The Parish made a donation of INR 30,000 to Daya Bhavan, contributing to a noble cause. Our Appreciation to the convenors, Mr. Jacob Koshy, Mr. Bobby Abraham, and Mrs. Silvi Egi, for organizing a memorable event.
- e) 31-Aug25 - The Parish joined a Kannada Holy Qurbana at Malur Chapel, Hoskote Mission, led by Rev. James M. Koshy Veeramala (Vicar), assisted by Rev. Dr. Joseph Ayrookuzhy, Rev. Johnson T Unnithan, Rev. Vinay Kumar and Evng. Mathew John. A fellowship lunch was shared, and ₹15,000 was donated toward Mission work. Our sincere thanks to the convenors, Mrs. Annamma Varghese, Mrs. Santhamma Raju, and Mrs. Shainy Varghese for their efforts. It was truly a meaningful celebration of faith and community.
- f) 07-Sep25 - The Parish celebrated Education Day by recognizing the invaluable contributions of its 28 presently working teachers. Each teacher received a gift, expressing heartfelt appreciation for their dedication to shaping young minds and nurturing future generations. Thank you to all the teachers for their tireless efforts and commitment to education.
- g) 07-Sep25 - The Parish Cultural Program was a resounding success, with 361 members participating and many of the members showcasing their God-given talents. The event was followed by a delightful Kerala Sadhya lunch, fostering fellowship and community bonding.

Special thanks to the convenors Mr. Sal Scaria, Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew, and Mrs. Anjana Santhosh for organizing such a memorable event.

- h) 21-Sep25 - The Parish celebrated Senior Citizens Day by honoring members who reached significant milestones. 7 members turning 60 years in 2025 and 3 members turned 80 years in 2025 was honored jointly with Sr. Citizens Fellowship. Each honoree received a shawl, symbolizing respect and gratitude for their life journey and contributions.

Edavaka Mission

- a) Breakfast Fellowship was held on 06 July 2025, with the aim of raising funds for the “Home for the Homeless” project. Through the generous support of our members, a total of ₹1,05,593 was collected (Breakfast: ₹32,432; Donations: ₹73,161).
- b) Our parish hosted the MTVEA Bangalore Centre Meeting on 26 July 2025, which was attended by around 160 members. The main speaker was Rev. Binu John, Devanahally Mission, who delivered an inspiring message.

Sunday School

- a) The Sunday School Teacher’s Centre Retreat was held in our church on 05 July 2025.
- b) The Rohan Memorial Drawing Competition took place on 06 July 2025.
- c) In the AISSA Bible Quiz, KR Puram Bethel MTC secured First Place .
Participants: Emin Alvish Panicker, Riya Ann Sajan, and Jonathan Sam Ashish.
- d) The Half Yearly Exam was conducted on 31 August 2025.

Yuvajana Sakhyam

- a) Beginning with the first gathering on 27 July 2025, our monthly Cottage Prayers have been held on the third Sunday of each month. Hosted by youth families, these intimate fellowships included short devotions, worship, and meaningful conversations, allowing us to experience God’s presence in a warm and homely setting.

- b) Following the service, our youth organized a Food Sale on 03 August 2025 with the generous support of the parish, we were blessed to raise over ₹1,00,000. The majority of the proceeds went towards the educational aid.
- c) Bethel Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam had the privilege of hosting the Diocese-level inaugural event for the year 2025–26 on 21 September. The Chief Guest was Rt. Rev. Dr. Gregorios Mar Stephanos Episcopa, and the main speaker was Rev. Lethin Joseph.

Parent Network

The Parent Network meetings is an initiative to support parents in raising children with faith and resilience:

Topics covered Jul-Sep:

"Disciplining your Child" led by Abraham Thomas.

"Building a Child's Self Esteem" led by Minnie Samuel and Sanu George Mathew.

"Spiritual Nurture Starts at Home" led by Thomson Varghese & Jeny Thomson.

Topics for Oct-Nov:

"Helping Children Understand the plan of salvation" by Manu Samuel & Princy Manu.

"Worshipping Family" by Annie Samuel.

We are grateful for the peer learnings and learning from God's word together and for the elders who share with us their words of wisdom. Encouraging many more parents to join in.

The Mystery of Christmas: Embracing the Incarnation in a Technological Age

Christmas is far more than a season of lights, music, and gatherings; it is the celebration of the greatest mystery in human history—the Incarnation. It is the astonishing reality of the divine choosing to become human, the eternal Word wrapped in time and space. This mystery is not confined to the past; it continues to speak to our age of technology, where connection is often measured by networks and signals rather than true presence. Into our world of algorithms and artificial intelligence, the story of Bethlehem whispers a call to rediscover what is real, enduring, and sacred.

At its heart, the Incarnation is a story of descent. God entered the world not with splendour or force, but as a vulnerable child needing human care. In doing so, He sanctified human life in all its fragility and affirmed that our touch, our tears, and our joys truly matter. In a time when technology can reduce people to usernames, profiles, or data points, Christmas reminds us that love is never abstract or virtual—it is embodied and personal.

Our age is remarkable. Machines can compute at unimaginable speeds, social media can connect continents, and artificial intelligence can mimic human thought. Yet, for all its brilliance, technology often leaves the soul unsatisfied. It offers communication without communion, information without intimacy, simulation without incarnation. Christmas challenges us to remain truly human amidst the digital tide, reminding us that technology is a tool, not the master of our lives.

The Incarnation Reveals God's answer to our longing for presence. He did not send a broadcast from heaven but came Himself—touchable, knowable, and near. To celebrate Christmas today means reclaiming this presence: pausing the endless scroll, setting aside the glowing screen, and entering into the glow of relationships. It means looking into eyes rather than pixels, listening with the heart, and showing up fully, not virtually.

This paradox—the eternal God entering time, the infinite embracing the finite—offers hope to our restless hearts. If eternity touched time, then our fleeting days have eternal meaning. If God entered our fragile now, then no moment is too ordinary to be holy. The greatest breakthrough in history was not digital but divine—the Light of the world stepping into darkness.

To truly inhabit the mystery of Christmas in our contemporary age is to allow the sublime wonder of the Incarnation to suffuse the very manner in which we love, labour, and even engage with the technological marvels that surround us. The gifts worthiest of this season are not the gaudily wrapped tokens in paper bags, but those intangible offerings of the spirit—our time tenderly bestowed upon the lonely, our forgiveness magnanimously extended to the estranged, and our attention generously lavished upon those too often relegated to society's periphery. In these quiet yet consequential gestures, we enact the living presence of Emmanuel—"God with us"—and, in doing so, transmute the ordinary into the profound. The manger still speaks with quiet power: heaven has touched earth, love has come near, and God Himself has reached for us

Prof. Reji Meprathe
RMNB , Prayer Group

Bible Quiz

This Bible Quiz is based on different portions of Scripture and is being organized for all members of the Parish.

Instructions:

1. Please answer all the questions carefully. Submit your answers to the Vicar on or before 02-Nov25
2. Everyone who submits all correct answers will receive a prize. From among those with all correct answers, one winner will be selected by lot to receive the Mega Prize.
3. Families can work on this exercise together to grow in the knowledge of God's word.
4. Let this be an opportunity to study the Bible with joy and diligence.

Questions:

1. What was the remedy God provided for Miriam's healing after she spoke against Moses and became leprous?
മോശക്കു വിരോധമായി സംസാരിച്ച് കുഷ്ടരോഗിയായി തീർന്ന മിരിയയിന് സൗഖ്യം ലഭിക്കാൻ ദൈവം നൽകിയ പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗം എന്ത്?
2. Where did Paul and his co-workers see the altar with the inscription "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD"?
പൗലോസും സഹപ്രവർത്തകരും 'അജ്ഞാത ദേവൻ' എന്നെഴുതിയ വേദിക്കല്ല് കണ്ടത് എവിടെവെച്ച്?
3. Why did King Solomon not place Pharaoh's daughter, his wife, in the palace of David, king of Israel?
ശലോമോൻ രാജാവ് തന്റെ ഭാര്യയായ ഫറോന്റെ മകളെ യിസ്രായേൽ രാജാവായ ദാവീദിന്റെ അരമനയിൽ പാർപ്പിക്കാതിരുന്നത് എന്തുകൊണ്ട്?
4. What is the reward for a steadfast mind that trusts in the Lord?
യഹോവയിൽ ആശ്രയിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിരമാനസന്റെ പ്രതിഫലം എന്ത്?
5. What testimony did Jesus give about Nathanael?
യേശു കർത്താവ് നഥനയേലിനെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞ സാക്ഷ്യമെന്ത്?
6. "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Who said this to whom and on what occasion?
'മനുഷ്യൻ കണ്ണിന് കാണുന്നത് നോക്കുന്നു. യഹോവയോ ഹൃദയത്തെ നോക്കുന്നു.' ആർ ആരോട് പറഞ്ഞു? സന്ദർഭം ഏത്?
7. "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Whose cry is this?
"വിശുദ്ധനും സത്യവാനുമായ നാഥാ, ഭൂമിയിൽ വസിക്കുന്നവരോട് ഞങ്ങളുടെ രക്തത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് നീ എത്രത്തോളം ന്യായവിധിയും പ്രതികാരവും നടത്താതെ യിരിക്കും?" ഇത് ആരുടെ നിലവിളിയാണ്?

8. "You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it." Who said this to whom and on what occasion?
“നിന്റെ കണ്ണുകൊണ്ട് നീ കാണും എങ്കിലും, നീ അതിൽ നിന്ന് തിന്നുകയില്ല.” ആര് ആരോട് പറഞ്ഞു? സന്ദർഭം ഏത്?
9. During which high priest's time was the Book of the Law found at the bottom of the treasury?
ഏത് മഹാപുരോഹിതന്റെ കാലത്താണ് ദ്രവ്യചാക്കുകളുടെ അടിയിൽ ആയിരുന്ന ന്യായപ്പുസ്തകം കണ്ടെടുത്തത്?
10. "To a listening ear, a wise ruler's rebuke is like..." Complete the verse.
“കേട്ടനുസരിക്കുന്ന കാതിന് ജ്ഞാനിയായൊരു ശാസകൻ..... ആകുന്നു.” വാക്യം പൂർത്തിയാക്കുക.
11. "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his ____ never fail. They are new every morning." Fill in the blanks.
“നാം മുടിഞ്ഞു പോകാതിരിക്കുന്നത് അവന്റെ..... ആകുന്നു. അവന്റെ..... തീർന്നു പോയിട്ടില്ലല്ലോ.” ശൂന്യസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ പൂരിപ്പിക്കുക.
12. What was the Lord's reply through the prophet to the heart's pride of Edom?
ഏദോമിന്റെ ഹൃദയാഹങ്കാരത്തിന് യഹോവ പ്രവാചകൻ മുഖാന്തരം നൽകിയ മറുപടി എന്ത്?
13. 'I will make you like my signet ring.'" Who is this prophecy about?
“ഞാൻ നിന്നെ എടുത്തു മുദ്രമാതിരമാക്കും.” ആരെക്കുറിച്ചാണ് ഈ പ്രവചനം?
14. "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be ashamed seven days?" Who said this to whom and on what occasion?
“അവളുടെ അപ്പൻ അവളുടെ മുഖത്ത് തുപ്പിയെങ്കിൽ അവൾ ഏഴ് ദിവസം ലജ്ജിച്ചിരിക്കയില്ലയോ?” ആര് ആരോട് പറഞ്ഞു? ഏത് സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ?
15. What is the religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless?
പിതാവായ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ മുമ്പാകെ ശുദ്ധവും നിർമ്മലവുമായ ഭക്തി എന്ത്?

Questions Prepared by
Mrs. Mini James Veeramala

Obituary



Mr. George V.V. (85),
Ramamurthy Nagar (A)
Passed away on 28th August 2025.
The Bethel Mar Thoma Church expresses heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

NOTES

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the
Messiah, the Lord. - Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas



Lin Taji (RMNA)