



# ST THOMAS SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH BOSTON

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MY LORD,  
MY GOD!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ELIJAH, CROSS & MOSES  
AUGUST 31, 2008

EXALTED  
BY GOD!

## Remove evil and grow seeds of goodness

### Today's Gospel (Mt. 13:24-30,36-43)

*"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"* Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned (up) with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.

✠ Once upon a time there was a man who strayed from his own country into the world known as the Land of Fools. He soon saw a number of people flying in terror from a field where they had been trying to reap wheat. "There is a monster in that field," they told him. He looked, and saw that the "monster" was merely a watermelon.

He offered to kill the "monster" for them. When he had cut the melon from its stalk, he took a slice and began to eat it. The people became even more terrified of him than they had been of the melon. They drove him away with pitchforks, crying, "He will kill us next, unless we get rid of him."

It so happened that shortly afterward another man also strayed into the Land. But instead of offering to help the people with the "monster," he agreed with them that it must be dangerous, and by tiptoeing away from it with them he gained their confidence. He spent a long time with them in their homes until he could teach them, little by little, the basic facts which would enable them not only to lose their fear of melons, but eventually to cultivate melons themselves.

Sometimes, we are tricked by evil in like manner. "Evil" presents itself as "less harmful" or "not bad" to get entry into our self and to gain our confidence. Once inside us, our whole system is poisoned.

Goodness or evil seeps into us slowly. The education of children also happen likewise. Very small, they do not understand things, do not distinguish between good and evil. What they see their parents practise, they learn.

✠ An old farmer had plowed around a large rock in one of his fields for years. He had broken several plowshares and a cultivator on it and had grown rather morbid about the rock.

After breaking another plowshare one day, and remembering all the trouble the rock had caused him through the years, he finally decided to do something about it.

When he put the crowbar under the rock, he was surprised to discover that it was only about six inches thick and that he could break it up easily with a sledgehammer. As he was carting the pieces away, he had to smile, remembering all the trouble that the rock had caused him over the years and how easy it would have been to get rid of it sooner.

✠ A Young student approached the famous French scientist and philosopher, Blaise Pascal, and declared, "If I had your brains, I would be a better person."

Pondering the depth of that statement, Pascal paused momentarily before replying, "Be a better person, and you will have my brains."

**Today...**

11.30 am : Holy Qurbana

**Marching forward...**

**Sunday Celebration Assignments**

Today : Thirukkudumbam Family Unit

Sept. 07 : Youth

Sept. 08 : Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary

Sept. 14 : Exaltation of the Cross

Sept. 21 : Apostle Mathew

Sept. 27 : Saint Vincent De Paul

Sept. 29 : Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Readings - Aug. 31

Is. 32:1-8

Phili. 1:12-25

Mt 13:24-30, 36-43

Readings - Sept. 07

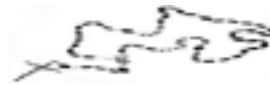
Is. 33:13-24

Phili. 2:1-11

Mt 5:1-12



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen!



**Please pray the Rosary every day in your families.**



**Blessed Euphrasia**

From the stories that her mother told her, especially about St Rose of Lima, she grew with a strong desire to practice the virtues, to suffer for Jesus and to be holy, and to do all this in a quiet, hidden manner.

**Parish Council**

Will meet next Sunday after Holy Qurbana.

**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

Classes begin on Sept. 21st, on the Feast of Apostle Mathew, the Evangelist. Please register your children beforehand.

The proposed timing for the classes will be from 10-11 am; Mass at 11 am.

**ORIENTATION FOR FAITH FORMATION TEAM**

Rev. Dr. Roy Kaduppil, Diocesan Director of Religious Education and Rev. Fr. Vinod Madathiparambil will lead the classes on Sept. 27 (afternoon) and Sept. 28.



**PLEASE** recite the **PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE AND OUR PARISH** every day in your families.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

- 02nd - Tesmol Kongalayil  
03rd- Mathew Kuzhikannil  
03rd- John Kuzhikannil  
04th - Josephine Thykkattil  
07th- Jessy Fernandez  
10th- Priya Kodenkandath  
14th - Paul Paliakkara  
14th - Bonus Thopurathu  
14th- Tessy Jeerakathil  
18th - Anette Sebastian Puthenpurackal  
19th - Sharleen Varghese  
21st - Sona Manimalakkari  
21st- Jain Andrews Moolekkariyil  
23rd - Kuriakose Vadana  
24th - Steffi Manimalakkari  
24th - Chandini Paul Muzhuthett  
27th - Betsy Mukkuzhy  
29th- Sunny Skaria Kongalayil  
30th - Lilly Fernandez  
31th - Seany Vimal Panachickal  
31st- Tissa Abraham Kakkamthottil

# MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

- 07th- Johnson & Gracy Lukose  
15th- Bonus & Reena Thopurathu  
17th- Joe & Lilly Fernandez  
17th- Shibu & Sheeba Palliparambil  
19th - Jose & Sherly Kochupurackal  
25th- Joyce & Mini Mundankal  
26th- Abraham & Tania Kakkamthottil

*May God bless them and keep them in His love and protection.*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

01st -	Jamie Fernandez
02nd-	Rhea Marie Kunnel
02nd-	Reena Thopurathu
02nd-	Chelsa Maria Jijo Potteparambil
03rd-	Reena Naduviledom
04th -	Sarah Johnson Poovathummoottil
05th -	Jose Thomas Kutticherry
07th -	Sophia John Mundackal
09th -	Christina Ellen
10th -	Christy Anthiamkulathu
10th -	Rev. Fr. Cyriac Mattathilanickal
10th -	Jewel Thomas Thekkevalavumkal
10th -	Joseph Kunnel
14th -	Samuel John Mundackal
16th -	Joshua Sebastian Puthanpurackal
16th -	Maria Benny Uppamthadathil
19th -	Rev. Fr. Raju Muringayil
20th -	Joshua Kutticherry
22nd -	Diya Ayyanimoottil
25th -	Maria Paul Mechery
25th -	Laly Uppamthadathil
25th -	Ancy Vithayathil
28th -	Andrea Malanakarot
28th -	Angel Mary Pachikara
28th -	Pradeep james Mannathamcheril
29th -	Ann Mary Kurian Arupathil
29th -	Shreya Stanley

# MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER

07th-	John & Jancy Kuzhikannil
07th-	Dinny & Shanty Pathupally
16th-	JAnish & Jasmine Malayil
24th-	Julaiton & Regina Koola
29th -	Thomas & Rekha Kodenkandath
29th-	Sino & Rani Ottalankal
30th -	Saji & Manju Parampukattil

*May God bless them and keep them in His love and protection.*



**Bl. Euphrasia  
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
(1877-1952)  
Sister of the  
Congregation of the  
Mother of Carmel**



The daughter of Anthony and Kunjethy of Eluvathingal Cherpukaran, Rose Eluvathingal was born on 17 October 1877 in the village of Kattoor, in the Diocese of Trichur, India. Her mother's deep piety and great devotion to the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, had a strong influence on little Rose from her childhood.

From the stories that her mother told her, especially about St Rose of Lima, she grew with a strong desire to practice the virtues, to suffer for Jesus and to be holy, and to do all this in a quiet, hidden manner.

During her developing years Rose began to detach herself from earthly possessions and pleasure and took a great interest in spiritual matters. This was all the more rooted in her at the age of 9 by means of an apparition of the Blessed Mother, after which the young girl offered herself totally to the Lord.

Notwithstanding the strong opposition of her father, who wanted Rose to marry into a rich family, she wanted to become a religious Sister. Her intense prayer life, which included the rosary, fasting and abstinence, as well as the rather sudden death of her younger sister, brought about a change of heart in her father, Anthony, who granted Rose permission to enter the convent.

In fact, her father accompanied her personally to the convent of the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel at Koonammavu, the first indigenous congregation of Syro-Malabars.

But even with her desire to be a Religious, Rose was often afflicted with various illnesses which caused her intense suffering. Once, during a particularly painful attack, the Sisters were resolved to send her away for ever, but through an apparition of the Holy Family she received a miraculous healing that permitted her to continue following God's call.

**Model of prayer, abandonment**

On 10 May 1897 Rose became a postulant and took the name Sr Euphrasia of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and on 10 January 1898 she received the holy habit of Carmel.

She practised the virtues of humility, charity and renunciation and grew in holiness with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For the periods of grave illness and the trials of the powers of darkness that she endured, she was rewarded by intense spiritual joys.

On 24 May 1900 St Mary's Convent was founded in the current Archdiocese of Trichur, and on the same day Sr Euphrasia made her perpetual vows to God, a day of unspeakable joy, since now she belonged for ever to her Heavenly Spouse.

From 1904 to 1913 Sr Euphrasia was entrusted with the duty of novice mistress and, sustained by the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit, she formed the future members of her Congregation. In their Mother Mistress the novices saw the heroic virtues of humility, poverty, penance, obedience and abandonment to God's will.

Although Sr Euphrasia wanted to live a hidden life, she was chosen as Superior of the Convent of St Mary at Ollur. Due to her profound humility she found it difficult to accept this new duty. But after an interior inspiration she acquired a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, placed it in the centre of the convent and entrusted the duty of Mother Superior to his Sacred Heart. She held the post from 1913 to 1916.

For almost 48 years the convent of St Mary was home to Mother Euphrasia. Observing her life of prayer and holiness, the local people called her "Praying Mother", and her Sisters in community referred to her as the "Mobile Tabernacle", because the divine presence she kept within her radiated to all she encountered.

From the first years of her Religious life, Mother Euphrasia had the blessing of the spiritual guidance of Bishop John Menacherry. He ordered her to reveal to him every aspect of her spiritual life, and he wisely kept all of her letters.

When his successor, Mar George Alappatt, retired, he entrusted the letters to the Superior of the Congregation of the Carmelites of Trichur with the prophetic words: "You will need them". In fact, they are a precious treasure and an authentic mirror of the spiritual life of this holy, humble Religious.

## **Loving Church and neighbour**

Mother Euphrasia spent much of her day in the convent chapel before the Blessed Sacrament and she also nourished a great love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary; as a result, she was naturally an apostle of the Eucharist and of the Rosary.

She was totally dedicated to love and was continually consoled by the Crucified Lord. She was the first to humble herself and to accept suffering, misunderstandings and rejection for love of Christ. Her strength came from Jesus, who had become her betrothed in spiritual matrimony as her letters testify.

From her profound union with the Lord Jesus came her capacity to give of herself to others, and so she fully incarnated the motto of her Congregation: "Remain united to me in contemplation and consecrated to me in action" (cf. Jn 15: 5).

Thus, with a pure heart Mother Euphrasia gave her maternal love and tenderness to those who sought her help. She gave them the comforting words of Jesus' Gospel and interceded for them. For each little kindness bestowed upon her she would reply, "I will not forget it, not even after death".

Mother Euphrasia had a profound sense of Church and she personally felt the sorrows and problems of the Church of her day. She offered her mortifications and penances for the conversion of schismatics and asked the novices and children to pray for them.

She prayed ardently before the Blessed Sacrament for the Holy Father, for Bishops, priests and religious.

Mother Euphrasia offered her life in sacrifice for love of God. She abandoned herself to His will and finally joined him in the heavenly embrace with her holy death on 29 August 1952.

After Mother Euphrasia's death many of those who had obtained her help during her lifetime now continued to beseech her help at her tomb. In 1990 her tomb was opened, and her mortal remains were moved to the convent chapel.

Pope John Paul II approved the Decree of the heroic virtues of the Servant of God in 2002, proclaiming her Venerable. On Sunday, 3 December 2006, she became the fifth Blessed of Kerala, India, and the sixth of the Nation of India.