

Carmel Mar Thoma Church

(A Parish of the Mar Thoma Church, Diocese of North America and Europe)

467 River Rd, Hudson, MA 01749. <http://carmelmarthomachurch.org/>

Parish Study Forum

Introduction:

The Parish Study Forum was started by Carmel Mar Thoma Church in 2013 with the conviction that every member of the parish can teach and learn and that for a Christian, study should be a life-long activity. Our parishioners offer their enthusiastic support for this venture as on an average 50 - 60 people attend a session of the Forum. The Forum generally meets on the first Sunday of every month. We follow a systematic methodology. Each session is focused on a theme and the discussion there is led by a resource person. The leader is requested to provide a synopsis of his/her presentation along with references for further reading. These materials are circulated among the parishioners beforehand so that they come prepared. Lively discussions follow the presentation by the leader. The proceedings of a session are recorded and are later edited and circulated among the members. The sessions are generally led by our own parishioners though occasionally we have guest speakers.

Dr. Jesudas Athyal is the Coordinator of the Parish Study Forum. Please see below the sessions of the Forum during the last five years along with the names of the leaders and the topics discussed.

2013

1. September 15: “The Coloring of American Christianity” (Jesudas Athyal)
2. October 27: “How to Study the Bible?” (Jesudas Athyal)
3. November 24: “Review of the book, *Churching the Diaspora, Discipling the Families* by Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius” (Jesudas Athyal)
4. December 29: “Developments in the Christian world and in the world of religions” (Jesudas Athyal)

2014

5. January 19 – “The Identity and Mission of the Mar Thoma Church in the Marketplace of American Christianity” (Dr. Jesudas Athyal)
6. Feb 23 - "A Medical, Social and Christian Understanding of Health, Healing and Wholeness, with special reference to the Affordable Care Act” (Dr. George Abraham)
7. March 23 - “Music and Worship” (Mr. Christy Mathew)
8. April 27 - “Treading Carefully on the Information Superhighway” (Mr. Vinod Johnson)
9. May 25 - “Mass Incarceration: A Christian Response” (Dr. Jesudas Athyal)
10. July 6 - “The Relevance of Neighborhood Mission and its Scriptural Basis” (Ms. Lynn Faust, Bill Burger and George Luoto; members of the Grace Baptist Church, Hudson)
11. August 17 - “A Christian Response to the Casino Debate in New England” (Dr. Greg Detwiler; Director of the Intercultural Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, Boston)

12. September 28 - "Fiscal and Economic Affairs from a Biblical perspective" (Mr. Matthew George)
13. October 19 - "The Life and Legacy of Dr. Thomas Mar Athanasius Suffragan Metropolitan: The Architect of the Diocese of North America and Europe - A Tribute on Thirumeni's birth century year" (Dr. Jesudas Athyal)
14. November 16 - "Rooted in Christ": The theme of the Diocesan Leadership Conference (Ms. Anitha Oommen & Mr. Jensen Varghese)

2015

15. January 18 – "Stem Cell Research at the Crossroads of Religion and Politics" (Dr. Elizabeth Abraham)
16. March 15 - "Science and Spirituality" (Dr. Susan Kattapuram)
17. April 12 - "The Second coming of Christ: A Study" (Ms. Seena Abraham)
18. June 21. "The Economics of Jesus and Its Implications for Us Today" (Mr. Rajan George)
19. July 19: "M. M. Thomas: The Man and His Legacy" (Rev. Dr. T. Jacob Thomas)
20. August 16 - "'Pastoral Counselling in Multicultural Contexts". (Rev. Denny Philip)
21. October 4 – "Beyond soup kitchens. The Christian obligation to understand and address the root causes of poverty" (Mr. Cecil Thomas).

2016

22. January 17 – "Faith and Citizenship in a Settler Society"(Dr. Ivy George)
23. February 21 - "Finding Faith in Serbia" (Ms. Anberin Pasha)
24. March 20 - "The History and Mechanics of Singing" (Dr. Joe Uthup)
25. April 17 - "God, Nature and Scripture" (Mr. Verghis Kattapuram)
26. June 26 - "The Church and Environment" (Dr. Theju Jacob)
27. July 17 "Women in Church and Society" (Ms. Anitha Oommen)
28. August 21 - "Science and Religion" (Mr. Vinod Johnson)

29. October 2 - "Mar Thoma Church and its Mission activities" (Rev. Manoj Idicula)
30. November 6 – "Navigating the Influences Our Children Face in School and Outside of School" (Ms. Ruth Wong)

2017

31. January 15: "Christian Responses to Complicity in Violence" (Dr. John Boopalan)
32. February 5: "Health and Wellness" (Dr. Annie Abraham)
33. March 5: "Science and the Case for Freedom" (Mr. John Abraham)
34. April 29 "Interfaith Dialogue" (Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos & others)
35. June 11: "Generational Differences in the Workplace and the Church" (Dr. George Abraham, Professor of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School)
36. July 2: "The Human and Social Factors in Public Transportation" (Dr. Siby Samuel, Assistant Professor, UMass Amherst)
37. August 6: "Palliative Care: A Christian Approach" (Dr. Molly Kurien, Co-founder, Kurian Foundation, Bangalore Baptist Hospital)
38. September 3: "The discovery of alien life may be close. How will religion survive it?"
(Dr. Santhosh Mathew, Regis College)

2018

39. January 7: "Report of Exposure Programs in South Africa"
(Ms. Elizabeth George (Sreya), Johan Sajan & Joel Sajan)
40. March 4: "Healthy Ageing: Outrunning Ageing Deficits" (Dr. John Mathai, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School)
41. July 1, 2018: "Our Work in K. C. Patty (Dr. Mary Ramasamy & Dr. Rajkumar Ramasamy, Medical doctors and social activists in an Adivasi (Tribal) village in Tamil Nadu)