

ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST
OUT SIDE KERALA REGION - CALCUTTA DIOCESE
ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2019

Time : 2 Hours

Class : VIII

Total Marks : 50

I. Answer the following:

5

- 1) What is meaning of the name Elijah? Yahweh is my God.

II. Fill in the blanks:

5

- 1) Elijah anointed Hazael as King of Syria and Jehu as King of Israel.

III. State weather True or False

2

- 1) Elijah was one of the two mortal who never died. **True / False**

IV. Define the following (Any Five)

10

- 1) How was Elijah taken up to heaven?

VI. Write briefly on any two of the following:

8

- 1) What happened at the Mount Carmel when the Ahab's sacrifice?

VII. Write a paragraph on any two of the following:

10

- 1) What are the pointers to and symbols of the Holy Qurbana in the Old Testament?

VIII. Prayer

5

IX. Hymns:

5

Unit 1: Bible Study
Lesson 6: The Election of Mathias

I. Answer the following:

- 1) In how many persons gathering did Peter speak up? During such a meeting of faithful where 120 people have assembled.
- 2) Name the land Judas bought by the wage he earned by betraying Jesus? Akhaldama
- 3) Which are the other names of Joseph? He was also known as Justus or Barsabbas
- 4) What did the believers do when the lot fell to Mathias? Mathias was included in the Apostolic Ministry.

II. Fill in the blanks:

I. State whether True or False

II. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) Peter said, 'Someone predicted Judas would lead those who will apprehend Jesus'. Whom was Peter referring as predicted this? This means that a person who firmly believes that God has incarnated and lived as a human being only can become a witness for His resurrection.
- 2) As the condition for getting elected as an Apostle, from which time the person should have been following Jesus? It is said that 'If someone has been a witness to Jesus's life on earth, he should become a witness toalso'.
- 3) The discipleship of Jesus is to those who lead a life of His witness
 - a) The election in Church should be based on prayer
 - b) The elections should be accepted in one accord once a person is Godly elected.
 - c) The church considered it as its shortfall, when there was one person less in the number of 12 Apostles. This points towards the significance of a group of priests in the church who should come up through Godly election.

III. Write briefly on any two of the following:

- 1) Explain how St. Mathias was chosen?/ Which Apostle was elected in place of Judas? Explain the process of this election. There were two people who fulfilled the criteria set for the election of new Apostle. One was Joseph. He was also known as Justus or Barsabbas. The second one was Mathias. Lot was taken from these two by submitting prayers to God. The Apostles were confident that this election was not humanly and they believed that whoever elected by lot would be a person elected by God. The lot fell to Mathias. Therefore Mathias was included in the Apostolic Ministry.
- 2) To which position did the believers pray that one should be shown? The criteria was that; the person should be one who was with other 11 Apostles in the period of incarnation of Christ from the time of His Baptism by John up to the time of ascension. This means that a person who firmly believes that God has incarnated and lived as a human being only can become a witness for His resurrection.

IV. Write a paragraph on any two of the following:

1. Who are God's disciples? Why were they elected?
2. Compare the election held in the early church with the elections in the contemporary church and explain the specialty of election in the early church.
3. Prepare an essay on the ministry of St. Mathias
4. Find out the places of mission work of St. Mathias and when he died?
5. Find out the elections that took place in the early church?

Unit 1: Bible Study
Lesson 7: Waiting for the Holy Spirit and the Pentecost
(Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-47)

I. Answer the following:

- 1) What is the meaning of the word Pentecost? The word Pentecost means 50th day
- 2) What was the other name of the Jewish festival of Pentecost? The harvest festival known as Shavoroth.
- 3) How many people were baptized on the day of Pentecost? 3000people

II. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

- 1) Create a pure heart in me, Oh Lord, **and put a new and loyal spirit in me (Ps. 51:7)**

III. State weather True or False (Any five)

IV. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) What was the promise Jesus Christ given to His disciples?
He promised that the Holy Spirit wills descent upon them and that they will be strengthened to spread the word of God.
- 2) Why the disciples of Jesus stayed in Jerusalem after the ascension of Jesus?
God has asked the disciples to live in Jerusalem until they received the power from the most high. So they with the believers lived in Jerusalem in prayer and meditation.
- 3) For what, the disciples of Jesus waiting after the His Ascension?
They waited to receive the word of God with preparation; they were powered with the Holy Spirit for they waited in prayer and preparation.
- 4) What is the importance Jews Pentecost?
This is actually the harvesting festival of Jews. This day was also commemorated as the day on which the Israelites received the Ten Commandments through Moses from God.
- 5) What are the two points explained by St.Peter to the people on the day of Pentecost?
 - (i) The prophets in the Old Testament have already talked about the arrival of Holy Spirit.
 - (ii) The Holy Spirit was sent after Jesus has risen and ascends into heaven. Hence he pleaded the people to born again and baptize in the name of Jesus Christ.
- 6) What was the result on the day of Pentecost?
It was the first day of the growth of Church. It was also the day on which the disciples became courageous who were otherwise remained afraid after the death of Jesus. About 3000 people were baptized on that single day.
- 7) How the Church considered the Pentecost?
The Church considers Pentecost as a day on which the fullness of Holy Trinity was revealed. We should utilize the feast of Pentecost as a day for reviving the Holy Spirit which we received through our Baptism and also to remember the incidence happened on the day of Pentecost

V. Write a paragraph each (any three)

- 1) In which form the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples Explain the incidents took place on the day of Pentecost?

On the day of Pentecost, suddenly they heard a sound like the blowing of a violent wind at the place where they gathered. The disciples saw what seemed to be tongues in fire that separated and came to rest on them. There were people from different nations who spoke different languages living in Jerusalem. When they heard the sound, they came together and were utterly amazed at what they saw. They were perplexed because the disciples who were illiterate spoke in languages they were not familiar with. Every one gathered there has understood the speech in their own languages. When people started talking in other languages some people from the crowd ridiculed them saying they are drunk. Peter stood up as a representative for the disciples and talked to them.

- 2) Explain what we learn about the operation of the Holy Spirit from the happenings on the Pentecost day?
- (i) It was the Holy Spirit, who is the third in the Holy Trinity came upon the disciples.
 - (ii) It was power that the disciples received on the day of Pentecost made them to spread the gospel all over the world.
 - (iii) The presence of Holy Spirit is essential in our personal and spiritual life.
 - (iv) Talking in other tongues does not mean to talk in a language which no one else understands. The new churches teach like that. The disciples talked on the day of Pentecost different languages, which probably have scripts and understood by others. It is important that whatever the disciples talked, the people understood in their own language.
 - (v) The day of Pentecost marked the inauguration of the Church. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of order and decorum and not disorder.

Unit 1: Bible Study
Lesson 8: Life in the early Church
(Acts. 4:32 -35, 2:42-47)

I. Answer the following:

- 1) What caused a transformation in life style of early Christians?
The early church had to follow some of the life style and pattern of the Jews

II. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

- 1) The group of believers was **one in mind and heart**. No one said that any of his belongings was his own (Acts. 4:32).

III. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) Which are the four things the early Christians strictly followed in their life?
(i) devoted themselves to the teachings of Apostles
(ii) took part in fellowship
(iii) took part in breaking of bread
(iv) spent time in prayers.
- 2) What was notable in the life style of early Church? The believers in the early listened to the words of Apostles. The believers respected the powers received by the Apostles from our Lord Jesus.
- 3) What are the symbols of early Church? The powers of Apostles were the first and foremost symbol of the Church. The second symbol could be identified was the unity among them.
- 4) How did they treat their wealth? They were of one mind, one heart and one soul. They assembled in the temple of Jerusalem with this unity. They decided not to have any discrimination among them based on wealth. They treated all their private properties as common for all; sold them out and brought the money to the Apostles. The Apostles distributed it for the needy among them.
- 5) What is meant by house churches? The disciples assembled the day on which Jesus had risen from the dead and spent time in prayers and breaking bread. During that time, there were no Churches. The believers gathered in certain houses for the prayer and breaking of bread. It was known as house churches

IV. Write a paragraph each (any three)

- 1) Why the early church is considered as a model for future generations? The first Christian community gave importance in prayers and praising God. They have arranged the services in the pattern of prayers in Jewish synagogue. The early church had to face lot of difficulties and persecutions, but they could overcome them with the power of prayers. They followed a life based on worship which was distinguished them from others. The early church can be considered as a model to Christian society.
- 2) Explain the relevance of the life style of early Christian in the contemporary church?
(i) We should be able to follow the specialties of early church.
(ii) We should be able to share and care for others individually and as a Church.
(iii) The life style of Christians was Christ centered.
(iv) They had a clear understanding about the powers of Apostles. This power is continued in our Church through the priesthood.
(v) A model Christian life is based on worshipping God. The church is called for praising God and to lead a life towards the Kingdom of God.
(vi) The church should be fulfilled with justice, peace and love which are the specialties of God.

Unit 1: Bible Study
Lesson 9: Stephen and Philip
(Acts 6,7,8)

I. Answer the following:

- 1) What is the meaning of the word 'deacon'? 'One who serves'
- 2) What is other in Syriac? The Syriac word for deacon is 'msamsono'
- 3) Who were the seven deacons of early Church? They were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon Parmenas and Nicolaus
- 4) Which was the road where Philip met the eunuch? Philip to go to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza.
- 5)

II. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

III. State weather True or False (Any five)

IV. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) What was the eligibility of deacons? People who were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. The responsibility of deacons is to help in the worship. These deacons who were elected and placed for the service of Church have served Christ through great sufferings.
- 2) Stephen was accused blasphemy against whose teaching? They accused him with the charge of blasphemy against the Law of Moses. The Jewish leaders seized Stephen and brought him before the council. Stephen made a speech and revealed that it was Jewish leaders doing blasphemy by derogating the prophets sent by God
- 3) As per Acts 6:15 and find how Stephen's face looked like when council members looked at him? All who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.
- 4) What was Stephen's prayer when he was stoned? They took Stephen out and stoned him to death. Stephen kept on praying not to remember this sin against them.
- 5) In which city did Philip spread the gospel first? Philip spread the gospel of God after the death of Stephen in the city of Samaria.
- 6) Name the deacons of early Church. What were the criteria for becoming deacon? people who were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. They were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon Parmenas and Nicolaus. The Apostles prayed and placed their hands on them.
- 7) Explain the speech of **St.Stephen**: Stephen made a speech and revealed that it was Jewish leaders doing blasphemy by derogating the prophets sent by God.
- 8)

V. Write a paragraph each (any three)

- 1) Prepare a brief note on **St.Stephen**: Stephen and Philip were the most important among the seven deacons. St. Stephen as illustrious saint Stephen, chief of the deacons, and the first of the martyrs. Stephen became a great propagator of Jesus and performed great miracles and wonders among the people. Many people believed in Jesus by seeing the life and words of Stephen. His style of functioning was one filled with wisdom and Spirit. So no one could resist his words.

The Jewish leaders became afraid of the works of Stephen and suborned against him. They accused him with the charge of blasphemy against the Law of Moses. The Jewish leaders seized Stephen and brought him before the council. Stephen made a speech and

revealed that it was Jewish leaders doing blasphemy by derogating the prophets sent by God. The members of the council became furious against Stephen. Stephen remained calm as Jesus stood in trial. He said, "I see heaven opened and the son of man standing at the right-hand side of God".

They took Stephen out and stoned him to death. Stephen kept on praying not to remember this sin against them. The martyrdom of Stephen has given a new direction to the Church. The church faced more persecutions but it spread to different areas. He was the first martyr in the name of Christ. We commemorate his memory on January 8.

- 2) Prepare a note on the **Life and mission work of St. Philip**: Philip was called as a deacon along with Stephen. Philip spread the gospel of God after the death of Stephen in the city of Samaria. He did many miracles and brought a lot of people to Christ. People like Simon who was a miscreant and witch-doctor also became Christian.

One day an angel of the Lord said to Philip to go to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. That day an Ethiopian eunuch, who was in charge of the treasury of queen of Ethiopia was on his way to home. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God and going back home in his carriage. Philip went near to the carriage and stayed close to it. The eunuch was reading from the book of prophet Isaiah without understanding what was written the book (Is. 53:7,8). Philip explained that what mentioned in the text was about Jesus Christ and all the propesies has been fulfilled in Jesus. Hearing the good news about Jesus the eunuch got baptized from Philip. Philip went on to Caesarea and spread the gospel in all the villages on the way. He attracted many people to Jesus including Jews, people from other religions including servants from palaces. He had four daughters and all of them proclaimed God's message (Acts 21:7,8).

- 3) Which place Nocolaus belonged to?
- 4) Who wanted to have the Holy Spirit by paying money?
- 5) What are the lessons you internalize from the lives of these two deacons?

Unit 1: Bible Study
Lesson 10: The Missionary Work of Saint Peter
(Acts 3, 5, 9)

I. Answer the following:

- 1) What was the first miracle done by St. Peter? The lame person who was begging in the Church Gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate.
- 2) Where the lame person was begging in the Church? Gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate
- 3) How many people joined the Church on the day of Pentecost? 3000 people joined the Church
- 4) Who was the lame person Peter healed? A man lame from birth
- 5) Which was the place where Peter raised a woman from death? Joppa
- 6) What is the meaning of the word 'Tabitha'? Greek is Dorcas
- 7) Who was Tabitha? Tabitha was a disciple; she was devoted to good works and acts of charity.

8)

II. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

III. State weather True or False (Any five)

IV. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) How the man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, healed? Peter went in Lydda, There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed!" And immediately he got up.
- 2) What are the lessons you learnt from the life of St.Peter?
 - (i) We have also received the Holy Spirit and we should stand strong as Peter.
 - (ii) The Lord will not give us up in our difficulties
 - (iii) The miracles and healing in Christian life should not aim at personal gain, it should be for the glorification of God's name only.
 - (iv) We would be able to take good decisions when we stand firm on Christ
- 3) Who has paved way for the gentiles to join Church? Explain the event related to this. During the early days only Jews have joined the Church. It was the work of Peter that brought gentiles also to the Church. He baptized the first Gentile, a man named Cornelius and won the support from Gentiles, Peter helped to shape the early policy towards them. Peter's act initially invited opposition from those Christians who were converted from Jews. But Peter was firm in his action. Thus lots of gentiles joined the Church.
- 4) How St. Peter died? What is your opinion about his death? Peter was crucified in Rome under Emperor Nero Augustus Caesar. It is traditionally held that he was crucified upside down at his own request, since he saw himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus.
- 5) Compare Peter's behavior before and after he denied Jesus: Peter denied Jesus for three times (Jn.8:15-19). But he became a powerful person after receiving the Holy Spirit. He stood as the lone spokes person of early church

I. Write a paragraph each (any three)

- 1) Describe the event in which Peter healed the lame person who was begging in the Church Gate? In the first miracle performed by Peter; he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.
- 2) Describe about the disciple Tabitha? When Peter was in Lydda and Sharon, in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, she was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside her, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas (Tabitha) had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord
- 3)
 1. Explain the speech made by Peter:
 2. What was the specialty Peter had as the Chief among the disciples?

Unit 2: PRAYER
Lesson 11: ANGELIC HYMN

I. Answer the following:

1. What is the meaning of the word 'Angel'? Angel means messenger, emissary or ambassador.
- 2) Angelic Prayer is a part of which prayer? Angelic prayer is a part of night time prayer which we use along with the Morning Prayer
- 3) Why this prayer is known as angelic hymn? Our Church fathers have arranged this prayer for us so that we would also praise God as the angels praise God in heaven.

II. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) How many types of Angels are there? What are they? There are nine types of angels, they are: Seraphim (Is.6), Cherubim (Ezek 10:3,5), Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels (Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael), Angels (Gen.21:17)
- 2) What are the roles of Angels? The roles of angels can be summarized as follows: (i) Praising God in heaven, (ii) Always remain ready to obey the will of God, (iii) Conveys the will of God to human, (iv) Protect people
- 3) What was the dream which Prophet Isaiah saw? Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled with temple. Above him were Seraphs each with six wings praising God.

III. Write a paragraph each (any three)

- 1) Which are the occasions where angelic hymn is used in our services? (i) During the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) to remember praises of angels at the time of the birth of Jesus (while putting incense in the fire), (ii) Funeral service symbolizing the soul of the dead person is given in the hands of Angels. (iii) Feast of Epiphany, Hosanna (Palm Sunday), Good Friday and Easter during the exaltation of the cross facing four sides (Haud Malache..)
- 2) Explain the important thoughts in the prayer- 'angelic hymn':
 - (a) **Praise to Holy Trinity:** The purpose of human life is to praise God similar to what angels do. The content of angelic hymn is praises to Trinity. The true praise is the Trinitarian praise. In this prayer different attributes are given to Holy Trinity. When we praise God in the true manner, the sanctity of God fills in us and we get purified and transformed.
 - (b) **Peace on Earth:** The prayer has special appeals for peace on earth and submission of people before God.
- 3) Which are words used for trinity in this Angelic (hymn) prayer?
 - (i) Lord the God, the only son
 - (ii) Son of the father
 - (iii) Word
 - (iv) One who carry the sins of the world
 - (v) Lamb of God
 - (vi) Sat on the right hand of the father in great glory
 - (vii) Saint
 - (viii) Responsibility for the glory of God

Unit 2: Prayer
Lesson 13: Prayer at Sutoro
(4th Psalm)

1. What is the meaning of 'sutoro'? Sutoro means protection.
2. Which prayer is called Sutoro prayer? The prayer before going to bed is called sutoro.
3. Why shall we pray sutoro? Sutoro is the prayer through which we seek God's protection. How did King David obtained comfort in afflictions? King David was a man who had faced many problems in the life. On all such occasions, he was in the habit of depending on God and finding comfort there
4. What are the peculiarities of true devotees? A true believer will always have special consideration and protection from the Lord. He will use his devotees to accomplish His will. His ear will be always open towards His dear ones.
5. What is the harm of false love? False love and flattering will not stand for ever.
6. Where can we get true love? Lord gives the light of His face to his devotees.

Unit 3: Liturgical Hymns
Lesson 15: Office of the Dead

1. Which Psalm is recited at the beginning of the kukilion for the departed laity? Psalms 103:13&15.
2. Who is the prince who comes in clouds to give life to the dead? The prince who gives life to the dead comes in glory in clouds.
3. What is the meaning of the word 'sthoumenkalos'? Sthoumenkalos means 'let us stand well',
4. What is the meaning of the word kurielaison means? 'Lord have mercy on me'.

Unit 4: My Church
Lesson 17: The Holy Church (Upto 5th Century)

Persecutions, Synods

I. Answer the following:

1) Name the emperors who persecuted Christians? Jews and Roman emperors.

II. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

III. State weather True or False (Any five)

IV. Define the following (Any Five)

1) Explain the persecutions Christians suffered in the early Church?

(i) When the Jews came to know that the Christian Church was different from that of their own they started persecuting Christians.

(ii) The Roman emperors, however, they began to in persecute the faithful later and it turned to be the most severe persecution.

2) Which were the first three Universal Councils?

(1) The Synod of Nicea (A.D. 325)

(2) The Synod of Constantinople (A.D. 381)

(3) Synod of Ephesus (A.D. 431)

3) What were the reasons for convening the universal Synods? The divisions in the Church caused disturbances within and outside the Roman Empire. As a result of this, emperors and political authorities began to meddle in the affairs of the Church. Finally, as a remedial measure to this, universal Synods were convened.

I. Write a paragraph each (any three)

1) What were the heretical teachings the earlier Church had to confront?

The arguments put forward by Arians were:

(a) The Son is not equal to the Father;

(b) The Son and the Holy Spirit are not absolutely perfect;

(c) The Son who was created is not eternal;

(d) There was a period when the Son was non-existent;

(e) The Father is the only real God and hence the Son is neither complete God nor complete Man.

2) What are the reasons for the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperors?

The following were the reasons which provoked the Roman emperors:

(i) The suspicion that Christians were not obedient to the Roman Gods and the emperor.

(ii) The reluctance shown by the Christians to offer sacrifice to the Roman Gods;

(iii) The unwillingness shows by Christians for military service; and

(iv) The misunderstandings about the worship followed by the Christians.

3) What are the main challenges to the faith and Divisions in the Church?

The main challenges to the faith were the following:

(i) Gnosticism - salvation is possible through acquiring knowledge.

(ii) Montanism – the argument that montanus was the Holy Spirit.

(iii) Schosm of those who allegedly betrayed the faith during the persecution.

(iv) Manikkianism – body and the activities of the body are completely evil.

(v) Monarchianism – taught that God was unipersonal rather than Trinitarian.

These diverse teachings caused divisions in the Church which were partly solved in the Universal Church Council.

1. What are the issues of discussion and resolutions in the universal Councils?
 - a. **The Synod of Nicea (A.D. 325):** The Synod of Nicea convened by the emperor Constantine in A.D.325 was the first universal Synod. 318 church fathers participated in it and discussed and rejected the heterodox teachings of Arius. The Council rejected the arguments of Arians and formulated the first two paragraphs of the proclamation of faith (creed) and a few canons as well
 - b. **The Synod of Constantinople (A.D. 381):** The purpose of the Synod of Constantinople convened in A.D.381 was to confirm the resolutions formulated in the Synod of Nicea and to reject the heretic teachings by Appolinarius, the bishop of Laodicea and Macdonias, the bishop of Constantinople (Macedonianism). This Council convened by the Emperor Theodosius had the participation of 150 Church fathers, and the resolutions were authenticated by 148 of them. The Synod modified the proclamation of faith formulated in the Synod of Nicea and confirmed it. A few cannons laws were also passed in the Council.
 - c. **Synod of Ephesus (A.D. 431):** In this Synod convened by the Roman Emperor Theodosius II in A.D. 431, 198 Church fathers participated. The purpose of the Synod was to reject the heretic teachings of Nestorius, the Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council rejected the argument of Nestorius and categorically declared Virgin Mary as the Theotokos (Mother of God).

Unit 4: My Church

Lesson 19: The Malankara Church upto 10th Century (Copper Plates)

I. Answer the following:

II. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

III. State weather True or False (Any five)

IV. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) What are the rights and privileges obtained through *Knai* Thomman plate? Relatives and religious followers of *Knai* Thomman are provided with some special rights and royal privileges also by virtue of this plate.
- 2) What is 'Vattezhuth'? The language 'Vattezhuth', a form of ancient Tamil script which was prevalent in Tamizhakam from 6th-14th centuries
- 3) Give an account about Iravikorthan copper plates: This was issued to Iravikorthan by the king Veeraraghava and hence it is called as 'Veeraraghava Pattayam'. A.D. 230, 680, 775 and 1320 are attributed to this. At present, this plate is under the custody of Malankara Orthodox Church

V. Write a paragraph each (any three)

- 1) What are the rights and privileges obtained through Iravikorthan copper plates? According to this, Christians were entitled to enjoy esteemed social status on par high caste the Hindus. The plate granted many rights and powers to Iravikorthan like the leadership (Perumchetty) at 'Manigramam', trade rights, power to collect taxes, authority over slaves etc.
- 2) Identify the copper plates issued to the Christians in Kerala?
 - Indicates the status and esteemed position enjoyed by the Christians.
 - Indicates the social status of Christians.
 - Proves the loyalty of Christians.
 - Throws light on the trade efficiency and integrity of Christians.
 - Indicates that the kings considered Christians as than asset to the economy of the State.
- 3) What are the evidences for *Knai* Thomman plate? This plate is believed to be issued to *Knai* Thomman who migrated from Persia by Kochera Koran Perumal. A.D. 345, 774 and 882 are attributed to this plate. The original plate is missing, but an English translation (by the Portuguese) is kept in the British museum. By this plate, Mahadevan town (Kodungallur) and the church in it were bestowed to *Knai* Thomman and successors besides some titles.
- 4) Give an account about Tarisappalli copper plates: These are two copper plates issued by the then ruler of Kollam Ayyanadikal Thiruvadikal. The first one was issued in A.D. 849 to the St. Thomas Christians in Kollam and the second one was issued in A.D. 883 to the Jewish Christians, it is believed. Some plates are missing at present; the rest are with the Malankara Orthodox Church and the Marthomite Church.

Unit 6: Elements of Faith

Lesson 24: Communion with the Faithful Departed

I. Answer the following:

II. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

III. State whether True or False (Any five)

IV. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) It is correct to say 'departed' rather than 'dead'. Why? The word 'departed' is meant that to take leave from one place or one state of existence. According to Christian faith, it is better to say 'departed' instead of 'dead'.
- 2) What is the status of departed ones? (i) The departed are active they and continue in their faith in Christ. (ii) They are nearer Christ. (iii) They are in a state which enables them to please the Christ. (iv) They worship continuously. (v) They continue to enjoy the love of God. (vi) They could get transformed, on listening to the "Gospel" of Christ.

V. Write a paragraph each (any three)

- 1) Why is it say that departed are to have attained the state of 'sleep' and are in rest? While one is sleeping, though the external senses are inactive the internal organs are active. The same may be attributed to the departed also, i.e. they have retired from worldly activities and hence they are considered as under 'sleep' and 'rest'. However, they are active in the spiritual state and they are capable to wax or wane. Hence, at the time of judgment the Lord considers all the activities undertaken by them till then. All except those who have confessed and relieved of sins will be noted.
- 2) What is the nature of the communion that the living can have with the departed? Communication between the departed and the living is not possible by physical means. But, as both the groups are part of the one body of Christ and active, though in two different states, it is possible to have communion in Christ in worship and prayers.
- 3) "As the departed righteous ones are alive in Christ, we continue to pray" Explain. The saintly people had been praying for others during their lifespan on earth. Though they departed they are alive. '...he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die ...' (John 11: 25-26). According to this, the saintly people are alive and their only task is to pray for the world to Jesus Christ. They are worshipping God relentlessly (Revelation 7:13-15). The scriptures remind us that, 'we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1) and that while grouping together for worship we are closed to 'the spirits of just men made perfect' (Hebrews 12:23).

Unit 7: Acquaintance with Great Personalities
Lesson 27: Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius II or Dionysius V

I. Answer the following:

- 1) Was Dionysius II related to Pulikkottil Dionysius I? He was the son of Tharu Kurian who was the son of the younger brother of Pulikkottil I.
- 2) When did Joseph Mar Dionysius (Pulikkottil II) leave the eternal life? On 12th July 1909 and was entombed at the northern side of the Old Seminary

II. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

III. State whether True or False (Any five)

IV. Define the following (Any Five)

- 1) Name the Metropolitans who adorned the throne of Malankara Church between the reigning periods of Pulikkottil I and Pulikkottil II? Pulikkottil I was designated as Dionysius II. After him two more bishops adorned the throne of the Church as Malankara metropolitans, namely Punnathra Mar Dionysius III (1817-1825) and Cheppad Mar Dionysius IV (1825-1855).
- 2) What was Brahmar-Goa Mission? A priest from Roman Church (Old Catholics) ordained as bishop as Alvaris Mar Yoolios and a priest from Presbyterian Church too was ordained and designated as Rinivilati Mar Timotios and posted to Goa and America respectively.
- 3) To whom Pulikkottil II appointed as his successor? Towards the end of his life the Metropolitan appointed Vattasseril Mar Dionysius as his successor and transferred the responsibilities of the Church to him.

V. Write a paragraph each (any three)

1. Why did Fr. Joseph approach the Patriarch of Antioch for getting ordained as bishop? Joseph was ordained as deacon by Cheppad Mar Dionysius at Kothamangalam church on 6th October 1846 and on 18th August 1853 ordained a priest by Metropolitan Yuyakim Mar Kurilos at Challiserry church. During the same period, Mathews Mar Athanasios who led the Reform movement was ordained as bishop by Antioch. He argued that the fact he was ordained by the Syrian Patriarch made him eligible for royal recognition. Hence in order to counter the claim, Pulikkottil II also travelled upto Amed suffering a lot of hardship to get ordained by the Patriarch of Antioch. He and his fellow traveler Fr. Mattummal Geevarghese were infected with a serious illness and Fr. Geevarghese died. Fr. Joseph was ordained as Joseph Mar Dionysius by the Syrian Patriarch Yakub II.
2. Explain the background of the formation of the 'Mar Thoma Church.' When Pulikkottil II arrived after ordained as bishop another metropolitan was adorning the throne of the Malankara Church. That was Mathews Mar Athanasios ordained by Antioch. He tried to adopt protestant faith and leave the age old faith and traditions of the Malankara Church. However, Pulikkottil Dionysius II was from against any deviation from the Orthodox Faith. He reversed the corrections made by the reformers in Liturgical Books. In the meanwhile, the Church petitioned the king to declare Mar Dionysius as the legitimate Metropolitan of Malankara. Finally, the judgment of the royal court came in 1889 which recognized Pulikkottil Dionysius II as the legitimate Malankara Metropolitan. However, it led to the formation of another Church in Malankara called the 'Marthoma Church.'

3. What was the important decision at the Mulanthuruthy synod? It several ways the Synod of Mulanthuruthy was beneficial to the development of the Church. It was this Synod that paved way for developing a democratic system in the administration of the Church like the formation of Malankara Syrian Christian Association, Managing Committee, Priest Trustee, Lay Trustee etc. The seven dioceses formed were Kandanad, Kochi, Angamaly, Kottayam, Niranam, Thumpamon and Kollam.
4. What was important event in the Synod in Mulanthuruthy year 1876? The Synod in Mulanthuruthy in the year 1876 was an important event during the reign of Pulikkottil II. Patriarch Peter II arrived from Antioch took unlawful and undue interest in convening the Malankara Synod. He wanted to establish spiritual as well as temporal supremacy over the Malankara Church. The Metropolitan's deep faith in God and ardent prayers helped him overcome the crisis without causing much tension. The Malankara Church was divided into seven dioceses and six new bishops were ordained. Pulikkottil Metropolitan was neither allowed to involve in these processes nor did he participate on his own. However, once the Patriarch left all the newly ordained bishops accepted the status of the Malankara Metropolitan and accepted his leadership as the Primate of the Church. Geevarghese Mar Gregorious of Parumala was one among the six bishops ordained by the Syrian Patriarch.
5. What are the developments effected by Pulikkottil Dionysius II in the Church during the 44 years of reign, that is from 1865 to 1909? The developments effected by the Metropolitan in the Church during the 44 years of reign, that is from 1865 to 1909, helped the Church to progress a lot. The Parumala Seminary was established and the Mar Gregorious Parumala had his head quarters there. The activities of Pulikkottil II extended beyond the limits of the Malankara Church. The establishment of more than 250 schools helped the renaissance of the downtrodden all over Kerala through education. The printing presses, journalistic initiatives, Publication of Book etc. contributed immensely to the cultural progress of Kerala. The activities like Malayali Memorial, Malankara People's Movement (*Malankara Mahajanasabha*) helped in the entry of people other than Brahmins in government jobs.
Spiritual movements like Sunday School, Students' Movement, Evangelical Society etc. also started during the reign of this Metropolitan. Missionary works outside the Church like Brahmavar-Goa Mission etc. were also initiated by him.
6. How do you understand the contributions of the Metropolitan to the society as a whole? The Pulikkottil II Metropolitan guided the Church during the strong incursion of reformists and the efforts of Antioch for establishing supremacy in Malankara. The fruits of the contributions of the Metropolitan who was known for deep faith on God, acumen and wisdom, foresightedness, hard work, humanness, keenness in evangelism, social renaissance etc. are still visible in the body of the Malankara Church.

Lesson 28: CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

VI. Answer the following:

VII. Fill in the blanks: (Any Five)

VIII. State whether True or False (Any five)

IX. Define the following (Any Five)

X. Write a paragraph each (any three)

Class 8: Annual Examination Prayer

Prayer of Mor Severios

O Lord, who sittest in the secret place of the Most High, shelter us beneath the shadow of the wings of Thy mercy, and have compassion upon us.

Thou, who hearest all things, in Thy loving kindness, hearken to the supplication of thy servants. Grant us O Messiah; our Savior! A peaceful evening and a sinless night.

For Thou art a glorious king, and unto Thee, are our eyes lifted up. Forgive our debts and our sins; have mercy upon us, both in this world and in that to come.

May thy loving kindness shelter us, O Lord and Thy grace be upon our faces. May Thy + cross protect us, from the evil one and his hosts.

Let Thy right hand overshadow us all the days of our lives and Thy peace reign among us. Do Thou give hope and salvation to the souls that pray to Thee.

By the prayers of St. Mary, Thy Mother, and of all Thy Saints, O God, forgive us our debts, and have mercy upon us. –Amen

OR

Mahonnathante maravilirikunnavanaaya Karthaave! Ninte anugrahathinte chirakukalude nizhalin keezhil njangale marachu njangalodu karuna cheyyaname.

Sakalavum kelkunnavane! ninte anugrahathaal ninte adiyarude apeksha kelkkaname.

Mahatvamulla rajavaayum njangalude rakshakanumaaya mashiha! Nirappu niranjirikkunna sandhyayum punyamulla raavum njangalkku nee tharenaname.

Njangalude kannukal ningalekku nokkikondirikkunnu. Njangalude kadangalum paapangalum nee punyappeduthi ee lokathilum aa loka thilum njangalodu karuna cheyyaname.

Karthaave ninte karuna njangale marachu ninte krupa njangalude mupil nilkkaname. Ninte sleebha + dhushtanil ninum avante sainyangalil ninum njangale kaathukollaname.

Njangal jeevanodirikkunna naalukalokkeyum ninte valathukai njangalude mel aavasippikkaname.

Ninte samaadhanam njangalude idayil vaazhumaa raakenaname. Ninnodapekshikkunna aatmaakkalkku saranavum rakshayum undaakananame.

Ninne prasavicha mariyaaminteyum ninte sakala parisudhan maarudeyum praarthanayaal, Daivame njangalude kadangalkku nee parihaaram undaakki njangalodu karuna cheyyaname. **Amen.**

Hymn:

Fear not we the evil one
For the Lord abides with us
With His armor we are clad
And in it we all take pride **Barekmor**

The cross upon His shoulder
Departed He from Zion
Let drop His dew of mercy
Upon the bones departed **Moríyo Rahemelain.....**
Praise to Jesus, crucified
On Calvary in Zion

Cried he loud and rocks were rent –
The dead arose with praises

OR

Naadhan koottayullathinaal-
Dushtane njam pedikilla
Than dhivyayudhadharikalam
Nammalkunnathiyundakum. **Barekmor**
Sleebhaye tholil thaangi
Seeyonilninum poyon
Mrutharthannasthikalinmeethe
Choriyatte karunappanineer. **Moriyo Rahemelain.....**
Yerusalem gogulthaayil
Kroosithanameeso sthrotham
Paara pilarnnu than dhwaniyal Mruthareri sthrothram paadi.