



**DHARMARAM VIDYA KSHETRAM  
(DVK)**

Pontifical Athenaeum  
Dharmaram College  
Bangalore 560029

**FACULTY OF THEOLOGY  
Placid Podipara Centre for Eastern  
and Indian Christian Studies  
(PPCEICS)**



**DENHA ENDOWMENT LECTURES 2014-2015**

**Speaker**

**Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Palackal, CMI**

**Theme**

**The Syriac Heritage and the Faith Formation of  
the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Bangalore**

**Date**

**Saturday July 19, 2014**

**Venue**

**DVK Research Centre, Pastor Herbert Kringe Auditorium**

## **Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Palackal, CMI**

A former student of Dharmaramam Vidya Kshetram, hails from the family of Palackal Thoma Malpan, one of the founders of the CMI Congregation. He holds an M.A. in Psychology and Ph.D. in Music and he is an indic musicologist, singer and composer. He is also the Founder-President of the Christian Musicological Society of India, and *Nadopasana*, Thodupuzha. The Master's thesis he wrote at Hunter College, New York, became a foundational work for launching a Christian musicology of India. His dissertation, *Syriac Chants in South India*, became the first doctoral study of a Christian music genre in India. Dr. Palackal is the author of articles on Indian Christian music in several international journals and three encyclopedias. He is the lead singer in more than forty releases in five languages, including Sanskrit and Syriac. His internationally acclaimed documentary film, *Kerala: the Cradle of Christianity in South Asia*, is a pioneering attempt to educate the Western world about the uniqueness of Indian Christianity. Commissioned by the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church, Dr. Palackal co-composed the English text of the Solemn High Mass for the use of the Syro-Malabar Catholics in the English-speaking parts of the world. Dr. Palackal has already carved a niche for himself in the vast history of Indian music. Through his stage performances, commercial research recordings, lectures, workshops and writings, he has linked the musical geography of Christianity to India and has aroused the curiosity of both scholars and laymen alike. By doing so, he has initiated a new discourse on the Christian dimension of the country. Currently Dr. Palackal is serving as Associate Pastor at St Stanislaus Kostka Church in New York, and is completing his book, *Syriac Chants in South India: Toward Remapping the Musical Geography of a Country*.

**Placid Podipara Centre for Eastern and Indian Christian Studies (PPCEICS)** is one of the Centres of Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram (DVK) directly under the Faculty of Theology. Fr. Placid Podipara CMI, one of the luminaries of the St Thomas Christians, worked hard for the restoration of the rightful autonomy and genuine identity of the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Churches. By renaming the Centre for Eastern and Indian Christian Studies (CEICS) as Placid Podipara Centre for Indian and Eastern Christian Studies, DVK is perpetuating the memories of Rev. Fr. Placid Podipara and his legacy. This Centre aims at the in depth study of Indian and Eastern genius, paving the way for re-discovering the roots of and appreciating the fruits of the Churches of St Thomas Christian tradition. PPCEICS makes a humble attempt to integrate the Indian and Eastern ethos to bear witness to Christ in a more effective and meaningful way in the multi-religious, multi-ecclesial and multi-cultural contexts of India. DVK, administered by the CMI Congregation of the St Thomas tradition, has the obligation and duty to empower and enlighten the migrant Thomas Christians.

**Denha Endowment Lectures** is an initiative to disseminate the pearls of Eastern and Indian genius to the seekers of wisdom, especially migrant Thomas Christians. This annual programme is envisaged to impart the experiential knowledge of the celebration of the Mar Toma Margam . The lectures aim at deepening the consciousness of the apostolic heritage of the St Thomas Christians. The solemn celebration of *Raza* and *Ramsa* will help the participants to appreciate and assimilate the ethos of *Mar Toma Margam*. The Christian faith our ancestors had received from Apostle Thomas is a great treasure handed over to us through the tradition from generation to generation. Denha Lectures aim to provide an ambience for faith formation in the apostolic faith experience of *Mar Toma Sliha*, especially in the context of the Bangalore Thomas Christians.

## PROGRAMME

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| 9.30 am  | Inauguration   |
| 10.00 am | Talk 1. The Syriac Heritage and the Faith Formation  |
| 11.00 am | Tea/ Coffee  |
| 11.15 am | Solemn Celebration of <i>Raza</i>                    |
| 1.00 pm  | Lunch  |
| 2.30 pm  | Preservation of the Syriac Heritage: Aramaic Project |
| 3.30 pm  | Solemn <i>Ramsa</i>                                  |
| 4.00 pm  | Tea/ Coffee, Departure                               |

Dear Friends,

We are glad to invite you to participate in the *Denha* Endowment Lectures in order to rediscover the identity of our Christian existence in the context of Bangalore. The participation is open to all, free of cost. Looking forward to meet you all on Saturday July 19, 2014. Your participation may be confirmed either through the following telephone numbers or through the emails.

**Francis Thonippara, CMI**  
Director, PPCEICS  
fthonippara@gmail.com  
9480582973; 080-41116230

**Geo Pallikunnel, CMI**  
080-41116209  
pallikunnelcmi@hotmail.com