



[AP 201 - Bishop Mar Thomas Tharayil: Syriac Hymns and Kyananas during Bilingual Qurbana](#)

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Call Number	AP 201
Part Number	Part I – Syro Malabar Church
Title	Bishop Mar Thomas Tharayil: Syriac Hymns and Kyananas during Bilingual Qurbana.
Duration	23:25
Place of Recording	Arch Bishop's House Chapel, Changanserry
Date of Recording	19 April 2020
Youtube URL	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C98-ruKKwY8
Video Segment(s)	

Notes

Bishop Mar Thomas Tharayil: Syriac Hymns and Kyananas during Bilingual Qurbana.

A return to a transitional period in the history of the [Syro Malabar Church](#).

In the 1960s, when the [Syro Malabar Church](#) translated the liturgy into Malayalam, Many priests continued to incorporate specific prayers in Syriac. For many years, most of the priests recited the Institution narrative in Syriac. By doing so, they felt a connection to the Passover meal on Holy Thursday. Priests became sentimental in repeating the exact words that Jesus uttered at the Last Supper. As time went on, those sentiments diminished. The new generation of priests, who did not receive Syriac literacy training, did not share the sentiments of the older priests. Slowly and steadily, the idea of bilingual Qurbana faded, and priests and people did not miss the olden days. Fast forward to the beginning of the twenty-first century, The Syriac language and music began to get attention. The release of the audio CD, [Qambel Maran](#): Syriac chants from South India (PAN Rrecords, Netherlands 2002), and the many reviews that followed caught the attention of scholars in several countries. PAN Recorded published a second edition of the album. More importantly, the CD initiated a conversation among the Syro Malabar Catholics that led to the Indian edition. Priests, who did not have Syriac literacy, began to show interest in the Syriac melodies. Many priests experimented with incorporating the Resurrection Hymn ([Laku Mara](#)) and the Trisagion ([Qandis Alaha](#)) in the Syriac version. People seemed comfortable listening to those chants during Qurbana in Malayalam. Slowly the interest grew, and the idea of bilingual Qurbana gained acceptance, especially among the Syro Malabar Catholics in the USA. In this video, we see Mar Thomas Tharayil, Auxiliary bishop of Changanacherry, celebrating bilingual Qurbana in Malayalam and Syriac. The video shows only the Syriac portion of [Qurbana](#). That a young bishop felt comfortable in going back to the history of the Syro Malabar liturgy is futuristic. The Bishop is creating a historic moment that will inspire other priests to attempt such experiments. That will lead to further conversations of resuscitating a language, which is an essential component of the "SYRO" Malabar Church's identity. Bishop Tharayil celebrated this [Qurbana](#) at the chapel of the Bishop's House during the [COVID 19](#) period for homebound people. We are grateful to Bishop Tharayil for allowing us to archive this unique moment and publish it on our channel. We hope future researchers who study the Syria language's revival story will use our archive.

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New York
29 August 2020

Keywords: Bishop Thomas Tharayil. Bilingual Qurban of the Syro Malabar Church. Syriac chants, India.



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