

# Episcopal visit to St. Pauls Mar Thoma Church, Vashi

24 Apr 2016

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever- Ps 117: 1-2

Our Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius visited St. Pauls Mar Thoma Church, Vashi on Sunday 24 Apr 2016. His Lordship celebrated the Holy Communion service at 9 am. The church service was witnessed by a large group of believers. In his sermon, based on the Gospel of St. John 17:1-10, Thirumeni spoke of the High priestly prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ and knowing God the Father himself through His son, Jesus Christ. As a believer, we should be Christ-like and purify ourselves as a silversmith purifies silver.

Soon after the announcements, the parish members arranged a reception for Thirumeni. The church choir presented a special Hindi song followed by opening prayer. The Edavaka Secretary, Mr. Saji Mathew, welcomed the gathering. The Yuvajana Sakhyam and the Sunday School performed melodious songs. The presidential address was given by the vicar, Rev. Gigy Thomas.

St. Pauls Mar Thoma parish felicitated the Navi Mumbai Police team for their help in the chain snatching crime that occurred outside the church premise. Through their hard work and dedication they were able to find the culprits. They were honored and felicitated on behalf of the parish by Mr. Sabu Daniel. In response, Mr. Ajay Kumar Langde spoke about the awareness and responsibilities of a citizen which the parishioners should also be aware of.

The felicitation program continued and the trustee of the parish, Mr. Jacob George, gave a touching felicitation and welcome to the new Diocesan Bishop. This was responded by Mar Theodosius appropriately. The program concluded with prayer and benediction. There was also Kaimuthu service. The youths of the parish assembled in the church to interact and know the new Diocesan Episcopa. There were some questions raised and all of them were responded which gave a befitting room for dialogue. The program concluded at 12.50 pm.