

## **A glimpse on our Annanagar Church**

Many members of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church migrated from Kerala had settled in Madras (Tamilnadu), almost a century ago. Though in 1932 the members of this community were allowed to worship according to their faith and traditions at St. Mathias CSI Church located in Vepery, they were in the urge to have own church. On 1st January 1985 Late Lamented HB Mor Baselios Paulose II, the then Catholicos of India and the East (who celebrated Holy Qurbana in Madras almost 80 years ago), consecrated the Church in Annanagar and the community started the worship in a thatched shed. This Church was dedicated to St. Thomas, the Apostle. who came to India in AD 52.

In 1988, the Church built a shrine dedicated to the holy name of Virgin Mary wherein the Holy Girdle of the Virgin Mary is kept and preserved. Over the years, this shrine has turned out to be a well-known pilgrimage to all faithful.

Over the past 34 years, the Church grew in multiple manifolds with the overwhelming support, dedication, and generosity of the parishioners. During this period, under the patronage of the Church, a charitable trust was initiated.

There was a pressing and critical need to go in to renew church building and renewed it to the present structure.

The foundation stone blessed by His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Zakka I lwas, the Patriarch of Universal Syrian Orthodox Church, was brought and with the permission of His Beatitude Mor Baselios Thomas I, Catholicose of the East, was laid by His Grace Mor Osthatheos Issac, Metropolitan of Mylapore Diocese on 10 June 2011. The holy consecration and 'Mooron Koodasa ' of the renewed church was celebrated on 16th February 2015 by His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, the Patriarch of Antioch and all the East and Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church during His Holiness' Apostolic visit to India.