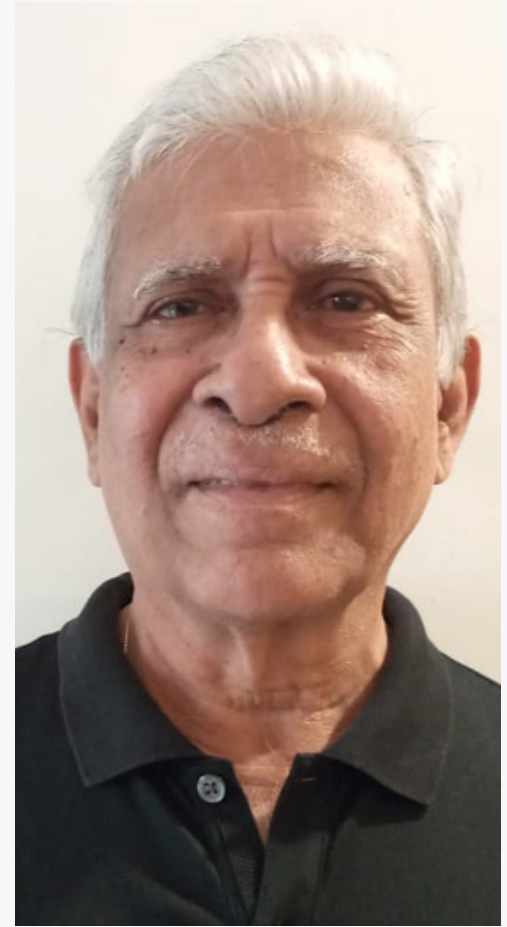


President message

I had fondly hoped that 2022 might start with glad tidings to commence our normal activities in earnest that were suspended for more than a year due to the threat of covid. But my hopes were belied as stringent restrictions were notified by the Government in the new year to control the latest covid variant. We had to take a decision on the advisability of holding our jubilee celebrations on February 19, 2022 for which elaborate plans had been made over several months. It was finally decided to postpone the meeting to a later date. It was a wise decision as the guidelines announced by the government effective from February still stipulate that social meetings can not be held. I am glad that we get messages of support from members about the decision.

The dialysis project is progressing well. I have sent to members a progress report on Jan 21, 2022 detailing actions taken and actions to be taken. There is some delay from the Rotary side due to covid situation. But all efforts are being taken to commission the facility before the end of February .

EC Thomas
President



KCS VISION

KCS shall evolve into a premier organisation

- By instilling a sense of pride in being associated with it and thereby motivating the young and the old of the Kerala Catholic families to join the society wholeheartedly.
- By creating an image in the city of Chennai and elsewhere by initiating special projects for the community, working in tandem with similar organisations, if necessary.
- By utilising the inherent talents and strengths of all its members to initiate activities that will install a sense of belonging and promote fellowship.
- By creating an atmosphere for constant, innovative, and timely improvements in the organisation and its structure.

Highlights of the Minutes of the 3rd Governing Council (2021-22) Virtual Meeting of Kerala Catholic Society held on 22nd January 2022 at 6 pm

Silver Jubilee Meeting: Detailed discussion was held to consider the desirability, advisability and practicality of convening the already scheduled Silver Jubilee meeting on Saturday, February 19, 2022, in view of the COVID protocol announced by the Tamil Nadu Government. The GC has been notified as follows:

- ITC Welcome hotel informed us that they are allowed only 100 guests to meet in the hall booked by us.
- Masks are compulsory even in the closed halls.
- Holy Masses in churches are not to be celebrated on Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday until further instructions
- The Archbishop office informed that His Grace has canceled all programmes upto January 31, 2022. Future programmes will be decided only on February 01, 2022.
- It is doubtful if other special guests are willing or able to participate unless conditions improve.
- In the light of such restrictions, it is not possible or advisable to celebrate our Silver Jubilee in a grand manner.

Accordingly the GC has unanimously decided to postpone the Silver Jubilee meeting to a date to be announced later and inform the parties concerned, who have been engaged for this purpose.

Dialysis Project: The GC has been updated about the present status of the Dialysis Project, as follows:

- KCS and RCMW signed a MOU on 01/11/2021 and agreed to bear the cost of Rs.130 lakhs for a 12 bed dialysis unit at Padi Community Hospital on a 50:50 basis. The facility will render dialysis free of cost for poor patients.
- Accordingly, as requested by RCMW, KCS has kept ready Rs.65 lakhs by December 20, 2021 and parked the amount in a separate account.
- Chennai Corporation agreed to allot space free of cost at Padi Community Hospital and signed a MOU with RCMW and TF on 27/09/2021.
- Rtn. Raman, President, RCMW informed in a meeting with our representative on 27/12/21 that their funds are ready. He also informed that once their application for a global grant is approved and an account number is allotted, Rs.130 lakhs will be deposited with the TF and work will commence for the facility to be operational before Feb.19, 2022, the day KCS is fixed for its Silver Jubilee meeting.
- We were also informed that dialysis machines are readily available.
- However, on 08th January, 2022 Rtn, Raman copied a message from from Rotary International that their operation are severely affected by Covid and a delay is to be expected.

Secretary message



- Subsequently he informed us on 12th January that the global grant process started and forwarded a copy of the application to us.
- On 19th January, Dr. Sriram informed by WhatsApp that KCS cheque is to be presented only after their application of global grant is approved.

We propose actions from our side as follows:

1. We wait for the approval of the global grant application as suggested by Dr. Sriram.
2. We request RCMW to expedite the matter.
3. Once the global grant is approved, we will handover the cheque of Rs.65 lakhs to our Auditors and authorise them to finalise the transaction with RCMW.
4. RCMW will satisfy the Auditors that their funds of Rs.65 lakhs are available and clarify any questions the Auditors may have for transparency and clarity.

The GC has taken note of the above update and agreed to wait and get the progress of the work on a regular basis.

IT demand: It was informed that the Auditors have drafted reply letter to the queries from the Income Tax department regarding the condonation for delay in filing of Form 10B (IT Exemption) for AY 2019-20, before the stipulated date of 31.01.22. It was also decided that a monthly update of demand due from the IT portal (system generated report) for all the pending years, shall be presented to the GC till the issues are closed, in total.

Renting of KCS hall: It was decided to rent out the KCS hall strictly as per the Covid protocol and only to those who have obtained necessary permissions from the Govt authorities concerned, to conduct the functions, till the Covid restrictions remain.

Subscription: The zonal leaders were once again requested to do the needful to collect the pending subscriptions from the members, at the earliest. It was reported that 11 members still have to pay subscriptions.

M.S. Abraham
Secretary



MEMBERS SPEAK

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

Mr. Aby Vadakkal sent a message about KCS News reaching only after the first of the month and so, he misses the birthdays and anniversaries of the first week of the month.

It is a valid point. The delay can not be avoided. Vice-president Mr. Oommen Abraham is the publisher of the News and thanks to him the News without fail appears every month. It helps to connect the members during the inactivity during pandemic. Oommen runs a HR enterprise and is busy from Monday to Saturday. He volunteers to do this work and designs the News himself on Sundays. If the first of the month is on a weekday, he gets the issue done only the succeeding Sunday and thus the News gets delayed.

However, as Aby is keen to have the birthdays and anniversaries on or before the first of the month, I have asked Augustine to send the list to all members by email before the first of the month. I thank him for the suggestion.

Mr. K. S. Joseph messaged on postponement of the jubilee meeting. " A good decision under the present uncertain conditions."

Mr. P.J. Xavier wrote ." This is a wise decision in the current covid surge. Maraiamma and I attended a reunion function two weeks back. Lots of care and precautions were taken, but eventually about 30% of participants were infected with covid. "

I thank Joseph and Xavier. I am aware that many of our members are affected by covid and regretfully, some in the GC too. I heard a remark from one of the affected. "Attending a meeting or wedding is fine. The problem is when you remove the mask and start eating and having small talk in between. Then the virus strikes."

Mr.KJ Joseph wrote. "Dear President , Noted the situation under which the Jubilee meeting had to be postponed. In the present circumstances that is the wise thing to be done. It also gives an opportunity to make necessary changes in the programme. I had been thinking of bringing it to your attention that ours is not a religious society except for the " Catholic " name in it. I have seen that many of our members are unfortunately under that impression. Ours is an exclusive Society as per Constitution and the name is just to have members of like mindedness. If we can get speakers and chief guests of Social importance, I feel, it can make a lot of difference in our out look.It is just a suggestion for your consideration.
with regards,

I thank Joseph for his valuable suggestion and his consistent support. I agree with him and will consider to make appropriate changes in the programme after discussions in the GC

EC Thomas
President



ABY VADAKKAL



K S JOSEPH



P J XAVIER



K J JOSEPH



MY ENCOUNTER WITH SANTA CLAUS

WRITTEN BY E C THOMAS

As far as I could recollect, during my childhood years, no Santa Claus visited my home in Alappuzha at midnight to give away gifts to me or my siblings. I remember that we used to get new clothes to go for the midnight Christmas Mass that was said in a foreign tongue, Syriac those days. After the long Mass we rushed home to eat a piece of cake and then looked forward to the traditional Christmas breakfast of delicious appam and duck stew, a rare feast indeed.

Many years later, when I went to the US after my marriage, I became aware of Santa Claus. Santa used to be a jolly good fat paunchy white man with flowing beard and red dress who was ever present during the Christmas season at the entrance of beautifully decorated shops overflowing with fantastic gifts for all ages. Children lined up to get pictures with Santa while parents were engaged in a mad rush to purchase gifts for families, colleagues, and friends. Much later, it occurred to me that perhaps Santa Claus should be the one to be worshiped, rather than the person, the reason for the presence of Santa. I will tell you the reason.

My wife and I wanted a nativity crib in preparation for Christmas in our New York apartment, following the tradition of our distant home country. We searched far and wide, but in vain. A tall youngman, from the giant departmental stores, Macys, (he could be a potential Santa Claus, say after forty years) offered to help us to find a crib to our relief. He took us by a number of elevators and escalators to a section full of cribs of different sizes and shapes. He asked us, "How old is the child?" We looked at him with amazement and said, "He was born 2000 years ago somewhere in Bethlehem."

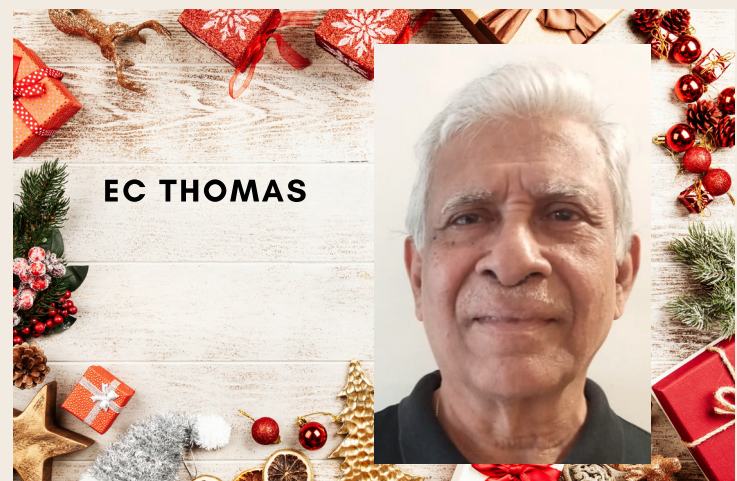
A word about Santa Claus. He is a legendary character who originated in Western Christian culture and who is said to bring children gifts of toys, candy or nothing on Christmas eve, depending whether they are naughty or nice. He is said to have a workshop in the North Pole to make toys. The modern character of Santa Claus is based on traditions surrounding the historical Saint Nicholas who was a 4th-century Greek Christian Bishop in the region of Lycia in the Roman Empire. He was known for his generous gifts to the poor. He was very religious from an early age and devoted his entire life to Christianity. Father Christmas dates back to 16th century England when he was pictured as a large man in scarlet robes lined with fur. He typified the spirit of good cheer of the Christmas season of joy, good food, fine wine and revelry. As England no longer kept the feast day of St. Nicholas on 6th December, the Father Christmas celebration was moved to December 25 to coincide with Christmas day.



Well, after we returned to India, we followed Santa's story and name to give gifts to our children during Christmas day. We made them write a list of what they wished to have. When toddlers, they wished just for a piece of chocolate. But as they grew up, their demands became expensive. One day our eldest son saw a dress with a tailor mark on a shirt Santa was to give him on Christmas night. He had gone with his mother to the tailor the day before. We hurriedly hid it. We still do not know if he feigned innocence. The others were happy and excitedly tore off the packages containing the list they had made of their favorite toys.

We were in the UK last Christmas with my daughter. House was decorated, gifts were purchased in various permutations and combinations weeks before to get them packed and leave them at the foot of the Christmas tree in the living room for the children to see them on Christmas morning. Gourmet meals were planned, cooked and frozen and kept aside for the Christmas day feast. All well and peaceful.

At midnight, I had a vision. Santa Claus is on my side. He was beaming. I asked incredulously, "Why are you here? Have you lost your way? Go to the Xmas tree down in the hall." "Ha, Ha, I came to see you, son. I have a gift for you, a stone, that you will remember for a while." He went away laughing all the way. An uncomfortable stirring started on the left side of my stomach. It increased as the hours passed. A piercing pain. Santa's Christmas gift of stone started its descent from my kidneys!!



EC THOMAS

Happy BIRTHDAY

Date	Birthday FEB	KCF No	Mobile no
2	K.A Mathew	110	94440 88464
6	Celine Udhippu C/o Udhippu	139	94440 16881
8	Mariam Alphonsa Thomas	226	98847 49273
10	P.M Mathew	57	94444 54262
14	Anu Ranjith C/o Ranjith Dominic	235	98844 14627
14	Anitha George C/o Emmanuel Babu	246	98846 00007
15	Joe Moyalan	168	98413 45574
20	Babu Jacob	26	98400 89864
26	Sunitha Jose	153	93810 63441
26	Omana James	28	97909 76776



HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Date	Wedding Anniversary FEB	KCF No	Mobile no
2	P J Xavier & Mariamma Xavier	90	98400 97814
15	John Chiramel & Anita John	160	82818 57800
18	Roy Joseph & Viji joseph	249	98403 32679
24	Joseph Jose & Deena George	189	98400 75853



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**PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES,
SUGGESTIONS, FEEDBACK
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