

## Glory To GOD

"A Saint is one who resembles God in mind and spirit, and who manifests Lord Jesus Christ in life".

## St. Gregorios of Parumala



**Geevarghese Mar Gregorios**, popularly known as “**Parumala Thirumeni**” is a Saint par excellence of the Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Syrian Church and his Sainthood is widely acclaimed and revered among the Oriental Orthodox Churches. Venerated to this day beyond the barriers of denomination or religion by people from all walks of life, the Holy Father was a true embodiment of a disciplined, dedicated and faithful life right from his younger days. The epithets that can be attached are innumerable but here are a select few that highlight his illustrious yet humble life:

- **A devout spiritual father** who epitomized fasting and prayer and led a life exemplifying the core Christian values of love, compassion, forbearance and humility.
- **A true ascetic** who made it clear to the world that prayer and devotion is mightier than any worldly possession.
- **A committed servant of God** who endured hardships for witnessing Christ and for the wellbeing of the church.
- **A constant seeker of truth and wisdom** and a great visionary far ahead of his time.
- **A healer of the sick and a compassionate shepherd** who touched and transformed the lives of many who flocked to him for solace.
- **A divinely gifted and charismatic Saint** who transmitted power and grace through miracles and signs.
- **A fervent disciple of our Lord** who preached the Gospel among the backward communities bringing many to Christ's loving fold.
- **An educational reformist** who advocated for the Church's engagement in imparting secular education to eradicate illiteracy and thereby poverty, with special emphasis to English language sans prejudice to gender, caste or creed.
- **A spiritual leader** who persistently worked hard for the upliftment of the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalized in the society in an era where 'class difference' and 'untouchability' ruled the roost.
- **A true Christian** revered unequivocally as the archetype and flag bearer of the Christian core value of 'human dignity through equality and brotherhood'.
- **An ardent writer** whose travelogue about the trip to the Holy Land via sea, remain as a literary gem and a historian's favorite.



He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1848 and ordained as a Reader-Deacon (Korooyo) on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1858 at the mere age of 10. In 1865, he was ordained as full Deacon, Priest and Cor-Episcopos in relatively quick succession. He was elevated as 'Ramban' (Monk Priest) in 1872, and consecrated as Metropolitan with the title Geevarghese Mar Gregorios on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1876 at the young age of 28. He entered into eternal rest on 02<sup>nd</sup> November, 1902 at the age of 54 and was entombed at Parumala Seminary Chapel, Kerala, India. He was the first Bishop of Indian origin to be canonized as a Saint by the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in 1947, and will undoubtedly shine forever as the brightest jewel among Indian Churches.

Despite the passage of time, thousands of believers from all strata of the society still throng his tomb pleading for intercession. Plenty of churches and institutions have been and continue to be established in his name all over the world, bearing witness to one unambiguous, unwavering, and irrefutable fact – that **ST. GREGORIOS OF PARUMALA** continues to remain as an oasis of solace, a fountain of spiritual blessings and a universal saint in the truest sense of the term !

**May the intercession of St. Gregorios of Parumala continue to endow us with help, healing, compassion and blessings from our Lord's merciful bounty !**

**The relics of St. Gregorios, our patron Saint was interred here on 02<sup>nd</sup> November 1980.**