

B.Th Study Programme of BVP

Bethany Vedavijnana Peeth (BVP) follows a B.Th study programme that is accredited to the B.Th programme of Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth (JDV).

Course Content

All the courses on Liturgy, Sacraments, Oriental Canon Law, Spirituality, Indian Church history, Pastoral Theology and courses on Dogmatic Theology like Mariology, Ecclesiology, Ecumenism, Sacraments and Pneumatology are offered in BVP for its students. Rest of the courses are attended in JDV. The courses offered in BVP keep the historical, cultural settings and at the same time reflect on how its content is lived in the Oriental Churches in general and particularly in the Malankara Church.

Course Analysis

A student of BVP is expected to obtain **122 credits** (A credit is a unit of study equivalent to about 15 periods of class and a corresponding period of personal work, 30 hrs. in all) during the four year B.Th course. This includes the basic and optional courses offered by JDV and BVP. The course analysis chart shown below gives a better picture in this regard.

YEAR	JDV	BVP	TOTAL
1 ST	28	13	41
2 ND	23	16	39
3 RD	17	19	36
Optionals	6	0	6
TOTAL	74	48	122

Bethany Bible Studies (BBS)

During the Dewali and Summer holidays, BVP students conduct Bible camps under the banner of Bethany Bible Studies (BBS). A BBS text book in English and Malayalam is prepared by the students which are distributed during the camps. This BBS programme is guided and evaluated by the Director and the Resident Staff.

B.Th Essay

The BTh essay of two credits is to be completed before January 31st of the third academic year of B.Th. The topic of the essay should revolve around an Oriental theme especially in the light of the Malankara Catholic Church. The guide chosen for it can be a member of the BVP teaching staff.

Comprehensive Exam

The B.Th comprehensive examination is conducted in the 4th year during the month of October by a board of three Professors. One among them will be designated by the Dean of Theology Faculty in JDV and the other two by the Director of BVP.

Schedule of Lectures

The daily schedule of classes in BVP shall be, in the order of precedence, in the forenoon, afternoon or evening. The courses will be scheduled in consultation with the professor concerned and it will be ensured that the courses scheduled for each year are taken in the stipulated time itself.

Examination and Grading System

All courses will be evaluated and marks will be awarded. The grading system for all examinations of BVP is the same as that of JDV i.e.

40 - 49	: Pass
50 - 59	: Second class
60 - 69	: First class
70 and above	: Distinction

Library

BVP library is an integral part of Bethany Vedavijnana Peeth. It specializes in Oriental Theology and Ecumenism. It has around ten thousand books related to Mariology, Ecclesiology, Church History, Syriac Patrology etc. It also subscribes to around hundred and twenty periodicals. The doors of BVP library are open to one and all of the JDV campus.

B.Th Syllabus 2009 - 2010

JDV – Ist Year

SUBJECT	CREDIT
ST00 Introduction to Theology	2
SS01 Introduction to the OT	3
ST01 Theology of Faith and Revelation	2
HT01 History of Christianity I	2
PM02 General Moral Theology	2
SS02 Introduction to the New Testament	2
HT02 History of Christianity II	2
SS03 Pentateuch	2
PM01 Theology of Christian Worship	2
ST02 Theology of Christ Event I	2
PM03 Justice and Human Rights	3
SS06 Gospel according to Luke	2
SS04 Gospel according to Mark	2
TOTAL	28

BVP – Ist Year

SUBJECT	CREDIT
ST20 Introduction to Oriental Theology	1
ST30 Liturgical Hymns and Music	*
ST31 Liturgical Year	2
ST32 Liturgy of the Hours	1
HT10 Indian Church History	2
ST40 Theology of Sacraments	1
SL01 Syriac Language and Culture	2

ST41	Baptism and Chrismation	1
PM70	Indian Samnyasa and Spirituality	1
ST 33	Theology of Liturgy	1
PM 60	Bethanian Spirituality	1
	TOTAL	13

JDV – IInd Year

SUBJECT	CREDIT	
SS09	Wisdom Literature and Psalms	2
SS08	Letters of Paul	3
ST06	Theology of Mission	2
PM04	Bio-Medical Ethics	2
SS05	Gospel according to Mathew	2
PM05	Canon Law : Latin	2
ST04	Theology of Christ event II - Trinity	2
AS02	Sociology of Religion	2
SS11	Deuteronomistic History	2
AS01	Psychology of Religion	2
	Inter- Departmental Seminar	2
	TOTAL	23

BVP-IInd Year

SUBJECT	CREDIT	
ST 03	Oriental Pneumatology	2
PM 05	Canon Law : Oriental	2
PM10	Catechetics and Pastoral Theology	2
PM 61	Eastern Christian Spirituality and Monasticism	2
ST 21	Christology of the Oriental Churches	1
HT12	St. Thomas Christians Contribution towards an Indian Christian Theology	1

ST13	Modern Trends in Ecumenism	1
ST 14	Religious Pluralism & Formation to Interreligious Dialogue	1
ST 04	Mariology	2
HT 20	Indian Christian Theology	2
	TOTAL	16

J D V – IIIrd Year

SUBJECT	CREDIT	
SS10	Prophets	3
PM07	Marriage and Sexual Ethics	2
SS12	Theology of the New Testament	2
SS07	Gospel according to John	2
ST11	Theology of Religions	2
ST10	Oriental Liturgies and Theology	3
CTP	Contextual Theology Programme	3
	TOTAL	17

BVP-IIIrd Year

SUBJECT	CREDIT	
PM09	Marriage Law	2
ST 15	Ecclesiology	3
ST 08	Eucharist	3
ST 42	Sacrament of Priesthood	1
ST 09	Theological Anthropology and Eschatology	3
ST 43	Sacrament of Matrimony	1
ST 44	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick	1
ST 34	Eastern Patrology	1
PC10	Pastoral Course	2
	B. Th. Essay	2
	TOTAL	19

B.Th COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction to Oriental Theology (ST 20)

The course aims at giving an overview of the historical origin of the Eastern (Greek) and Oriental (Syrian) traditions with a special emphasis on the theological methodology used in these traditions. It will be complemented with a discussion on the possible application of Eastern –Oriental tenets in the context of the current discussions in theology. Thus the main thrust of the course is to help the students get familiarized with the theological precepts of Eastern – Oriental tradition and to get engaged in dialoguing with the contemporary discussions in theology.

J. B. Xaviervilas OIC, G. T. Kallunkal OIC, J. Puthuparampil OIC

Liturgical Year (ST 31)

The course aims at imparting how the mysteries of Christ are unfolded in the liturgical prayers of the Church in the course of one year, comprising of seven seasons. It theologically reflects on the concept of liturgy and its features, like Christian concept of time, feasts and worship. In dealing with the concept of celebration in the Bible, the course focuses on Passover as the centre of liturgical year, with its traditional understanding and testimonies. These aspects will lead us to reflect upon the entire salvific actions of Christ as depicted in the seven seasons of the liturgical year of the Malankara tradition. Finally from a hermeneutical point of view the course will examine how this liturgical celebration throughout the year becomes part and parcel of our ecclesial life.

S. Planthottathil OIC

Liturgy of the Hours (ST 32)

The course deals with the study of the Liturgy of the Hours of the Malankara Liturgy. It traces the evolution of the Malankara Liturgy in the monastic tradition and the theology of the Oriental Churches which is expressed in the Syrian Hymns. The course also makes a short analysis of the Christological and Ecclesiological concepts in these Hymns, especially in the light of *Jnanayoga* and *Bhaktiyoga* in the Indian tradition. The Syriac Hymns interpreted 'the signs of time'... but how these Hymns interpret 'the signs of time' today is one of the questions with which the course continues in its search for a deeper meaning in the realm of the Liturgy of the Hours.

P. Vysanethu OIC

Theology of Sacraments (ST 40)

The course aims at introducing the major themes in Sacramental Theology of the Syrian Orient. In particular the course will highlight the Syrian understanding of Sacraments on specific themes like Christ as Sacrament, Church as Sacrament, World as Sacrament, Sacraments and Sacramentals and also other topics which are under discussions in Sacramental Theology today. The course also discusses the major shifts in Sacramental Theology of the Latin West and the Greek East.

T.V. Tharakanveedu OIC

Baptism and Chrismation (ST 41)

The course focuses on the theology and the analysis of both the sacrament of baptism and chrismation according to the Malankara tradition. Various symbolism involved in this sacraments are also analyzed.

P. Vysanethu OIC

Ecclesiology (ST 15)

The Christian community emerged after the death of Jesus, according to the models of the Kingdom that Jesus ushered in. Incarnating in history, the Church of Jesus Christ was identified as One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. The inner identity of the Church as *Lumen Gentium* is maintained by the living preference of the Holy Spirit in the Church by the primatial Ministry of the Roman Pontiff, the authenticity of whose teaching is guaranteed by the gift of Infallibility. Bishops, the successors of the Apostles are collegially united to the Center of Unity in the Church. The Pope, the Bishops, the priests, and the Deacons are hierarchically united to lead the people of God on the path of Holiness. The kingdom values in the world are guided by the Word of God and the living traditions in the Church. Thus, the Church, living in a constant dialogue with the world, becomes the defender of Human Life at every stage, voice of the voiceless, promoter of the marginalized, protector of justice and peace on earth.

The Church is One, and at the same time Catholic. As the one Gospel of Jesus Christ diversified itself into four gospels, the one Church of Jesus began to be incarnated in different cultures from where Churches with their own distinctive liturgy, theology, spirituality and ecclesiastical discipline began to emerge. Growing with the history of the place, these churches became Individual, *Sui Juris*, Churches. An individual church, thus understood, is a full church, but does not exhaust the fullness of the church of Christ. If Unity and Universalistic Ecclesiology is the hallmark

of the church in the west, traditions based on distinctive apostolicity is the *raison d'être* of an Individual Church. Started as a movement for the spiritual revival among the Jacobites of Kerala, the Malankara Catholic Church is now raised into an Individual Church of Major - Archiepiscopal - Catholicate dignity, having its own rights and obligations. Living in a society turning highly secularized, globalised, and corrupt, how could the Malankara Catholic Church best carry out her mission and vocation in our country?

J. B. Xaviervilas OIC

Mariology (ST 04)

This course deals with the role of Mary in the salvation history as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. It conducts the survey of the scriptural understanding as reflected and re-interpreted by the Fathers of the Church and the early ecumenical councils culminating in Vatican II. In this course, we also deal with Mary as the “prototype” of the Church. The course scans through the liturgy of the Malankara Church and tries to understand the Mariological themes expressed in it.

J. Puthuparampil OIC

Oriental Pneumatology (ST 03)

This course deals with the Oriental perspective of the theology on the Holy Spirit. We also deal with the biblical, anthropological, cosmological and ecclesiological dimensions on the theology of the Holy Spirit. This study is based on the liturgical context of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. We make a reference to the Indian understanding of the Holy Spirit which is based on the Vedantic theology.

J. Kuttiyil OIC

Eucharist (ST 08)

The Christian community takes its origin from the Eucharist, it stands at its centre and all other sacraments converge into it. Hence Eucharist makes the Church. The Lo SJ serves as the base for the Eucharistic celebrations of many Catholic and non-Catholic churches; the Malankara Church is one among them. The Liturgy of St. James is the memorial of all the salvific actions of Jesus, from the creation to the Parousia through which the worshipper is taken, stage-by-stage, during the celebration. This course offers an analysis of every single part of this liturgy as used in Malankara

Catholic Church. It also makes an evaluation of the Eucharistic theology of the Protestants, Marthomaites, Jacobites and Orthodox communities. The pastoral and social implications that arise from the celebration of Lo SJ are also studied.

J. B. Xaviervilas OIC

Modern Trends in Ecumenism (ST 13)

The need to work together for the betterment of humanity has paved way for the churches to grow from enmity to mutual understanding in the modern times. In the context of diversity, a relationship based on unity could be achieved without having to sacrifice our belief of doctrine in the light of conciliar and post-conciliar teachings in ecumenism. It is one of the challenges dealt with in the course.

S. Kuttiyil OIC

Religious Pluralism and Formation to Inter-religious dialogue (ST 14)

The course on religious pluralism and formation to inter-religious dialogue is aimed at leading the participants to become familiar with the meaning and significance of religious pluralism and the basic principles of inter-religious dialogue in order to elaborate new proposals. This course proposes to review the available didactic material and to elaborate useful orientations keeping in mind the experience of the various socio-cultural and pastoral contexts of the participants. An interactive and interdisciplinary approach will colour the methodological itinerary.

Teresa Joseph FMA

Sacrament of Priesthood (ST 42)

The present day ministerial priests are in search of an image, they are in an identity crisis. In this situation, in our course, we really do a historico-critical analysis on ministerial priesthood in order to find out a real basis on the subject. First, we analyse the scriptural basis of ministerial priesthood, secondly, we do a historical analysis on ministerial priesthood. Thirdly, we analyse the tradition of the Church (Eastern and Western) on ministerial priesthood. The course is dogmatic and pastoral in nature, since the students are going to be pastor's in the near future.

T. R. Padinjattemelethil OIC

The Sacrament of Matrimony (ST 43)

The course seeks to understand the theology of sacrament of matrimony and focuses on the celebration of this sacrament in the Malankara Church. The spousal union between Christ and the Church as the typos of the

conjugal ethos and marriage as a symbol of the spousal union between Christ and the Church. The Trinitarian, Ecclesial, Eucharistic and Eschatological dimensions of the indissoluble unity is highlighted. The course ends with an overview of the pastoral implications of this view.

Bp. Mar Barnabas OIC

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing the Sick (ST 44)

This course aimed at forming a priest as an ambassador of God's saving presence, will be developed in 6 phases:

- Sacraments of reconciliation and anointing the sick in the Scripture
- A survey of the historical developments of these sacraments
- The sacraments in the Code of Canon Law
- The healing ministry of the Church and the theology of the sacrament of reconciliation and anointing the sick
- The sacraments in the liturgical tradition of the Malankara Church
- The pastoral praxis

Bp. Mar Barnabas OIC

Theological Anthropology and Eschatology (ST 09)

The course aims at reflecting upon the totality of human reality. This is done by analyzing the creation account in Genesis, focusing on the theme of image and likeness of God in man with special reference to Oriental Theology. Themes such as the notion of person, human freedom, fall, sin and grace too are analyzed from the perspective of human experience enlightened by divine revelation and the teaching of the Church.

Christian eschatology is the history and theology of hope. In the face of the mystery of death, Church declares that God has created human beings to a blessed destiny; this destiny is realized in Jesus by virtue of his resurrection (Heaven). The Church affirms that one who closes oneself consciously and deliberately to the saving plan of God, may be immediately lost (Judgement, Purgatory, Hell)

G. T. Kallunkal OIC

Theology of Liturgy (ST 33)

The course aims at understanding liturgical life as a means to attain union with God in the categories of oriental theology. Attempt is made to understand the approach of the MCC to relate to God through Divine

office, Sacraments, Feasts, and Fasts. The course proposes a few changes to make the present liturgy of hours experiential and relevant to the modern man.

J. Puthuparampil OIC

Eastern Patrology (ST 34)

Eastern Apostolic Fathers are the custodians of Orthodox faith and tradition. Their theology and writings are important tools for the contemporary theology students to understand the development and nuances of Eastern Churches and their theology. According to Vatican II, for the Orientals renewal is not new cultural adaptation but going back to the sources. A study on Apostolic Fathers will help the renewal processes. The present course on 'Eastern Patrology' aims at giving an introduction to the writings and teachings of selected Eastern Fathers and Ecclesiastical writers.

G. T. Kallunkal OIC

Christology of the Oriental Churches (ST 21)

By studying in detail the Christological understanding of the Alexandrian and Antiochene Schools, the course attempts to present the nuances in understanding the Person of Christ in the Oriental traditions (Churches).

V. Thykootathil OIC

Syriac Language and Culture (SL 01)

The aim of the course is to acquire the ability to read and understand Syriac language. The elementary grammar, syntax and vocabulary, which is dealt with in the course, will help the students understand Syriac text. Scriptural and liturgical passages are taken for parsing.

J. Puthuparampil OIC

Indian Church History (HT 10)

This course has two parts. The first part deals with the origin of Christianity in India, a brief history about the St. Thomas Christians upto the 16th century, their customs and Church Administration. The second part deals with the arrival of the Portuguese and the ecclesial problems that arose with that. Here we study in detail the Synod of Udayamperoor (Diamper), the Coonan Cross Oath: Division among the St. Thomas Christians, formation of Puthenkor. The course also provides a short description

about the Syro-Malabar Church, Latin Church and different non-Catholic Churches in India.

S. Kanjiramukalil OIC

St. Thomas Christians Contribution Towards an Indian Christian Theology (HT 12)

The course aims at complementing the Indian Christian theologians' efforts to develop a theology for India. In particular the course will focus on how the Malankara Church (St. Thomas Christians in General) lived out the Christian faith in the cultural context of Kerala down through the centuries. The course will mainly focus on Christology, Trinity, Sacraments and Theology of Religion and its reception in the Kerala culture. It will also see the influence of Kerala culture in the shaping of the Christian beliefs and practices.

M. Kadavil OIC

Indian Christian Theology (HT 20)

The course is an experimentation towards the development of an Indian Christian theology. The *material prima* for theologization is the Holy Scriptures, both Indian and Christian. In interpreting the Scriptural passages we apply *Dhvani siddhanta*. The course therefore, begins with a short description of *Dhvani siddhanta*. Then we interpret the selected passages from the Scriptures in *dhvani* way. The new interpretation results in a convergence which is purely Indian and Christian in content and expression.

P. Thombiladimuriyil OIC

Eastern Christian Spirituality and Monasticism (PM 61)

This course deals with the common sources of Eastern Spiritual Theology manifested through different currents and trends. By giving special attention to the Anthropological, Cosmological and Sociological dimensions of human life in the light of Eastern Christian Spirituality, it presents an integral view of humans and his/her relation with God, universe and fellow beings. Since prayer and contemplation are vital aspects of Eastern Christian Spirituality, this course also aims at studying Christian Monasticism, which is a fruit of vitality of the spiritual life of the early Christians, especially that of the Desert Fathers. The different forms of contemporary consecrated life in the Church: especially in the Malankara Church have to reach for their roots in the Eastern Monasticism.

G.T. Kallunkal OIC

Canon Law: Oriental (PM 05)

The course is an introduction to the laws of the Eastern Churches as contained in the oriental code. It will spell out the theological significance of these laws and their pastoral implications for Christian life.

S. Kuttiyil OIC

Marriage Law (PM 09)

Keeping in mind the importance of the Sacrament of Marriage in Christian life and Ecclesial context, the course thoroughly analyses CCEO (cc776–866). Concepts like unity, indissolubility and sacramentality of the marriage covenant, impediments, dispensations, consent in marriage, form of marriage and pastoral praxis like convalidation of marriage are thoroughly discussed and analyzed. The course aims to familiarise students with pastoral praxis and marriage annulment procedures. Wherever necessary comparison with CIC is given and differences are highlighted.

A. Valiyavilayil OIC

Catechetics and Pastoral Theology (PM 10)

This course presents the pedagogy of faith education spelling out the nature, aim, source and content of catechesis along with the various trends from early Christianity to medieval times and the modern revival. The catechetical approach and the present catechism of Malankara Catholic Church is a special focus of the course. The course also highlights the relation between liturgy and catechesis. The practical aspects of catechesis to different age groups will also be dealt with in the course.

A. Kakkanatt

Bethanian Spirituality (PM 60)

This course consists of two parts: part one discusses “Bethany in the Bible”, the theological insight it provides and the specific spiritual perspectives it represents. This part makes an analysis of the role of Bethany in the life of Jesus and the values it symbolises which can be reflected in the NT and OT background. We would also like to analyse the dialectical feature of Bethanian spirituality and its contribution to ecumenism and unity. The second part deals with the question: how does Mar Ivanios conceive and apply this spirituality in founding the Order of the Imitation of Christ?

J. M. Padipurackal OIC

Indian Sannyasa and Spirituality (PM 70)

The course aims at a deeper understanding of Indian Sannyasa as presented in Indian Scriptures. The course is based on the original texts of Sannyasa, found in the Vedas, Upanishads, Manusmriti and Bhagavat Gita.

The theme of Discipleship in the Gospels also will be discussed to establish that the idea of Indian Sannyasa and vision of Christian Discipleship is essentially the same. The course begins with the textual analysis of the Scriptural aphorisms related to Sannyasa and Discipleship and, then, through comparison we try to reach at the common ground of both Sannyasa and Discipleship.

P. Thombiladimuriyil OIC

Pastoral Course (PC 10)

The Pastoral Formation programme consists of different activities:

1. The students get involved in the parish ministry in various parishes in Pune where they teach catechism, and take initiative for MCYM and Ladies Wing activities.
2. In the I, II & III years of formation, they prepare and deliver three homilies each. In the IInd and IIIrd year, they prepare two sermons each for the occasions of marriage, Baptism and first communion.
3. Students are supposed to prepare 3 day retreat for: 1) laity and 2) religious.
4. Taking the pastoral need of MCC into account, two talks each on any Gospel topic to be used during church feast, lent etc.
5. Bethany Bible Studies (BBS) text is prepared by II years for the for the Bible Camps in the MCC.
6. At the end of IIIrd BTH, they will have more classes on pastoral programme. Theoretical classes and practical sessions on family apostolate and counselling for 4 days will be arranged in Kerala.
7. Senior priests will guide them in *cholthu* and *thazakam* with regard to *Qurbano*, *Andutaksa* and *Koodasha Kramam*. Once the theoretical sessions are over, they will spend a few weeks in parishes where they are exposed to parish administration.

**J. Berchmans OIC, K. Shajan OIC,
G.T. Kallunkal OIC**

BVP COURSE SCHEDULE for 2009 -2010

No.	Course	Instructor	Cr.	Year	Time
01.	Introduction to Oriental Theology	Fr. J. Berchmans, Fr. G. Thomas, Fr. J. Puthuparambil	1	I	June 11 - June 18
02.	Eastern Monasticism	Fr. G Thomas	2	III	July 4 - July 21
03.	Syriac Language & Culture	Fr. M. James	2	I	July 24 - Aug 16
04.	Oriental Pneumatology	Fr. K. Joshua	2	II	August 04 - 14
05.	Oriental Canon Law	Fr. K. Shajan	2	I & II	August 28- Sept 15
06.	Eucharist	Fr. J. Berchmans	1	II & III	August 28- Sept 30
07.	Indian Church History	Fr. K. Sylvester	2	I	Sept. 10 - Sept. 23
08.	Liturgy of the Hours	Fr. V. Philip	1	I	Nov. 01 - Nov. 15
09.	Sacraments of Baptism & Chrismation	Fr. V. Philip	1	I	Nov. 01 - Nov. 15
10.	Catechetics & Pastoral Theology	Fr. K Antony	2	II & III	Nov. 01 - Nov. 15
11.	Marriage Laws	Fr. V. Antony	2	III	Nov. 20 - Nov 30
12.	Theology of Liturgy	Fr. P James	1	II & III	Dec 1- Dec 10

13.	Theological Anthropology and Eschatology	Fr. G. T. Kallumkal	3	III	January 2 - Jan 25
14	Liturgical Year	Fr. P. Stephen	2	I & II	January 5 - Jan15
15.	Theology of Sacraments	Fr. T. T. Varghese	1	II & III	January18 - Jan25
16.	Christology of the Oriental Churches	Fr. T. Varghese	1	II & III	January20 - Jan 30
17.	Towards an Indian Theology	Fr. K. Mathai	1	II & III	January20 - Jan 30
18.	Ad Auds Preparation	Fr. K. Chrysostom		III	March 20 - March 28
19.	Contextual Theology Project	Fr. J. Berchmans Fr. G. T. Kallumkal,	3	III	Aug 28 - Sept 30
20.	Pastoral Course Fr. G. T. Kallumkal,	Fr. J. Berchmans	2	IV	June 20 - March 28
21.	Liturgical Hymns & Music		*	I & II & III	