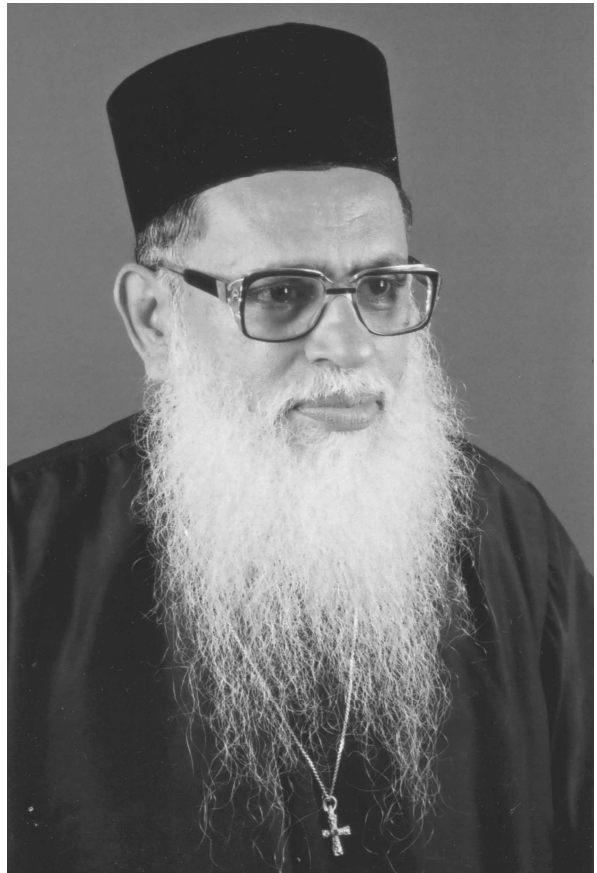


Joseph Cheeran / Cheeranachen

Rev. Fr. Dr. Joseph Cheeran – popularly called '*Cheeranachen*' is a renowned church historian, orator, writer and a scholar of liturgy of [Malankara Orthodox Church](#), India and a Malayalam language retired professor from [Union Christian College, Alwaye](#). He is a priest of Indian Orthodox church and have 40 publication of books in Malayalam language and still contributing his research works in the history of [Malankara/Indian orthodox Syrian Christians](#). He has published more than 250 research articles in various church publications like [The Church Weekly](#), [Malankara Sahba](#), Kunjadukalude Velicham, Bhashaposhini, Edavaka pathrika, etc. He was a resource person for State Institute of Education, Trivandrum. He conducted several classes and talks through All India Radio, Trichur in 1970s and 1980s.

Fr. Joseph Cheeran was born in Trichur District in Pazhanji Village as the grandson of Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Cheeran on 17th August in 1945. Name of his parents were Mathappan and Kunjathiry. His mother died when he was three years old. However, he achieved First Rank from [University of Kerala](#) for Malayalam *Vidwan* Examination. He achieved Ph.D degree from [Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam](#) for the topic 'Influence of Bible on Modern Malayalam Poetry'. He worked as a school teacher at [CMS High School, Trichur](#) before he joined as faculty of Malayalam in U.C. College, Alwaye. He achieved his Post Graduation Degree in Malayalam as private candidate. In school and college certificates, his name is written as C.M. Jose.



Liturgical Guru of Fr. Joseph Cheeran is the famous sound scholar [H.G. Yuhanon Mar Severiose](#). Priestly ordinations of different stages were from his Malpan – Guru, Severiose Thirumeni. He worked as priest in [Kochi Diocese](#) (1972-1985), [Kunnamkulam Diocese](#) (1985-2004), [Trichur Diocese](#) (2004-2007) and [Angamaly Diocese](#) (2007-2010). He served as the vicar of following places of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church- [West Fort church of Trichur](#), [Chembukkavu](#), [Nehru Nagar](#), [Karippakkunnu](#), [Koratty](#), [Chavarampadam](#), [Manalithra](#), [Parambai](#), [Akkikkavu](#), [Perumthuruthy](#), [Mangad](#), [Kottol](#), [Chowannoor](#), [Kottapady](#), [Kakkinikkad](#) and

[Alaykukulambu](#). Presently Fr.Cheeran is a retired priest and participate/attend church service in his home parish [St.Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church, Pazhanji](#).

Fr. Joseph Cheeran popularly called as *Cheeranachen* is the founder chairman of Yuhanon Mar Severiose Foundation, Kunnankulam Christian Study Centre, Ernakulam Church History Association, and Mar Dianosious Study Centre. He was the founder chief editor of 'Sion Sandesam' and 'Edavakapathrika'. Fr.Joseph Cheeran is presently working as Research Supervisor/Guide of M.G.University, Malayalam Editor of 'Orthodox Study Bible'.

Research contributions of Fr.Dr.Cheeran on the history of Indain/Malankara Orthodox church are relevant because of manifold reasons ^[1]:

1. From the time of Christ the language of Kerala was Tamil. The Church did not have experts in that language.
2. Without analysing the '*Sanghakaala literature*,' an authoritative explanation about the Kerala Christian Church in the early centuries could not be done.
3. Before the formation of Hinduism in the ninth century, due to religious conflicts, historical writings were consciously destroyed and distorted.
4. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the Portuguese invaders burnt up all the Christian literature available, and research became impossible.
5. Only an expert in Syriac (Western & Eastern), Garsoni, Vattezhuthu and Kolezhuthu could have read the Middle century literature, and those were very few.
6. The clergy concentrated more on the daily working of the Church than on its history. The early Church historians were non-clergymen.
7. Due to the over dependence on the history written by the Protestant and reformist writers, Indian/Malankara Orthodox Church research did not develop.
8. Expert scholars in world classical languages in the twentieth century concentrated their attention on areas like Theology, Christology, Liturgy, etc., and Church history was totally neglected.
9. Thus the history texts were mere repetitions of the earlier works.
10. Due to the divisions in the Church, biased interests interrupted objective research.

There is no claim that all these defects have been addressed in the books of Fr. Joseph Cheeran. But his new research findings with supporting evidence help to understand vividly some untold historical events. So most of his books are not a repetition of earlier history. The manuscripts which were lying buried in the ancient libraries of Kerala were unearthed (with the financial support of [UBCHEA](#)), and based on their analysis, there has been an effort to unveil the dark areas of Church history in an unbiased manner. It is interesting to note that even though he have a list of credentials as his own, neither his mother church or other churches factions has recognised him, which is a clear indication of his unbiased nature of work.

Most Important findings of Fr.Dr.Joseph Cheeran

1. Sustatikon of [Mar Gregoriose Abdul Jaleel](#) (1665)
2. Sustatikon of Mar Ivaniose (1685)
3. Liturgical Book of Mafriyana [Yelodo Mar Baseliose](#)(1685)
4. A very old St. Thomas Bible used in India
5. A letter sent by Arkadyakkon Marthoma-I to Vatican(Rome)
6. A letter by [Mar Ahathalla](#) (1653) from Goa
7. Kurbanata Taksa of Kattumangattu Mar Koorilose
8. The rough worked canon book of 'Hudaya Canon' which was converted to [18 Akkam Canon](#)
9. [Arthatu Cheppaedu \(Padiyola\)](#)
10. Revealed the contributions of H.G. Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Divannasiose I & II
11. Many relevant church historical documents written in Eastern and western syriac manuscripts and Malayalam [vattezhuthu](#) scripts identified and published.

List of Books Published by Fr.Dr.Joseph Cheeran

1. Indian Orthodox SabaCharithra VinjanaKosham
2. Jagadeesh Chandrabose
3. Mar Ignatiosente Saptha Lekhanangal (Translation)
4. Seminar Prabanthangal(Editor)
5. Sabha Jyothis Mar Divanasiose(IIInd Edition)
6. Malankara Sabhayum Kerala Samskaravum
7. Indian Orthodox Sabha: Critical Study
8. Malankarayudae Pravachakan
9. Sabhayilae Prathisandhikal(Editor)
10. Bharathathilae Pracheena Bible(with Study and Explanation)
11. Adhunka Malayala Kavithayum Biblum(Ph.D thesis)
12. Mahathmaya Karmmayogi
13. Pulikkottil Divanasiose II-Charama Navathy Smaranika(Chief Editor)
14. Oru Paradesayathrayude Katha(Editor)
15. Indian Orthodox Sabha: Charithravum Samskaravum(Co-Auther)
16. Vattasseril Tirumeni: Malankara Sabhayudae Kotta (Co-Auther)
17. Syrian Pathriyarkeesanmarudae Adhikara Durviniyogam (Co-Auther)
18. Sunday School Adhapaka Saahayee (Editor)
19. Samskara Padanangal (General Editor)
20. Aksharangaludae Acharyan
21. Patharadhipa Lekhanangal
22. Therenjedutha Prabandhangal
23. Koodasa Smaranika (Editor)
24. Malankara Sabhayum kerala Samskaravum
25. Malankara Sabhayile Padiyolakal
26. Indian orthodox Sabha (52-2007)

27. Sabha Darsan(3 Hr Video Documentary)
28. Malayalam Biblum Kerala Navothanavum
29. Kandanadu Grandhavary (Editor with Explanation)
30. Catholicatinte Kalika Pradhanayam (Co-Auther)
31. Trichur Palli Charithram
32. Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasiose
33. Nasrani Kesari Akkara Kurian Writer(Co-Author)
34. Pulikkottil mar Divannasiosum 1811 le Biblum(Editor)
35. Malankarayudae Suvarna Yuga Silpi(Vol-1)
36. Malankarayudae Suvarna Yuga Silpi(Vol-2)
37. Malankarayudae Suvarna Yuga Silpi(Vol-3, Printing)
38. Kunnamkulam Palli Charithram: Charchayum Pooranavum (Printing)
39. Malankara Sabhayudae Samunnatha Sarathikal (printing)
40. Pazhanji Palliyum Pithakkanmarum (Printing)
41. The Indian Orthodox Church of St.Thomas
42. Suriyani Ragangal (Ekkara), (Audio CD)

References

1. Indian orthodox Sabha (52-2007) by Fr.Dr.Joseph Cheeran