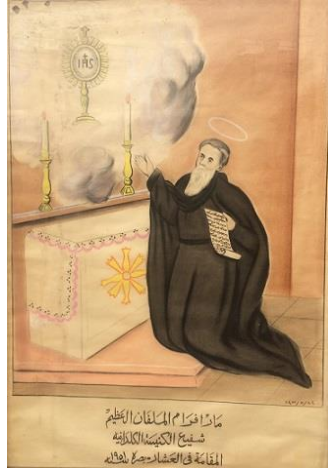




## Mar Ephrem

St. Ephrem the Syrian, known as 'Harp of the Holy Spirit' and the "sun of the Syrians" is undoubtedly the greatest poet and theologian that the Syriac Church ever produced. He was not only a well-known figure in the Syriac-speaking world but also had a great reputation in the Greek East as well as the Latin West. He was proclaimed Doctor of the Universal Church in 1920.



He was born in 306 in Nisibis (trade centre in the North-west of Mosul). St Ephrem was instructed in the Christian mysteries by St. Jacob, the Bishop of Nisibis who participated in the Synod of Nicaea (325), and was baptized at the age of eighteen. Thenceforth he became more intimate with the holy bishop, who availed himself of the services of Ephrem to renew the moral life of the citizens of Nisibis. He was ordained as a deacon and was known for his good preaching and teaching. He had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In 363 Nisibis was ceded to Persia; a great persecution of Christians began, and Ephrem led an exodus of the faithful to Edessa. He founded a theological school in Edessa.

Mar Ephrem wrote exclusively in Syriac but his works were translated into Armenian and Greek, and via the latter into Latin and Slavonic. Much of St Ephraim's exegetical, dogmatic and ascetic works are in verse form. He wrote several polemical works refuting the heresies of Marcion, Bardaisan, Mani, the Arians and the Anomoeans.

He wrote widely regarded biblical commentaries on Genesis and the Gospels. His writings extensively employ typology and symbolism. Over 500 genuine hymns survive, of great beauty and insight. He taught the youth these hymns and formed a choir to chant them.

+++

## **You are the Enriching Treasure**

by Mar Ephrem

You are the enriching treasure, who came to satisfy the needy,

And the spring that quenches the thirst of simple people,

And the name that expelled the falsehood from the world.

Blessed are those who recognized who you are Oh Christ,

And in possessing you became possessed by you.

You are the glorious wheat cob that grew amongst the hateful darnels,

You gave the bread of life untiringly to the hungry.

You broke the curse associated with Adam, who obtained his bread with pain and sweat.

Happy is the one who eat your blessed bread.

+++

## **The Church of Mar Ephrem**

The church was built in 1969. Bishop Gibrael Ganni supervised its building. Until 2015, the church witnessed the baptisms of 1710 children, 1340 marriages and 1000 funerals; also a catechist centre was build next to the church.

The Parish was served between 1969 & 2021 by 14 bishops and priests.



Fr Emad Albanaa & Fr Aram Sabah

In front of the Church you can find the Virgin Mary Shrine. Many people (Muslims & Christians come regularly to light kindles and pray).





The Church of Saint Ephrem 1969 (Ashar)





The Cultural centre is a big building (20\*15m) with 2 levels. It includes 12 rooms.

+++

### **Bishop Jibrael Ganni**

He was born in Keremles on August 5, 1906 and in 1920, he enrolled at Saint John Seminary where he graduated in 1923. On September 28, 1927 he returned to Rome to further his education and in 1929, he was ordained priest in Mosul .He taught at the Seminary and then served in Syria and Amadiya and at the Patriarchal Seat. He served the Diocese of Amadiya (together with his uncle, Bishop Hanna Qrewo) and in 1947, he was appointed as Patriarchal Representative at the Diocese. He was ordained Bishop in Baghdad in 1956. In 1960, he was appointed as assistant to Bishop Jibrael Namu (Bishop of Beirut) and he succeeded him after his death until 1966 when he was transferred to the



Diocese of Basra .He died on November 10, 1980 and he was buried next to his uncle, Bishop Qrewo in Keremles.

+++



A small hall for faithful beside the temple



**The Diocese Publishing**

+++

Mass & rosary is served on daily basis.

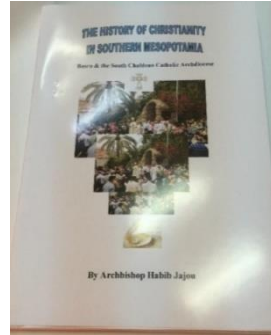
+++

**Dear reader:**

The Basra Chaldean Archdiocese is happy to publish many newsletters about Basra churches, Christianity & old civilizations in Mesopotamia, plus other education issues.

+++

For more information read the Archdiocese's Book: *The History of Christianity in southern Mesopotamia*



*Please pray to the Church in Iraq*



**Address:** Mar Ephrem Chaldean Catholic Church -  
Ashar/Breha, Al-Estiklal St., P. O. Box: 217, Basra/Iraq

Fr\_habib@yahoo.com [Tel:07730661413/](tel:07730661413)

Website: [www.basrachaldean.org](http://www.basrachaldean.org)

Facebook: Habib Jajou