



[AP 57 - Bilingual singing of Qambel Maran.](#)

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Call Number	AP 57
Part Number	Part I – Syro Malabar Church
Title	Bilingual singing of Qambel Maran.
Duration	4 : 56
Place of Recording	St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Forane Church, Bronx , New York
Date of Recording	14 January 2017
YouTube URL	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDI0PEvJb_0
Video Segment(s)	

Notes

Bilingual singing of [Qambel Maran](#).

The idea of singing the same chant in its original Syriac text and its Malayalam translation came up during my interview with the [Major Archbishop, George Cardinal Alencherry](#), the head of the [Syro Malabar Church](#) (see [Aramaic Project 60](#)). The Major Archbishop was very enthusiastic about the idea. On my part, this was the first attempt to put the idea into practice. The occasion was the celebration of the Office for the Dead, following the memorial mass for the first anniversary of my cousin, Fr. Thomas Palackal, and 176th anniversary of my collateral ancestor, the saintly [Palackal Thoma Malpan](#). The congregation consisted mainly of the Palackal family who live in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Canada. For that reason, I felt comfortable in doing this experiment. The adults had the Malayalam translation in front of them, while I sang the Syriac text, and therefore, did not feel disconnected from the spirit of the prayer. The youngsters, however, could not follow the meaning because they did not know Malayalam. One of them told me after the service that he liked the prayerful mood created by the melody. It remains to be seen if other priests would be willing to do such experiments, and if the laity would feel comfortable. If they do, that will lead to a positive conversation about the Syriac heritage of the [Syro Malabar Church](#).

Dr. Joseph J. Palackal, CMI

22 January 2017



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