



## Dr. Thankam Mathew

April 10, 1934 - March 23, 2024

Dr. Thankam Mathew (90) went to be with her Lord and her husband, parents and brothers.

Dr. Thankam Mathew (nee Bastian) was born on April 11th, 1933 in Pudukad, Trichur district, Kerala, India to devout Christian parents. Dr. Mathew became the oldest Indian woman and American veterinarian of Indian origin, when she turned 90 in 2023.

Throughout her career, Dr. Thankam Mathew was a trailblazer, breaking barriers and making significant contributions to veterinary medicine. She became the first woman veterinary student on campus in Madras Veterinary College, India, graduating with top honors and merit awards in 1958. Dr. Mathew became the first woman veterinarian to receive doctorate. Her Ph.D was characterizing the buffalo pox virus as a new entity within the pox group of viruses. Her other achievements included being the first lady veterinarian to join the faculty of Kerala Veterinary College (KVC), Mannuthy, Kerala, India; being the first woman in India to open and establish a veterinary and medical diagnostic laboratory in New Delhi in 1986; establishing Thajema Publishers, in 1987, the first publishing company in India founded by a woman veterinarian; and being the Founding Secretary of the Indian Association of Lady Veterinarians in 1985.

Her career path led her to advocacy and meetings with the President of India, R Venkataraman, and the Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. Her profession also took her to Kaduna, Nigeria, all while raising three young daughters with her veterinary husband Dr. Zachariah Mathew. After migrating to the USA, Dr. Thankam Mathew, in her 60s still passionate about research, worked as a researcher at IGI Vineland Labs, Vineland, NJ. In her retirement years she continued to publish veterinary medical books under Thajema Publishers.

Despite her many accomplishments and traveling to the 6 continents for her professional work, Dr. Thankam Mathew remained humble and dedicated to her work and was known for her strong Christian values, prayerful nature, humility, simplicity, kindness, generosity, and her love for life. In addition to her professional achievements, she pursued her hobbies in embroidery, cross-stitching, sewing, and gardening, showcasing her artistic talents.

Dr. Thankam Mathew was preceded in death by her loving husband, Dr. Zachariah Mathew, parents Mr. P.P. Devassy and Mrs. Mary Kattikaran, brothers Prof. Francis Thekkiniyath and Mr. Priyan Paul. She is survived by her daughters Dr. Trini Mathew, Dr. Tripthi Mathew and Dr. Taji Abraham, son-in-law Mr. Bijou Abraham and grandchildren Dr. Tanishq Abraham and Ms. Tiara Abraham.

A viewing and visitation will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 9 to 10 am at the First Christian Church (FCC), Bloomington, IN. The Marthoma Church funeral service will be held from 10.30 am to 12 noon at FCC followed by final blessing at the graveside. Mom will be laid to rest at the Valhalla Memory Gardens, Bloomington, IN where her late husband and our dear dad also rests.

Our dear mom, and loving grandma will be missed dearly. But we know we will

meet her at our Lord's side.

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"  
Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." –  
Luke 23:42-43

In addition to flowers, you can also honor Dr. Thankam Mathew's legacy and her love for plants, animals, children by making donations to the following charities:

Save the Children - <https://www.savethechildren.org/>

Partners In Health - <https://www.pih.org/>

ASPCA - <https://www.aspca.org/>

A Tree to Remember - <https://www.memorialtree.com/>

# Cemetery Details

## Valhalla Memory Gardens

310 North Johnson Ave.  
Bloomington, IN 47401

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 30. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

First Christian Church  
205 East Kirkwood Ave  
Bloomington, IN 47408

[https://www.youtube.com/live/a3NAXt-5qo?si=DQktSdEOLI\\_IAZPy](https://www.youtube.com/live/a3NAXt-5qo?si=DQktSdEOLI_IAZPy)

## Service

MAR 30. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Christian Church  
205 East Kirkwood Ave  
Bloomington, IN 47408

[https://www.youtube.com/live/a3NAXt-5qo?si=DQktSdEOLI\\_IAZPy](https://www.youtube.com/live/a3NAXt-5qo?si=DQktSdEOLI_IAZPy)

# Tribute Wall



“ Allen Funeral Home and Crematory created a Dr. Thankam Mathew in memory of Dr. Thankam Mathew



Allen Funeral Home and Crematory - March 29, 2024 at 09:34 PM

DM

“ Dearest Mummy,

Remembering you especially today and tomorrow on your 92nd birthday. God Grant you Peace. Love you always. Yours loving Tripti Mol.

[https://www.123greetings.com/birthday/mom\\_n\\_dad/special\\_birthday\\_](https://www.123greetings.com/birthday/mom_n_dad/special_birthday_)  
[https://www.123greetings.com/birthday/mom\\_n\\_dad/happy\\_birthday\\_n](https://www.123greetings.com/birthday/mom_n_dad/happy_birthday_n)

Dr. Tripti Mathew - April 10 at 04:04 PM

DM

“ Dearest Mummy,  
Remembered you in my prayers yesterday,  
today and always.



Dr. Tripti Mathew - March 30 at 11:04 AM

DM

“ Dear Mummy, Remembering you especially today and always in Prayers. With Love and Prayers, Tripti



Dr. Tripti Mary Mathew - March 23 at 11:35 AM

DM

“ Happy International Women's Day Mummy. Remembering you today and always.



[https://www.123greetings.com/events/womens\\_day/family/wfamily5.ht](https://www.123greetings.com/events/womens_day/family/wfamily5.ht)

Dr. Tripti Mathew - March 08 at 11:21 AM

DM

“ Happy Valentine's Day Dear Mummy! Remembered you and Daddy in prayers especially this morning and the chocolates we shared together with Daddy on Valentine's Day!



Dr. Tripti Mathew - February 14 at 07:18 PM

DM

“ Dear Mummy, Remembering and prayed for you on All Soul's and All Saint's Day, Nov 1-2, 2025. I know you are watching over us. I placed a Yellow Rose for you both in Church today.



Dr. Tripti Mathew - November 02, 2025 at 05:48 PM

RM

“ Dear Mummy and Daddy, Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary! <https://youtu.be/5R3qbiR4Sec>  
We love and miss you.



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**Rev. Dr. Tripthi Mary Mathew** - September 06, 2025 at 01:35 PM

TM

“ Dearest Mummy,

*Happy Mother's Day!*

[https://www.123greetings.com/events/mothers\\_day/happy\\_mother\\_flow](https://www.123greetings.com/events/mothers_day/happy_mother_flow)

*With Love and Prayers,  
Tripthi  
Dr. Tripthi M. Mathew*

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**Tripthi Mathew** - May 11, 2025 at 08:55 AM

DM

“ Dearest Mummy,

*Wish you a Happy 91st Birthday today. May God give you peace and r  
Remembering you in prayers.*

[https://www.123greetings.com/birthday/mom\\_n\\_dad/special\\_birthday\\_](https://www.123greetings.com/birthday/mom_n_dad/special_birthday_)

*With Love and Prayers,  
  
Tripthi Mol*

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**Dr. Tripthi M. Mathew** - April 10, 2025 at 08:30 AM

DM

“ Dr. Tripti M. Mathew sent a virtual gift in memory of Thankam Mathew



Dr. Tripti M. Mathew - March 30, 2025 at 08:30 AM

TM

“ Dear Mummy, Remembering you especially today in prayers. With Love and Prayers, Tripti Mol



Tripti M. Mathew - March 30, 2025 at 08:29 AM

DM

“ Dear Mummy, Remembering you today and always in our hearts and prayers. Love and prayers, Tripti Mol



Dr. Tripti Mary Mathew - March 23, 2025 at 07:56 PM

DM

“ Dear Mummy, Wish you a Happy International Women's Day!- March 8, 2025. Remembering your painful ordeal last year this day and Praying for you. Love always. Hope you like this greeting.



[https://www.123greetings.com/events/womens\\_day/family/wfamily34.h](https://www.123greetings.com/events/womens_day/family/wfamily34.h)

Dr. Tripti Mary Mathew - March 08, 2025 at 11:06 AM

DM

“ Praying for you both. With my Love always.



Dr. Tripthi Mary Mathew - February 15, 2025 at 03:56 PM

DM

“ Dr. Tripthi Mary Mathew sent a virtual gift in memory of Thankam Mathew



Dr. Tripthi Mary Mathew - February 15, 2025 at 03:56 PM

DM

“ Happy Valentine's Day Dear Mummy. Remembering you and Daddy on V-day as the many V-days we celebrated together at home and at restaurant sometimes. I came across some of your cute V-day gifts that we exchanged on V-day with chocolates.



Dr. Tripthi Mary Mathew - February 15, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ Remembering you Dear Mummy on All Souls Day! May your soul RIP.



Tripthi Mathew - November 02, 2024 at 04:43 PM

DM

“ *Dr. Tripthi Mary Mathew lit a candle in memory of Thankam Mathew*



Dr. Tripthi Mary Mathew - May 27, 2024 at 08:04 PM



“ *Tripthi Mathew lit a candle in memory of Thankam Mathew*



Tripthi Mathew - May 13, 2024 at 06:25 AM

TM

“ *Dear Mummy, remembering you today and always. R.I.P*



Tripthi M. Mathew - April 06, 2024 at 04:00 PM

DM

“ *Dr. Mary Mathew lit a candle in memory of Thankam Mathew*



Dr. Tripthi Mary Mathew - April 02, 2024 at 09:22 PM

TP

“ Trina, Sunil and Joel Porter send our heartfelt prayers and love to Taji, Tripthi, Trini and family. In honoring Mom Mathew we have planted 5 trees in Israel, the birthplace of our Savior and Lord God Jesus Christ. A framed plaque certificate will follow in about 3-5 weeks to Bloomington.  
With much love,  
Trina

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**Trina Porter** - March 30, 2024 at 05:59 PM

TC

“ Thomson and Mary Chacko planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Thankam Mathew.

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**Thomson and Mary Chacko** - March 29, 2024 at 02:34 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



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March 29, 2024 at 02:34 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



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March 29, 2024 at 09:06 AM

GM

“ George, Rita, Yohan, Joanna, and Melvin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



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**George, Rita, Yohan, Joanna, and Melvin** - March 29, 2024 at 08:18 AM

GT

“ Grace and George Thomas purchased the Laven der Reflections Spray for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



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**Grace and George Thomas** - March 29, 2024 at 07:44 AM

GT

“ Grace and George Thomas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Thankam Mathew.

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**Grace and George Thomas** - March 29, 2024 at 07:44 AM

GA

“ Praise the lord .Greetings to all of you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Achens ,grieving family's ,all sisters and brothers in Christ and loving children. My name is grace Alexander from New Jersey marthoma church. I am so privileged ,humbled and honored to say few words about our dear Dr Thankam Mathew auntie . We met this loving family when they moved to new Jersey around 30 yrs ago . . Death is always painful it is a separation from this world to a promotion for a believer to eternity where no more pain , sickness or sorrows . As it says in John 14:1Donot let your heart be troubled ,Trust in the lord ,Trust also in me in my fathers house are many rooms ,I am going there to prepare a place for you . Now Aunty is rejoicing with uncle , her parents and all the saints in heaven . Aunty loved the lord believed in the power of prayer . She had an infectious smile and she loved her family and her friends . We had many opportunities to be with Aunty and family . , we went to sevikasanghom prayer meetings together with a group of friends from our chuch. . Dear Taji , Biju Tripty and Trini I know it is very painful to say goodbye to your parents .As job says Jesus gave and He took them may His name be Glorified. As believers we have a hope that we can see her one day on the other shore . Aunty loved her 2 grand children , they are her pride love of her life and always cherished theirGodgiven Talents in many ways . On the Behalf of my family our heartfelt condolences and prayers for heavenly peace comfort and strength at this difficult time . May the good Lord bless us all . With lots of love and prayers  
Grace Alexander .

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Grace Alexander - March 29, 2024 at 12:58 AM

TA

“ Taji Abraham lit a candle in memory of Thankam Mathew



Taji Abraham - March 29, 2024 at 12:19 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



March 28, 2024 at 09:24 PM

NG

“ Nandakumar, Nirmala & Gautham planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Thankam Mathew.

Nandakumar, Nirmala & Gautham - March 28, 2024 at 09:24 PM

BF

“ Barclay family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



Barclay family - March 28, 2024 at 07:29 PM

SG

“ Seemon, Jessy, Joe & Gifty purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



Seemon, Jessy, Joe & Gifty - March 28, 2024 at 08:06 AM

FT

“ From Arun and GHRC team purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



From Arun and GHRC team - March 27, 2024 at 10:20 PM

FT

“ From Arun and GHRC team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Thankam Mathew.

From Arun and GHRC team - March 27, 2024 at 10:20 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Thankam Mathew.



March 27, 2024 at 09:54 PM

SF

“ Susan, David, and Aedan Fischer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Thankam Mathew.

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**Susan, David, and Aedan Fischer** - March 27, 2024 at 09:54 PM