

# BASHEER COMMEMORATION VIA FILM NARRATIVE

PG DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Cultural and Historical Immersion: To immerse students in the profound cultural, political, and literary resonance of Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's *Mathilukal*, a work etched in the annals of history against the tumultuous backdrop of India's freedom struggle. Exquisite Literary Dissection: To cultivate a refined engagement with the novella *Mathilukal*, prompting students to unravel its delicate narrative architecture, nuanced symbolism, and the poignant depth of its characters. Cinematic and Aesthetic Inquiry: To explore the film adaptation's visual and auditory grandeur, analysing how Adoor Gopalakrishnan's cinematic artistry faithfully transposes Basheer's minimalist narrative into a sensory feast. Philosophical and Psychological Contemplation: To engage in deep philosophical inquiry, delving into the existential quandaries posed by Basheer's narrative—exploring the themes of isolation, love, and metaphysical boundaries between captivity and freedom. Comparative Artistic Analysis: To inspire a comparative analysis of *Mathilukal* within the wider cinematic landscape, positioning the film alongside other literary adaptations and international prison narratives.

Ethical and Moral Reflections: To evoke profound ethical reflections on the moral dilemmas inherent in the narrative—particularly Basheer’s negotiation of freedom within the confines of captivity and the emotional complexities of his relationship with Narayani. Celebration of Regional Cinematic Excellence: To foster a reverence for the luminous legacy of Malayalam cinema, positioning Mathilukal as a beacon within the rich tapestry of regional Indian filmmaking and the parallel cinema movement.

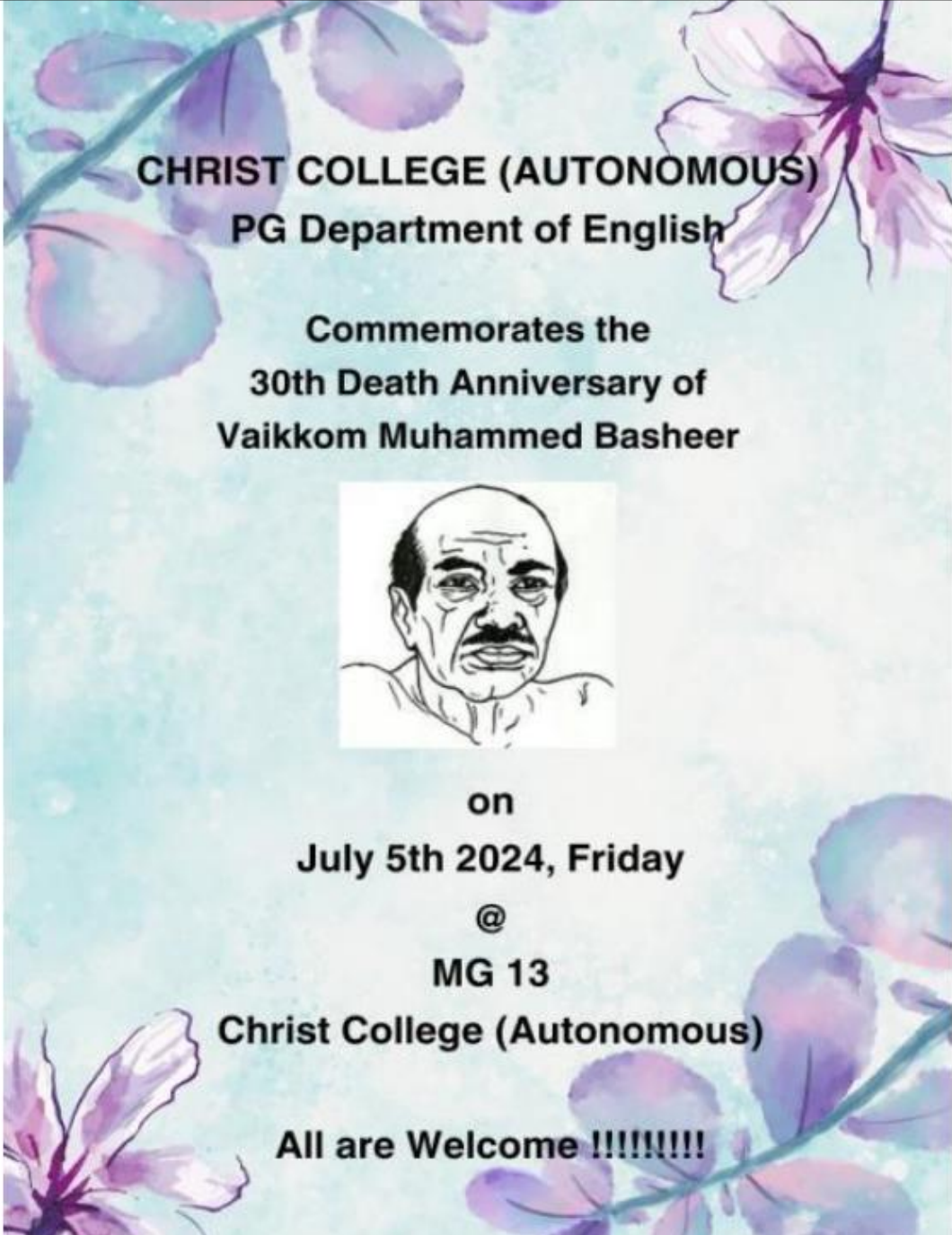
Date: 5th July 2024

The 30th death anniversary of Vaikom Muhammad Basheer (popularly hailed as Beypore Sulthan) was commemorated by the PG Department of English on July 5, 2024. Adding flavor to the remembrance, the second- and third-year BA English Literature students viewed the critically acclaimed Malayalam film, Mathilukal (transl. Walls). The film which is written, directed, and produced by Adoor Gopalakrishnan is based on Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's autobiographical novel that goes by the same title. The film has at its locus Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's time under incarceration and his fiery passion for Narayani, a female coinmate who remains unseen throughout the narrative. In the movie, Mammooty plays Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, while K. P. A. C. Lalitha gives voice (and thereby providing materiality and identity) to Narayani. The film owing to its stellar performances, solid plot and a sharp direction has naturally claimed numerous accolades since its release. Some of

these accolades include its enactment and special mention in the 1989 Venice Film Festival, and also in the 1990 Amiens International Film Festival, an award in the Best Regional Film (Malayalam) category in 1990, the subsequent Kerala State Film Awards, among many others.


The film screening was organized by the PG Department of English. The Department, through this thoughtful act helped the students bolster their understanding of the socio-political milieu that shaped Basheer's writings providing them in turn insights into the oppressive colonial forces that did and perpetually do stifle liberties- personal and creative. Some of the students gave voice to their profound critical reflections on the film's exploration of the human condition, dissecting, in the process, the complex emotional tapestry of Basheer's relationship with the unseen Narayani. The film screening found success in helping the student-critic to further adumbrate the ethical dimensions of hope, autonomy, and the human spirit's defiance in the face of institutional oppression. The students discussed the film's themes of friendship, loneliness, fear, and love in veneration of the creative spirit and also in question of motives, materiality and memory. Ms. Sruthy Mohan (Chief Mentor, S5 BA English) and Ms. Sreelekha Chandrashekharan (Chief Mentor, S3 BA English) took the lead for the screening. Mr. Lanjo John (Faculty) provided the much-needed technical support and Ms. Adeela V.N and Ms. Anima Dilip blessed the screening with their presence. The screening and its associated

immersion in thought and imagination was brought to a cheerful climax by 3 pm.



**CHRIST COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**  
**PG Department of English**

**Commemorates the  
30th Death Anniversary of  
Vaikkom Muhammed Basheer**



**on  
July 5th 2024, Friday  
@  
MG 13  
Christ College (Autonomous)**

**All are Welcome !!!!!!!**





1) Adith M Balakrishna	<u>Adith</u>
2) Alakananda Vaikkattil Mahesh	<u>Alakananda</u>
3) Anura Agi	<u>Anura</u>
4) Sandhya Sureshkumar	<u>Sandhya</u>
5) Krishnaalaya Raj KB	<u>Krishna</u>
6) Abhilash Mathow	<u>Abhilash</u>
7) Harinandan PA	<u>Harinandan</u>
8. MOHAMMAD SAIFAN C S	<u>Mo</u>
9. EDWAN P H	<u>Edwan</u>
10. Nadiya K N	<u>Nadiya</u>
11. Fathima Rishma EA	<u>Fathima</u>
12. Gopika V	<u>Gopika</u>
13) Aswani Krishnakumar	<u>Aswani</u>
14) Anya P. Prakashan	<u>Anya</u>
15) Archana Anil	<u>Archana</u>
16) Levin D. Rosa	<u>Levin</u>
17) Rathanath K.M	<u>Rathanath</u>
18) Sai Mahadev	<u>Sai</u>
19) Nayan Deep	<u>Nayan</u>
20) Goddy Rose George	<u>Goddy</u>
21) Alutena George	<u>Alutena</u>
22) Divapriya	<u>Divapriya</u>
23) Janna Jasmine	<u>Janna</u>
24. Fathimathul Najiha K H	<u>Fathimathul</u>

## OUTCOMES

- **Cultural and Historical Immersion:** Students shall emerge with an enriched understanding of the socio-political milieu that shaped Basheer's writings, gaining insight into the oppressive colonial forces that sought to stifle both personal and creative liberties.
- **Exquisite Literary Dissection:** Teachers shall endeavour to distil the essence of Basheer's literary mastery, identifying the layers of metaphor that interlace the narrative, and applying sophisticated critical theories to dissect its profound thematic undercurrents.
- **Cinematic and Aesthetic Inquiry:** Students shall develop a heightened appreciation for the filmmaker's deft use of visual symbolism, restrained cinematography, and subtle soundscapes, all of which evoke the solitude, yearning, and existential freedom that define the tale.
- **Philosophical and Psychological Contemplation:** Students shall articulate profound reflections on the film's exploration of the human condition, dissecting the complex emotional tapestry of Basheer's relationship with the unseen Narayani and drawing parallels to timeless existential dilemmas.
- **Comparative Artistic Analysis:** Students shall discern the film's unique narrative and aesthetic choices by juxtaposing it with other cinematic masterpieces, thereby fostering a critical dialogue on how different artistic traditions grapple with themes of confinement, resistance, and human resilience.
- **Ethical and Moral Reflections:** Students shall engage in thoughtful debates, grappling with the ethical dimensions of hope, autonomy, and the human spirit's defiance in the face of institutional oppression