

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

MORAN MOR BASELIOS CARDINAL CLEEMIS
Major Archbishop-Catholicos

Major Archiepiscopal Curia
Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Trivandrum-695004

Prot No CCL 1/2025



10.01.2025

CIRCULAR

CATHOLICOS DAY-2025

Most Rev. Bishops, Rev. Corepiscopas, Rambans, Respected Priests, Deacons, Religious, dear Faithful in the Lord,

We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the elevation of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church as an autonomous Major Archiepiscopal Church in the universal Catholic Church on February 2, 2025 as Catholicos Day. As a Church, let us thank God for His mercy and care that protects our church. “O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 136:26). On this day which has been set aside to pray by consecrating the Church into God’s hands, let’s pray especially that our Church services will continue to be active and blessed by God. Let us take a prayerful pledge to perform the ecclesiastical services we have undertaken with faith and sincere dedication. I wish the entire congregation the blessings of Catholicos Day.

“Lord Jesus Christ, bring peace and tranquillity to the holy Church. Shield it with love to avoid disputes and dissensions. Grant it shelter in the shadow of the cross. May the blessings of your Holy hand be upon it. Give light to its eyes to see your Holy face” (Girideepam). This was the prayer of Venerable Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, who prayed for the Church continually. Let us pray together with him to strengthen the Church. After the last Catholicos Day, Holy Father Pope Francis elevated “Servant of God” Mar Ivanios, to the rank of “Venerable” in the universal church. We can bow before God for this great blessing given to the Church and thank him. The reunion of the Church in 1930, elevation of the Church to the status of Major Archiepiscopal Church

and the elevation of the head of the Church to the position of Major Archbishop-Catholicos were the fruition of the dreams of Venerable Mar Ivanios.

The growth of our church is the result of the prayers and sacrifices of many. Let us remember with gratitude the reverend bishops, priests, religious and lay-evangelists who have strengthened the evangelical spirit and life of testimony of the church. Let's offer them before God and pray. I gratefully remember the reverend bishops, priests, religious and faithful who services the Church services through self-consecration.

In the universal Catholic Church, the year 2025 is being observed as the *Christu-Jayanthi* Jubilee year. The year of jubilee gives us great conviction that "hope does not disappoint us" (Romans 5:5). Let us heed the call of Holy Father, Pope Francis; "Let us travel as pilgrims of hope in the Holy Year. As we rediscover our vocation and share the various gifts of the Holy Spirit, may we bear witness to Jesus' dream: that we may be a single family, united in the love of God." (Jubilee Message). The uncertainty about the future gives way to negative emotions in many. It may change self-confidence to anxiety, calmness to worry and firm faith to doubt. Jesus Christ is our hope. He invites us not to a life of despair, but to a life of hope. Let us yearn for hope and new awakening in our lives through the celebration of the Jubilee year.

The centenary of reunion will be celebrated 2030. From 2024, we are participating in the effort to fully renew the Church through different observances every year. As the first step in the church-wide renewal, September 20, 2024 to September 19, 2025 is observed as the "Year of the Word". Let's get to know closely and study deeply the active and life-giving word that Almighty God has given for us to confirm and strengthen the church through the Word of God. Through this, I call everyone to be witnesses of the Word of God. I specially remind that all the faithful of the Church should actively participate in all the arrangements that are part of the "Year of the Word".

The 29th Ordinary Episcopal Synod of our Church will be convened from March 10-14, 2025 at the Catholicate Centre. All of you are specially reminded to pray for the Synod to become God's blessing.

Major Archiepiscopal Curia - Catholicate Centre is the centre that coordinates the various public services and the activities of the Synodal Commissions of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church. The Catholicate Centre operates with the generous support of the children of Church. We set aside the thanksgiving offerings of Catholicos Day for this special intention. I also call upon the congregation to make your generous contributions to the specific ministries of the Catholicate and the general ministries of the Church.

The reverend Vicars should inform and encourage the parishioners about in advance. Not only parishes, but all our institutions, religious communities and their provinces should generously participate in this endeavour. Our mission communities outside India should also join this initiative. The Bishops shall collate the thanksgiving offerings from their respective Eparchy and submit the share decided by the Synod in the next Episcopal Synod. The Superiors General and Provincial Superiors should hand over the contribution of their religious communities to the Finance Office of the Catholicate Centre before the Episcopal Synod. I would like to express my appreciation and special thanks to all those who have generously contributed to this endeavour in the past year.

On Catholicos Day, after Holy *Qurbano*, all our parishes, institutions and mission centres should raise the Catholicate flag and administer the Catholicos Day Pledge. On this day, I specially appreciate, gratefully remember and pray for the Reverend Bishops, priests, religious and congregation who are engaged in the activities of our Church in different parts of the world.

May God's mercies and blessings be upon you always in abundance!

Your humble servant in the Lord

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✠ **Baselios Cardinal Cleemis**

Major Archbishop-Catholicos
of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

NB: This circular should be read during the Holy Mass on 2 February 2025, Sunday, in all Churches, Mission centres and Centres of worship.