



**THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH
MCCLDAY-2025**

**(MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S LEAGUE)
THE MESSAGE OF THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE SYNODAL COMMISSION
FOR FAITH FORMATION**

Your Excellencies, Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi and Rambans, Reverend Fathers, Deacons, Religious and dear children in Jesus,

Sunday, 9th February 2025, is being celebrated as the Malankara Catholic Children’s League (MCCL) Day by the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. The word of God exhorts us “You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). The Holy Church entrusted by the Messiah to the mother and teacher of God’s children, is zealous in bringing up her children in this way. Through baptism, she gives birth to the children of God. She nourishes them with the grace of God and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. This nourishment is received throughout the life of a believer. However, we recognise, that the faith formation programme is the basic platform where the young generation is trained to get to know and follow Jesus from early childhood. Pope Francis reminds us the ultimate goal of faith formation program is to have an encounter with Jesus Christ. The Pope emphasises that faith formation programme is to have an encounter with Jesus Christ. He underscores that faith formation should not only be aimed at learning about Christ and the understanding the way of life that He taught but also at developing a personal relationship with Him.

The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church has always acknowledged faith formation program as the most important basic mission of the Church. Venerable Arch Bishop Mar Ivanios describes this ministry as

“the mission entrusted by our Lord.” He reminds us that “Just as a field that has not been sown does not yield a harvest, we should not expect pious Children who would lead moral lives from a parish that has not been providing faith formation at the right time.” The foundation was laid for a carefully structured faith formation program in our Church from the very early days of reunion. Leadership of our Church has always been keen to bring in necessary changes in tune with the changing time.

Faith formation is not just about increasing the knowledge of Children through regular classes. Rather, faith is experienced and deepened when children participate in community in their own way. We were always careful to ensure their active involvement in community worship. MCCL was formed to help the light of faith reach various other dimensions of their growth as individuals.

Through the MCCL, Children have the opportunity to participate in various levels of community formation, receive leadership training, develop artistic and cultural skills, and develop friendships rooted in Christian brotherhood and practice universal love. It enables them to become better persons in the spirit of the Gospel. They get opportunities to deepen the knowledge gained at the catechism classes and practice them to provide testimony to their faith. In fact, our faith formation program is complete when the Catechesis curriculum, liturgical study and personal development opportunities offered by MCCL are put together. Although MCCL members are only Children, parents who teach them practical Christian lessons and those devoted teachers who strengthen them by sharing knowledge and testimony in Catechism classes in the parishes are the source of strength of this organization. Along with them we remember with gratitude the venerable priests and the respected members of the various religious communities who give valuable guidance and encouragement to the parish activities. On behalf of the Church, I would like to express my gratitude for the various ministries in the Eparchies for organizing and training our children in a meritorious way.

In preparation of the Reunion Centenary, we are observing a year period from the last Reunion anniversary as the year of the Word of

God. The central theme adopted by us for the year of the Word of God is “Abide in My Word (Jn 8: 3). As part of the spiritual renewal that takes place throughout the Church during this period, we desire a deep study and absorption of Holy Scripture. MCCL is committed to emphasising the practice of *Lectio Divina* (Sacred reading of the Holy Scripture) and promote Scriptural Spirituality by various initiatives. Studying and sharing the Word of God is the fundamental aspect of faith formation program. Let us pray and hope that great spiritual blessings may flow into our communities and families as we come to read, study and live the written Word of God.

The special co-operation of our teachers who devote themselves with commitment to all the endeavors of the Church is essential for all the programs connected with the year of the Word of God.

I am confident that they will generously find time to participate actively in classes and other training programs designed to deepen their understanding of the Word of God and to lead training program for Children. Let us come together to ensure that these activities are carried out without interruption, in accordance with the instructions received from the Church and Eparchial levels. As those called to transmit faith, let us together strengthen this ministry.

It is hereby reminded that February 9th 2025, being MCCL Day, should be celebrated with appropriate programs as per directions of the Eparchial directors and parish vicars. It would be appropriate to plan activities like, Holy Confession, active participation in the Holy Eucharist, interactive sessions, various study programs, and special programs related to the Year of the Word as part of the Day’s celebrations. May the significance of this ministry of guiding children into a virtuous Christian life style be reflected in all areas of our Church through the observance of this year’s MCCL Day.

sd/-

✠ **Thomas Mar Eusebius**

Chairman of Synodal Commission for Faith Formation
& Bishop of Parassala

NB: This circular should be read during the Holy Mass on 9 February 2025, Sunday, in all Churches, Mission centres and Centres of worship.