

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

MORAN MOR
BASELIOS CARDINAL CLEEMIS
Major Archbishop-Catholicos



Major Archiepiscopal Curia
Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Trivandrum-695004

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Circular

Catholicos Day-2026

Your Grace, Your Excellencies, Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi and Rambans, Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Religious and dear Faithful in the Lord,

We celebrate the 21st anniversary of the elevation of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church as a Major Archiepiscopal Synodal Church with the power of self-governance as Catholicos day on 1st February 2026. The Church is the mystical body of Christ and we are its members. We have been engaged in the effort to build up the Church of Christ throughout this time. The divine intervention and collective actions lead us forward as a church community that bears active witness in the Universal Catholic Church. Let us give thanks for God's mercy and protection. "Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind." (Psalm 107:21). On this day set aside for prayers dedicating of the entire Church to God, let us pray in a special way that the Church services may continue to be active and blessed by God. Let us prayerfully pledge to carry out the Church services we have undertaken, with the light of faith and sincere dedication. I wish all the children of the Church the blessings of Catholicos Day.

We, as a Church, continue the missionary ministry that Venerable Mar Ivanios began in 1930. Venerable Mar Ivanios Metropolitan descended the Mundanmala so that the light of the Gospel might shine upon all of India through the True Church. He undertook all the sacrifices in his life's journey for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel. "Be proud of being Catholics. May your holy life and good example be a guiding light for the non-Catholics. You should reflect in yourselves our loving Lord, the Messiah": These are the

words of Venerable Mar Ivanios in his last sermon to the children of the Church. The Holy Father has entrusted us with the mission of spreading the Gospel message to those who do not know Christ, and of leading those who are not Catholics to the true faith by sharing our life of holiness and good examples, being the part of the Universal Catholic Church. It is our responsibility today to carry these missions forward in a constructive manner.

The Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, today, through its 12 eparchies, the Apostolic Visitor's Office in the UK for European ministries, and through the Mission centres in other countries, is spreading the light of the Gospel in the Universal Catholic Church. Let us remember with gratitude those who have prayed, worked, and dedicated themselves, to attain the level of growth that our Church has attained today. Let us present before God all the Rev. Fathers, Religious and Lay missionaries who have passed on the torch of Reunion lit by Venerable Mar Ivanios Metropolitan in 1930 to future generations. The rank of a Major Archiepiscopal Church with the power of self-governance in the Universal Catholic Church, and the Institution of the Throne of Catholicos, are the blessings received by our Church. We gratefully remember the Most Rev. Bishops, Fathers, Religious and People of God who have rendered selfless service for the growth of the Church, a blessing of God.

In 2030, we will celebrate the centenary of the Reunion. We have set aside the period leading up to it for the renewal of the entire Church and for the strengthening of various ministries. The celebration of the 'Year of the Word' helped us to delve into the Word in the fullness of the Holy Spirit and live it. We are celebrating the 'Year of the Liturgy' from September 20, 2025 to September 19, 2026. The liturgy is a precious treasure handed down by our Holy Fathers. We have received the calling to protect it in holiness and sanctity and to glorify God through it. "In the liturgy the whole public worship is performed by the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, that is, by the Head and His members. From this it follows that every liturgical celebration, because it is an action of Christ the priest and of His Body which is the Church, is a sacred action surpassing all others; no other action of the Church can equal its efficacy by the same title and to the same degree" (SC 7). The celebration of the 'Year of Liturgy' can be an opportunity to delve into the depths of the sacred and holy liturgy and to experience it more profoundly. It is especially reminded that all members of the Church should actively participate in all the activities that are part of the celebration of the 'Year of Liturgy.'

The 30th Ordinary Episcopal Synod of our Church will be held from 23 to 27 February 2026 at the Catholicate Centre. I would like to remind you all to pray for the Synod to be a blessing. The Major Archiepiscopal Curia - Catholicate Centre is the centre that coordinates the various public ministries of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church and the activities of the Synodal Commissions. The Catholicate Centre operates with the generous support of the members of the church. We are dedicating the thanksgiving service on Catholicos Day to this special mission. I also call on the Faithful to make generous contributions to this for the special ministries of the Catholicate and the general ministries of the Church.

The Rev. Vicars should inform the parishioners about this matter and encourage them. Not only the parishes, but all our institutions, religious communities and their provinces should participate generously in this initiative. The Eparchial Bishops should coordinate the thanksgiving and offerings from their eparchies and present the share decided by the Synod to the upcoming Holy Synod. The Superiors-General and Provincial Superiors should submit the contributions of their religious communities to the Finance Office of the Catholicate Centre before the Synod. I congratulate and express my special thanks to all those who have generously participated in this initiative in the past years.

On Catholicos Day, after Holy Mass, the Catholicos flag should be hoisted and the Catholicos Day Pledge should be recited in all our parishes, institutions and mission centres. On this day, we especially congratulate, remember with gratitude, and pray for all the Most Rev. Bishops, Rev. Fathers, Religious and People of God who are engaged in the activities of our Church in various parts of the world.

May the mercy and blessings of God be upon you abundantly forever!

Your humble servant in the Lord,

Sd/-
✠ Baslios Cardinal Cleemis
Major Archbishop-Catholicos
of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

N.B.: This circular is to be read during the Holy Mass on 1st February 2026, Sunday in all our Churches, Mission centres and Places of worship.