

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

MORAN MOR BASELIOS CARDINAL CLEEMIS
Major Archbishop-Catholikos

Major Archiepiscopal Curia
Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Trivandrum-695004

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Circular

Year of Liturgy

2025 September 20 - 2026 September 19

Dear Bishops, Corepiscopoi, Rambans, Rev. fathers, Deacons, religious, and beloved faithful in our Lord,

In the context of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church preparing to celebrate the centenary of its Reunion on 20th September 2030, we are observing a year of Liturgy from 20 September 2025 to 19 September 2026.

During the Year of the Word of God, we have tried to know and encounter Jesus more through the Holy Scriptures. This year, we are trying to know more about the various levels of Worship, to experience Jesus more through worship and to make Jesus a part of our lives. The *Lineamenta* and the *Action Plan* for the Year of the Liturgy are designed based on the motto: “worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth (Jn 4:23).

1. Year of Liturgy: Objectives

The liturgy is the fundamental reality that unveils the identity of the Malankara Catholic Church. Spirituality based liturgy is the core of the Spirituality of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. Through Liturgical Spirituality, it is possible to experience Jesus more and grow in a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. In this context, the Year of Liturgy aims to provide the faithful in the Church with a clear knowledge and experience in worship about the sacraments of the Spiritual

Order (especially the Eucharist, Confession, Baptism, Anointing of the Sick) (the sacrament of marriage will be discussed in the year of the Family and the sacrament of ordination in the year of vocation) the liturgy of the hour, the abstinence and fasting during lent, and the Feasts of our Lord.

2. Basic Topics for the Action Plan

1. General awareness about Malankara Liturgy
2. Awareness of the Holy Eucharist
3. Creating awareness of Holy Confession and providing opportunities for confession
4. Awareness of the liturgy of the hours, lent, abstinence, fasts, and other festivals and feasts
5. Raising awareness for the altar boys
6. Awareness about Baptism, Anointing with oil and Anointing of the sick
7. Raising awareness of the children who received their first Holy Communion

3. Inauguration of the Liturgical Year

1. The liturgical Year will be inaugurated on Saturday the 20th September 2025 at the venue of the Reunion Anniversaries celebration at Pathanamthitta.
2. The Liturgical year will officially begin in each parish and mission centres on Sunday the 28th September 2025.
3. The inauguration of the Liturgical Year in all the Eparchies should be arranged as per convenience.

4. The Liturgical Year at Parish Level

The Liturgical year will officially begin in each parish and mis-

sion centres on Sunday the 28th September 2025.

After the morning prayer the priest will carry across with a red slash from the main entrance of the Church accompanied by lit candles on both sides, incense, move in procession to the bema, the table set for prayer at *Kestrooma*, and place the cross behind the seven candle stands kept on the bema. Then the vicar lights the candle at the centre (in front of the cross). The other six candles on the left and right of the cross are lighted by the Rev. Sister (in the absence of the sister, any suitable person), the trustee, the president of MCA, MCMF, MCYM, and MCCL units of the parish, thus inaugurating the Liturgical Year. Then the verses 19-26 from the Gospel according to John chapter 4 is read from the Holy Bible followed by the recital of the prayer for the Liturgical Year. After that a short message is given on the Liturgical Year and the vicar proceeds to the *Madbaha* for celebrating the Holy Eucharist.

1. In all the parishes an awareness class on Holy Confession is organized on one Sunday of the liturgical year (morning to noon or noon to evening) followed by a general preparation for service, a penitential service, followed by confession and Holy Communion.
2. In all parishes, a one hour class on the Holy Eucharist should be held before the Holy Eucharist on a Sunday followed by Holy Communion
3. In every parish one Sunday a Year, a public Baptism should be held. The Sermon at the Holy Mass should be about Baptism and all the faithful in the parish should participate in the Baptism.
4. In every parish one Sunday a year a public celebration of Anointing of the sick should be held. All the sick in the parish may be anointed for this purpose on this occasion.
5. Training on the liturgical matters should be arranged at the parish level for the members of the organizations, MCYM, MCA, MCMF and MCCL specially and the parish community in general.
6. Evening prayer should be celebrated with the faithful on Saturday evening in all parishes.

5. The Liturgical Year in Families

On Sunday the 28th of September 2025 at 7 p.m. the Liturgical Year should be inaugurated by arranging seven candles in front of the cross and Bible placed in the houses and lighting them in the order of the Male Head, and the female head of the family. Then verses 19-26 from the Gospel according to John chapter 4 is read. Then the inauguration of the Liturgical Year in the family is concluded by reciting the liturgical Year prayer by all in the family.

6. Liturgical Year in Ecclesial Districts

1. Provide training on liturgical matters at the district centres to the executive members of MCYM, MCA, MCMF, and MCCL from each ecclesial districts.
2. Provide training on liturgical matters to the altar boys from each ecclesial districts at the district centres.
3. Provide renewal classes at the district centres for those from each ecclesial district who have received their first communion within the past three years.

7. Training is provided to priests, members of the religious orders and seminarians in liturgical matters

All Priests, members of various religious orders and students of the Seminary of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church are provided with training in various aspects related to the liturgical year.

8. Liturgy study online Training

A 50 episode liturgical study series will be broadcasted on Malankara Catholic TV. Based on the episodes exams will be conducted in parishes and certificates will be awarded.

9. Practical Suggestions

1. Appoint a diocesan Director for the liturgical year in all the eparchies.
2. Appoint district directors to provide leadership in all ecclesial districts.
3. Select a nun and a spiritual representative from all ecclesial districts
4. Display a banner containing the logo of the liturgical year inside Church at the Kestroma. We lovingly urge all parishners to participate in all the

activities of the Year of liturgy along with the parish priests and make the liturgical year a blessed one. Let us convey out all our liturgical activities like lent, abstinence fasting ect, with greater conviction and awakening. This training programme which is part of self-sanctification and complete dedication is the second in the series in our preparation for the celebration of the centenary of the Reunion. Let everyone prepare prayerfully to make this training provide God-experience of a very high order. We pray that all parishners will be able to worship more actively and grow in their God-experience through the Liturgy of our Church.

Your Humble Servant in the Lord,

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Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Bava
Major Archbishop -Catholic

N.B.: This circular should be read during the Holy Mass next Sunday in all our parishes, mission centres, and worship centres.