

By the grace of God and the approval of the Holy See,  
His Eminence Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal CleemisBava,  
Major Archbishop-Catholicos of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church,  
to the Bishops, Corepiscopoi, Rambans, Priests, Deacons  
and Faithful under our authority,

Prot. No. CPL 01/2025

Praise to the Triune God, who is Self-existent, Sovereign, Eternal and Co-substantial

**72nd Commemoration Feast and  
Centenary Celebration of the Episcopal Consecration  
of Venerable Archbishop Mar Ivanios (1925-2025)**

Your Excellencies, Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi and Rambans, Rev. Fathers, Deacons,  
Religious and Dear Faithful in our Lord,

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Commemoration Feast of Venerable Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, who was commissioned by God to heal the wounds of the division of the Malankara Church and guide several thousands to the path of true faith, will be celebrated on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the St. Mary's Major Archi-eparchial Cathedral, Pattom. Together with this, we are also celebrating the Centenary of Episcopal Consecration of Venerable Mar Ivanios. From July 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, the services in preparation for the anniversary will be held at the Tomb. This is also an opportunity to observe fasting from July 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> in our church to assimilate the life and vision of Venerable Mar Ivanios. Although it is not mandatory, it is one's duty to encourage everyone in this regard. It is a blessing and a virtue for us as members of the church to remember our fathers who taught us to become children of God while they were alive. I pray that this blessed Commemoration Feast will be an opportunity for our church to receive a new awakening and more blessings from God. I also heartily welcome all members

of the church to participate in the spiritual services that will be arranged in this regard and receive God's blessings.

The life of Venerable Mar Ivanios can only be viewed with great reverence. As time progresses, the relevance of that life-vision and perception becomes increasingly apparent. Venerable Mar Ivanios was able to identify the path of unity and peace that generations had been waiting for and to overcome all adversities and move forward on that path. He opened the doors of truth for generations, that he realized through the search for truth and through intense experiences. The Gethsemane-experiences that he passed through illuminated his personality. The path he walked was marked by the seal of heavenly approval and protection. The greatest evidence that the path chosen by Venerable Mar Ivanios was in accordance with the will of God is the growth of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church in all areas and the universal recognition that the Church is receiving.

### **Centenary Celebrations of the Episcopal Consecration**

It has been a hundred years since the elevation of Venerable Mar Ivanios to the Episcopal position. That episcopal ministry was called to be the light of peace and tranquillity in the Malankara Church. That life, rooted in monastic life, was set apart and challenging to others. He received Episcopal Consecration on May 1, 1925 at Niranam Church. On that occasion, Venerable Mar Ivanios called upon the church to accept the path of true faith and to enter into the depths of faith in God: "All the Syrian Christians in Kerala should strive to achieve true unity as they were one church in the past and to make the biblical saying 'One church and one shepherd' a reality, at least as far as the Kerala Syrians are concerned". "I believe the most important deficiency among us is the lack of devotion to God". The ministry of Venerable Mar Ivanios, who always agreed to God's plans and said 'Here I am', was a journey that crossed arduous paths. Even when Venerable Mar Ivanios descended the MundanMala empty-handed, the path ahead was not dark and he was confident that 'God will take care'. The holy life that shaped and nurtured the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church in accordance with God's plans is a model and inspiration for us. The life of Venerable Mar Ivanios taught us that the apostolic ministry can shield the Gospel and foster unity. The reunion of the Malankara Church was the dream of this Ecclesiastical ministry. On this Commemoration Feast, let us as a church thank God

for the many blessings that have been made available through the blessed Ecclesiastical ministry of Venerable Mar Ivanios.

### **Commemoration Feast-2025**

A special Commemoration Feast will be celebrated at the St. Mary's Major Archi-eparchial Cathedral, Pattom, where Venerable Mar Ivanios is buried, from July 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. On these days, there will be Holy *Qurbono*, Incense prayer and Sermon. The Pilgrimage walk (Padayatra) starting from Perunadu on July 10<sup>th</sup> will reach the tomb at 5.00 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be evening prayer at 6.30 pm followed by a celebratory candlelight procession. During the Commemoration Feast on 15<sup>th</sup>, the Most Rev. Bishops and Rev. Fathers of our church will co-celebrate the Holy *Qurbono*.

### **Chief Guest**

The Chief Guest of the Centenary Celebration and 72<sup>nd</sup> Commemoration Feast of Venerable Mar Ivanios Metropolitan is His Excellency Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary, (Relations with States), Secretariat of State of the Holy See. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Holy See.

The main pilgrimage walk starting from RanniPerunnad on the occasion of the Commemoration of the Holy See 2025 will begin with the Holy *Qurbono* at 6.30 am on Thursday, July 10, 2025. Along with this, the walk will start from various dioceses on the designated days and will reach the tomb of the venerable father on July 14.

### **Pilgrimage Walk (Padayatra) - 2025**

The main Pilgrimage Walk starting from RanniPerunnad on the occasion of the Commemoration Feast will begin on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6.30 am with the Holy *Qurbono*. Along with this, *padayatras* will start from various dioceses on the designated days and will reach the tomb of Venerable mar Ivanios on July 14.

The Pilgrimage Walk is an opportunity to stay connected to the life of Venerable Mar Ivanios and through it to bear active witness to Jesus Christ. This

holy journey can be turned into an opportunity for personal sanctification and the sanctification of the Church. We lovingly invite you to participate in the Pilgrimage Walk with prayer and fasting. We lovingly remind you that those participating in the pilgrimage must be spiritually prepared. Discipline and prayerful participation must be strictly maintained. We shall pray throughout the Pilgrimage Walk that Venerable Mar Ivanios be included in the ranks of the saints and be given as an intercessor.

The arrangements have been made for offering donations towards the expenses related to the arrangements for the 15-day services on the occasion of the Commemoration Feast. The financial expenses of the different services can be donated in part or in full. For more information regarding this, you can contact the **Canonisation Office** at Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram on 9447429520. The amount donated for these purposes can be sent to the account opened at the South Indian Bank, Nalanchira. (Accounting Name - Mar Ivanios Day Celebrations Major Archdiocese of Trivandrum. Account No. 0483053000020740. IFSC Code: SIBL0000483. The South Indian Bank, Nalanchira, Trivandrum.) It is lovingly reminded that everyone should pay special attention and dedication in this regard.

Let us follow the footsteps of Venerable Mar Ivanios and commit ourselves with greater love and zeal in serving the Church. Relying on God's providence, let us seek his intercession: Venerable Mar Ivanios, pray for us. May God bless you all abundantly.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Apostolic Community, especially our Father St. Thomas the Apostle, and all the saints, Amen.

Your humble servant in the Lord,

Baselios Cardinal CleemisBava  
Major Archbishop-Catholicos  
of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

20.06.2025  
CatholicateCenter  
Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram

### Pilgrimage Walk Arrangements

#### **2025 July 10<sup>th</sup>, Thursday - Day 1**

06.30 am : Ranni - PerunnadKurisumala  
Morning Prayer  
**Holy Qurbono**

Main Celebrant : **Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal  
Cleemis Catholicos**

#### **2025 July 14<sup>th</sup>, Monday - Day 5**

05.00 pm : Pilgrims are received at the Tomb Chapel  
06.00 pm : Evening Prayer - Cathedral Church  
Candlelight procession  
Incense prayer at Tomb  
Apostolic Benediction

#### **2025 July 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday - 72<sup>nd</sup> Commemoration Feast**

08.00 am : Reception  
Morning Prayer  
Solemn Concelebration of Holy *Qurbono*

Main Celebrant : **Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal  
CleemisCatholicos**

Homily : Archbishop Paul Gallagher  
(Secretary, (Relations with States),  
Secretariat of State of the Holy See)

Incense Prayer at Tomb  
Agape

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N.B.: This pastoral letter should be read during the Holy *Qurbono* in all our churches, Mission centres and places of worship next Sunday.