



**MALANKARA ORTHODOX
SYRIAN CHURCH**(INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

DIOCESE OF UK•EUROPE•AFRICA•
UK REGISTERED CHARITY : 1159302

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Blessings and Greetings to all the Vicars and the Faithful of the Diocese in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity.

Dearly beloved in Christ,

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” - 1 Corinthians 1:18

With all glory and thanksgiving to God, we joyfully celebrate our Diocesan Day on Sunday, 20 September 2026 - the first Sunday following the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sleebe Perunnal, 14 September). I request all our Parishes and Congregations to observe this day prayerfully and meaningfully during the Holy Qurbana. In Parishes where the Holy Qurbana is not celebrated on 20 September, the Diocesan Day may be observed on the next occasion when the Holy Qurbana is celebrated.

The Holy Cross, the sign of our salvation in Christ, reminds us of the redemption and new life we have received through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also an invitation to examine our own commitment to the faith entrusted to us, not merely to preserve it, but to meaningfully transmit them to the next generation. Let us strive to live together in harmony and mutual love, allowing our words, thoughts and actions to bear witness to the teachings of our Lord.

May the celebration of this Diocesan Day strengthen our unity as a Diocese, deepen our relationship with our apostolic heritage, and renew our commitment to the mission entrusted to us. Trusting in the abundant mercy and providence of God, let us move forward together in faith, hope and love, confident that God will accomplish great things through our united efforts.

The year 2026 has been a particularly blessed and significant year in the life of our Diocese. We have witnessed a historic milestone with the acquisition of our new property in Bromley, which will serve as the Diocesan Headquarters. Following the completion of the necessary formalities, we prayerfully entered into the new premises on 1 September 2026. This important achievement is the fruit of the prayers, dedication and cooperation of many clergy and faithful, both past and present.

I take this opportunity to once again express my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to this endeavour—through their prayers and encouragement, practical support and logistics, and generous financial contributions, including monthly Direct Debits. The spirit of dedication and cooperation demonstrated by our faithful continues to be a vital source of strength and encouragement for the growth and ministry of our Diocese.

The annual contributions from our Parishes to the Diocese, particularly those made in connection with the celebration of Diocesan Day, remain an important source of support for the general functioning and ministries of the Diocese. I earnestly request all our faithful to participate wholeheartedly and prayerfully in this offering.

As we look towards the future, there is also a continuing need for personal contributions and regular monthly Direct Debit commitments to support the growing responsibilities and ministry of our Diocese. I appeal to each member and family, according to their ability, to prayerfully consider how they can contribute towards the common needs and mission of the Diocese. Yet, beyond every financial contribution, what we need most is a living fellowship in Christ, a spirit of unity and a committed witness of faith through unwavering prayer

Rather than a mere annual observance, may this Diocesan Day be an occasion for thanksgiving for God's blessings, strengthening of our fellowship, and a renewed determination to live and proclaim the Gospel of Christ. May the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ continue to guide and strengthen us.

May God bless our Diocese, our Parishes and Congregations, our clergy, our spiritual organisations, our families and every member of our Diocese.



+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos